

Classified Staff Districtwide Enjoy the Annual Professional Development Retreat



Classified Staff came together Districtwide on June 2 for a one-day Professional Development Retreat at Thomas Fogarty Winery Conference Center. This year's theme was "Tag, You're It! Understanding your work roles, your personal value, and your impact on our campus communities." Staff enjoyed getting to know individuals from the other campuses and the District Office while taking advantage of the amazing mountain scenery, delicious catered lunch, and four staff-focused professional development sessions throughout the day. The retreat was planned by a committee made up of Classified Senate leadership from Cañada College and Skyline College, and staff leaders from CSM and the District Office. Members of the District Classified Staff Professional Development Retreat Committee put in many volunteer hours planning out this event, making sure that the professional development sessions were both relevant and enjoyable, while retaining the feel of a retreat from their respective office environments.

Staff were treated to workshops including Biology Professor Shari Bookstaff, sharing her story of survival from a major brain injury. She motivated attendees to "Strive to Thrive," using work hard to achieve their goals no matter what obstacles they may endure. Former SMCCCD students Sonya Pope and Leo Rosales led the "You, Inspire!" workshop, telling staff what their support meant to them as students, for themselves, as well as their families.

Student Life and Leadership Manager at Cañada College, Misha Maggi, led the "True Colors" workshop. True Colors is a research-based behavior and personality quiz in which the staff discovered their personality "colors," which can help them to better understand their own work and learning style. Knowing their own strengths and weaknesses can help everyone improve collaboration and increase productivity at work. Finally, Susie Lunardi, a trainer at San Mateo Athletic Club, taught staff some techniques for stretching, breathing and relieving daily anxiety all while working at their desks in an office environment. After a day of learning and insight, the retreat ended with an appetizer mixer with the Blue Flamingo Quartet providing some great live entertainment.

The committee is thankful for the great attendance and the success of the event in bringing a sense of comradery amongst the campuses and District Office staff. Our thanks especially go to the Leadership and Administration of SMCCCD and our respective campus Presidents and supervisors for their support.

Article submitted by the District Classified Staff Professional Development Retreat Committee:

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