

Classified Leadership Institute Conference Report  
"Riding the Waves of Change"  
June 23-25, 2011  
Ventura, CA

This year the 4C's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held in Ventura, CA. The conference began with a general session giving the attendees an overview of the events that will occur during the conference. The first guest speaker was Chancellor James Meznik of Ventura County Community College District, welcoming the attendees to the City of Ventura and to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. This year's motivational speaker was Chad Crittenden. His presentation was exciting, and enlightening of information. He told us his story of being diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma (a rare and deadly form cancer), which resulted for him to go through a major surgery where amputation was necessary just below his knee, after few years he went on to be a participant on the show "Survivor: Vanuatu, Island of Fire." His optimism, confidence, and self-assuredness were some key strategies that helped him get through these obstacles in his life. His advice to us was to keep a positive attitude even though things look bad with the State budget, and how it impacts the community colleges, not just financially, but it how affects the morale for staff members.

One of the events at the conference was the 4C's President's Reception (social event), it gave the attendees an opportunity to meet new colleagues from other community colleges, and to be able discuss about shared governance, and what is occurring in their community college in a relaxing atmosphere.

The workshops that were offered ranged from learning about shared governance, the impact of accreditation to learning how to start a Classified Senate at your college. I suggest that in the future we send more than one representative to this conference. It was difficult for one representative to get all the information that was available to the attendees.

The award ceremony was a wonderful dinner/event. It gave the attendees an opportunity to hear the accomplishments and/or contributions made by Classified Staff in their leadership roles from other community colleges. This year Las Positas College Classified Senate was given recognition as the 2011 California Community Colleges Model Classified Senate award, which I was glad to accept this award on behalf the Las Positas College Classified Senate.

Throughout the conference, 4C's held a variety of fundraisers in the method of raffles for cash, gift baskets and a Silent Auction. As I stated to Sharon Gach when I returned from the conference, the Classified Senate should look into how they can start again to do raffles for cash (50/50 raffle) and/or gift baskets as fundraisers to support the Classified Senate.

This conference was informative, and it gave me an opportunity meet new friends. As always, I hear the same story from classified staff from other community colleges that we are not any different on what we face with the budget crisis, and how we have difficulties in getting staff to participate in the Classified Senate. The Classified Senate needs to continue to find a solution.

Thank you Classified Senate in giving me the opportunity to attend this conference, and to meet new friends.

*Lilia Camino*