

Greetings Board members, it is nice to see you all again and thank you for this opportunity to address you. Our faculty continue to adapt to remote learning and limited on-campus instruction following safety guidelines and the college's [Return to Campus](#) recommendations. As we enter mid-term season and the frenzied dash to the end of semester, faculty are going the extra mile to show dedication to student learning and success, and have been diligent engaging in council and committee work as well as the college's initiatives. It has been gratifying to watch instructors rise to the challenges of 2020 as I have witnessed many faculty working long days, going out of the way to accommodate a variety of challenges students are facing, and showing empathy and concern for the well-being of all.

As a reminder from the Senate's last report, we have seven prioritized action items to focus on this academic year. I'd like to offer a brief update on progress made on just two of these efforts:

- 1) We are continuing to develop, seek funding for and implement the [Institute for Applied Creativity and Community Transformation, or ACCT](#). Recently, our college received an invitation and grant funding from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to prototype a "Strengthening Innovation and Technical Ecosystems (SITE) Program." This invitation makes MJC just one of four California Community Colleges working with [Lemelson-MIT](#) and the state Chancellor's office to develop a two-year college invention education program. Faculty leads and a steering committee will create student teams to research and choose a community problem and then develop and prototype a technical solution to the chosen issue.

Examples of previous invention education projects through support of Lemelson-MIT include student inventions to remotely irrigate fields, using robotics to extinguish wildfires, a rechargeable metal-air battery, and a solar-powered water purification system. Our MJC invention education team will work with experts (such as engineers, chemists and software architects) to prototype an invention and present their idea to community panels and at MIT's [Eurekafest](#) in hopes of receiving additional funding to modify and complete their invention, seek a patent and market the solution.

- 2) We have continued collaborating with other constituency groups to re-envision our college shared governance model. With the hard work of classified professionals, college administrators and faculty, we are nearing a final recommendation to our College Council, it should be in the hands of President Houpis prior to end of semester.

In addition to making progress on these two prioritized action items, our Senate has passed its recommendations for [Board Policy 4235 Credit for Prior Learning](#) and it is now at the district-level of policy review. The Board of Trustees will have the opportunity to consider a Credit for Prior Learning policy before the end of the calendar year.

Also, the first two MJC senate resolutions of the semester have also passed: [Resolution FA20-A: Acknowledgement of Classified Professionals Vital Contribution to Modesto Junior College](#) and [Resolution FA20-B: Preferred Name Recognition](#). The full resolutions are available on our Senate website for your review.

We remain dedicated to working with our Board of Trustees, college administrators, classified professionals and students to make advances for the benefit of the common good. In this spirit of collaboration and dedication to serving others, I thought I'd end this evening by invoking the wisdom of Nelson Mandela: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." It's difficult work but I'm very glad to be working with each of you to seek this common purpose. Thank you again for your time.