

# Classified Leadership Institute

*An Adventure towards Student Success*

June 19-21, 2014 - Ventura Beach, CA.

By Yvette Macy *GCCCD Classified Senate President*

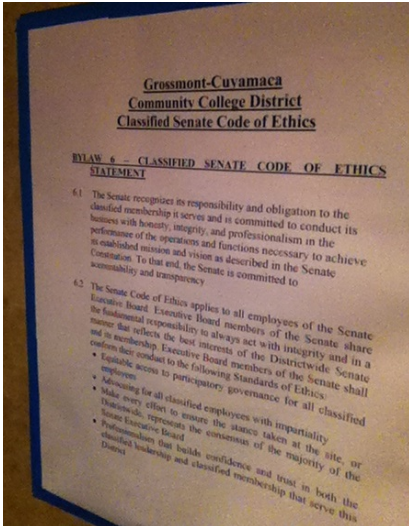


I was lucky enough to have been sponsored by the Chancellor to attend this year's conference thrown by 4CS – California Community Colleges Classified Senate and the Community College League of California. Having never gone before, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I have to say my experience was **empowering, educational, and endearing**. Let me tell you why.

- **Empowering:** Networking with other Classified Senates was beneficial because it helped me know as President what other Senates are going through or have gone through. I found that a lot of Senates share the same struggles we do. I attended 4CS President Emeritus Jim Wilson's workshop **Senates 103**. In this workshop Classified Senates from all over California shared what worked for their Senate and what did not. Then we helped each other with ideas on how to resolve some of the challenges. Participation seemed to be the number one dilemma within Classified Senates. Support from management, flexible meeting times and food were suggestions to help with participation. I explained the structure of our Senate to the group stating we are three sites with one overarching Senate unit and that it is challenging as President. The consensus of the group was to let the sites create their own Senates. In fact, the group couldn't believe we had a structure like that.

Which is why I went to the next workshop **Forging (and Crossing) Our Own Paths**. This workshop was presented by Los Rios District, comprised of four very diverse different classified senates, working together across campuses to achieve positive growth in a variety of ways. I was rather disappointed with this workshop, only because they failed to present how they worked together. The four senates in that district work separately but they openly share their ideas with one another regarding professional development, award recognition, and shared governance.

I attended **Fun Fundraising Which Encourages Social Responsibility and Community Involvement** because all our sites agree we need to fundraise but are experiencing a little bump in the road with it. (Please see power point that Chaffey College's Classified Senate leaders generously emailed to me.) What I found exciting is they work with their Foundation to have non-profit status. Another concept Chaffey College does is tie all fundraising to their mission and core values which then ties to accreditation.



I also attended **Giving Thanks: A Key to Happiness**. We took the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire and measured our happiness. The group discussed what defines happiness, then we were told to think of someone in our life, past or present who has had a positive impact on our lives. We wrote down on paper who they were and why they were such a positive influence.

Then we watched this video.

<http://youtu.be/oHv6vTKD6lg>

The point of the workshop was graciousness creates happiness. Awarding recognition allows us to be grateful which makes for a happy workplace. The group shared what each Senate does for award recognition. I enjoyed this workshop and wouldn't mind presenting something like this at CSAD.

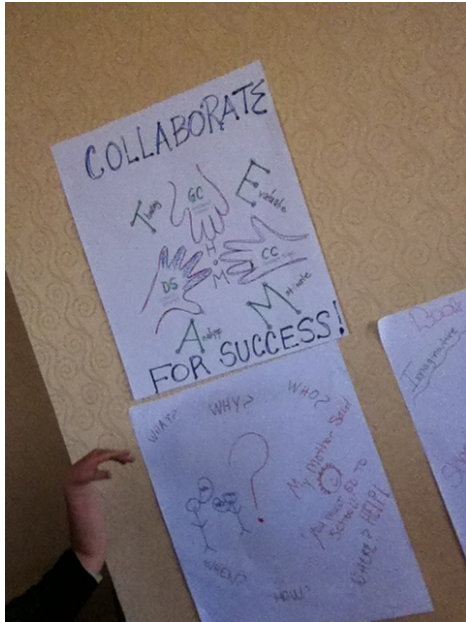
- **Educational:** I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by Dr. Erika Endrijonas Executive Vice President of Oxnard College, **The Nuts and Bolts of the Student Success Act Implementation**. She explained the Student Success Act of 2012, its first steps, progress, and future implementations. It was a factual power point and informative.

Monica Souza 4CS President Emeritus presented a power point **Legislative "How To"**, explaining legislative and budgetary issues relative to community colleges. One of the items discussed was AB 2558:

**AB 2558 (Williams) Community Colleges: Faculty and Staff Development.** AB 2558 is the Board of Governors sponsored legislation to revitalize professional development for both faculty and staff as directed by recommendations from the Student Success Task Force and the Professional Development Committee which concluded its work in September 2013. Specifically, AB 2558 updates outdated statute to reflect a renewed focus on professional development; **authorizes the use of state money for professional development activities if it becomes available** through the state budget; and clarifies that all employees, **classified staff** and administrators as well as faculty, be eligible to receive professional development opportunities from participating districts. **Status:** **AB 2558 passed in the Assembly and the Senate Education Committee and was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**



- **Endearing:** During the conference I asked all I came into contact with, "How do you keep your momentum up as a volunteer?" The 4CS President told me, "I just love what I do." The Classified Senate President from Chaffey College said, "I love doing it." In Jim Wilson's workshop he wanted to know from us why we volunteer. I told him I genuinely get joy from volunteering. I think some people are simply hard wired for it. I have found I am more miserable not being engaged and involved than experiencing my toughest day of volunteering. He had a sort of



sparkle in his eye as if he knew what I was talking about. I think it is this common trait we share as volunteers that made the conference so wonderful.

In closing I want to thank the group of GCCCD classified that shared this experience with me. It was fun learning new things and representing our district. I also want to thank the Chancellor for supporting me. It was asked of us by 4CS what our quote would be after we attended CLI. Mine is:

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

-unknown

Thank you,

Yvette Macy  
 Payroll Tech /Classified Senate President  
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