

**Modesto Junior College  
Academic Senate  
Resolution: SP17- D**

**Recognition of Exemplary Leadership and Teaching: Michelle Christopherson**

**Whereas** Michelle Christopherson has been a dedicated, tenured English faculty member at Modesto Junior College for 39 years,

**Whereas** Michelle has set the bar high and has been a tremendous role model to new and seasoned faculty alike, showing them by example the role they should play in both Division and campus-wide committees to strengthen faculty governance and to have a strong voice even when that voice opposes prevailing views,

**Whereas** Michelle, from her role as one of the original Literature and Language Arts “Bad Girls” through her numerous leadership roles and to the present, has always been unafraid to speak her mind and “get into it,” not because she needed to be heard or self-promoted, but because the dialogue and discussion needed to be had,

**Whereas** Michelle in 2002 became president of the Academic Senate and pulled it out of the quagmire of ineptitude by empowering faculty across campus to know their rights and to speak truth to power, and then in 2015 re-entered the fray to become the YCCD Faculty Consultant to the Board of Trustees, re-energizing faculty voice and re-engaging faculty participation in the MJC Graduation Ceremony,

**Whereas** Michelle has been an example of a great teacher and a colleague who encourages all to engage objectively in intellectual debates,

**Whereas** Michelle has inspired countless students over the years and encouraged faculty to use their voice for the greater good of the college and its students,

**Whereas** Michelle has always promoted collegiality and mutual respect by being a kind, understanding, and thoughtful listener as well as being an open, energetic, and fearless communicator,

**Whereas** Michelle has been a great promoter of literature, especially the novel, children’s literature, and through the short-lived but awesome LitBits; a passionate and articulate champion of the Division of Literature & Language Arts, not to mention of the true, the good, and the beautiful; and the possessor of the fullness and curliness of hair that many of us envy,

**Whereas** Michelle, in her role as “great promoter of literature” and through her diligence in reading every novel that ever won the Booker and Pulitzer Prizes, created reading lists for both male and female faculty members of Literature and Language Arts that delight both a reader’s mind and soul,

**Whereas** Michelle has also used her creativity and endless energy to cultivate beautiful garden spaces, her garden featured as the “Crown Jewel” of the 2015 Modesto Garden Tour, and to

fearlessly engage in the annual battle against the dreaded Hoplia beetle, protecting irises and roses as she would her books, ideals, and pedagogy,

**Whereas** Michele shared her passion for love of *Downtown Abbey* each week as we followed the convoluted love life of Lady Mary and then mourned with us as this television series ended—as we will similarly mourn the future semesters of working and teaching and debating without Michelle,

**Whereas** Michelle has always detested the idea of ceremonial resolutions coming from the Academic Senate upon a professor’s retirement, especially when there are far more pressing Academic and Professional matters that need to be addressed,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Academic Senate of Modesto Junior College recognizes Michelle Christopherson for her outstanding service, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Academic Senate of Modesto Junior College acknowledges her consistent and strong leadership which has made a lasting impression on the Senate and wishes her well in her retirement, recognizing that that we have not seen the last of her,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Academic Senate of Modesto Junior College will always and forever draw inspiration from Michelle’s fearlessness, tenacity, and strength of conviction when needed to govern and empower faculty with their due rights and responsibilities.

**First Reading:** April 27, 2017

**Final Reading:** Rules were suspended.

**Disposition:** Carried