The California Community Colleges Classified Senate (4CS) is the statewide organization that has been serving classified and the community colleges since 1995. They “advocate for shared governance within the community college system” (http://ccccs.org/organization/factsheet.html). They communicate with classified employees through emails, newsletters and their website. They are very active in promoting participation of classified among the colleges and co-host in the annual Classified Leadership Institute. In addition they are highly involved in legislation, information sharing, educational conferences, Classified Senate events, professional development, and recognition of classified through awards and programs.

Every year the CCLC and 4CS provide a conference for classified employees. This year, the conference is in Tahoe City, CA. For more details about this organization and the conference visit their website: http://ccccs.org/

This conference is a great opportunity to meet other classified employees statewide. As a SDCC Classified Senate board member, Awana Payne has attended this conference several times. It is an opportunity to learn what works and what doesn’t work for your classified employees and the Senate at your college. During this conference attendees learn how to participate in shared governance, increase participation in meetings and events, fundraising ideas, and network to obtain contacts for information sharing. “We learn what the CCCCS has been doing over the year and get updates on legislation and budget.” – Awana Payne

This year San Diego City College is proud to announce that Neary Sim has won a partial scholarship from 4CS to attend this year’s conference. For those interested in going, there are partial and full awards offered. Along with Neary, Awana Payne and Cecilia Thibeault will be attending this year’s conference in Tahoe City, CA in June of this year.

One of the continuous ways classified communicate is through a Listserve. Here is an excerpt from 4CS:

http://ccccs.org/helpful_links/listservr.html

California Community College Listserv for Classified Staff

- The CCCCS-CLASSIFIED Listserv is a useful computer program that enables you to communicate directly with others who may share a common interest.
- You can ask questions, seek data, answer questions and share information.
- This CCCCS-CLASSIFIED Listserv is provided as a service by CCC Technology Center at Butte College to the classified staff and educational community.
- The intent of the listserve is to discuss classified senate and governance related issues and to facilitate classified communication across the state. By establishing this listserve, 4CS provides you with a direct link to other community college classified senates and governance bodies across the state.
- Although 4CS specifically invites classified staff to participate in the Listserv, it is not regulated and anyone may subscribe.
Here’s to another wonderful member of the City College family! She works her magic behind the scenes supporting CACT at City College. Ms. Ira-Marie Garcia has been working in the CACT and Technology Incubator at City College since 2007. You may have even caught her during her time in the Biology Department under Biotech for City College. We asked Ira to take some time out of her hectic day to share a little bit about herself and provide tips she may have for other classified staff.

Q: Where do you work on campus and what are the services you provide in your office?
Our office is located in the lower level of the T-building. CACT (Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies) at San Diego City College is an advanced manufacturing initiative out of the California Community College Chancellor’s Office, Economic & Workforce Development (EWD) program. The CACT supports San Diego manufacturers compete successfully in changing markets and the global economy through technology education, training and services that contribute to continuous workforce development. Under the CACT program, we also have San Diego Technology Incubator and San Diego ShipWorks. The SD Technology Incubator supports the economic development of the region by sheltering and supporting new entrepreneurs and technology ventures while San Diego ShipWorks supports the shipbuilding and repair industry that we all know has a big economic impact to San Diego County through the services they provide for the Department of Defense, specifically the US Navy Shipbuilding and repair. We also provide small business referrals as part of the Virtual Counseling Network and San Diego Technology Incubator.

Q: What do you like most about working at City College?
I like the diversity—specifically, here in our department, meeting people from all walks of life, from middle school, high school, college, adult learners, Presidents and CEO’s of companies, students and educators alike. I learned so much just by conversing with them. I also love how CACT can be a resource to everyone; the community, businesses, organizations and people we help is the main reason why we continue what we do.

Q: Who at City College has influenced you?
My Dean Tracy Gerald influenced me and taught me not just the daily routine work, but most importantly the value of hard work and passion for helping. She also inspired me to never stop learning. There’s always something new that I can learn and that every opportunity is a learning experience. We have a wonderful working dynamics here in our office. And it is such a blessing to be part of this program.

Q: Are you pursuing a degree? If so, what is the degree? How will this degree help you at City College?
I took a Business Communication class last semester and I learned a lot that I can use not just professionally, but personally, and I had fun at the same time. I plan to take more classes and/or training related to business or technology. I did finish a bachelor’s degree in the Philippines, so my next goal is to eventually get a Master’s degree.

Q: Tell us a little bit about what you do outside of City College.
Most of my spare time is spent volunteering for my church, helping in different fundraising events and services. I’m a big supporter of a few local San Diego Bands. I try to cook and bake whenever I have time. And I’m always in the quest to find the best Philly cheesesteak, California burrito, chicken wings and pizza in San Diego. When time permits I also like watching live sports games like NBA, NFL, MLB and NHL. And lastly, I enjoy exploring different museums.

Q: Tell us about the most proud moment in your life.
I was a part of a youth organization back in the Philippines. I lead few campuses and community in conferences and camps. One particular proud moment is having a few of the youth I mentored become leaders themselves and even exceeded my leadership role in the organization. I didn’t want to take pride on any of their accomplishments, but it did receive comments from some of the coordinators that I trained those youths well. A most recent proud moment is when our student from previous training gets hired, and comes back to thank us. It is a joy in knowing that we were able to help someone be successful. That’s our goal and mission.

Q: What tips would you like to share with the staff of San Diego City College?
Just to continue having that passion in helping, may it be to students, staff or faculty. And let us be reminded that City College is one campus, one team, we should always work hand in hand in supporting each department, program, most especially its people. Lastly, never forget that we’re awesome here at City College!

Q: Please give us a final thought/quote you would like to share with San Diego City College.
I’m Ira Garcia from CACT and I’m Doing What Matters.

Stop by the CACT and Technology Incubator to witness Ms. Ira-Marie Garcia’s skills. She welcomes you with a smile and encourages conversation about making City College better.
Congratulations Neary Sim

Neary Sim has won a prestigious scholarship to attend the CLI conference mentioned in our front page article. She was selected as the winner for the Southern Region of California Community Colleges and will be attending the CLI Conference free of charge! Neary is an amazing colleague who knows how to get the job done and her excellence is being rewarded. Thank you, Neary for all of your hard work on behalf of your fellow Classified Staff!

Comic Strip of the Month

No December Puzzle Winner 😞

Well now… We’re going to have to remedy this, aren’t we?

Solution: Double Prize Winner for April’s Newsletter!

Be sure to submit your entries by May 8th to ainthisa@sdccd.edu.
The Classified Senate would like to offer you the opportunity to share your point of view.

We would like to know your opinions, questions, and/or concerns about, and not limited to, the current environment in your office or department and/or bargaining agreement. This will also be an opportunity for you to share with the Classified community new updates from your office and/or committees you attend, and to share ideas to better meet the Classified Senate mission.

Pencil in the following Spring 2015 dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 23, 2015</td>
<td>2:30 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>D-121A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 28, 2015</td>
<td>2:30 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>D-121A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See you soon!

April Newsletter Puzzle

Unscramble these five words to the left, one letter to each square, to form five ordinary words in the chart to the right.

OGGRE LEC L
TADEST N
PERSHEL
O I T HE CB
REP MOVI

Use the letters in the circles to form the winning word.

Solve the puzzle by unscrambling the words in the first graph and writing it into the chart next to it.
Send the winning word to ainthisa@sdccd.edu by 5/08/2015. You will be entered in a drawing to win a mystery prize delivered to you by one of your Classified Senate Executive Board members. Good luck!