



Celebrating Our Classified Professionals

Monday, May 9, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Next week we will mark Classified School Employee Week throughout California. It is an important opportunity to recognize the many contributions made by classified professionals each day. Our public schools and community colleges across California rely on the dedication and expertise of classified professionals, perhaps never more so than over the past few years. It is fitting that this year's theme is, "We are Classified! We Bring it Every Day!" We appreciate the perseverance and commitment of our classified professionals.

At our District, we are celebrating the week in a few ways, starting with the Governing Board's consideration of a resolution commending classified professionals at tomorrow's meeting. Next, all classified professionals have the opportunity to take part in the professional development and fun activities being offered throughout next week. The [lineup of events](#) planned locally as part of a districtwide Classified Professionals Week runs through Friday, May 20th. Some activities are available online and others in person, providing flexibility. Among the featured topics are trauma-informed care, critical hope, and knowing your CSEA contract. You are also invited to take part in Classified Community Engagement activities including an obstacle course relay, a game of kickball, and other activities next Friday, May 20th. Free lunch will be provided at Friday's event, and swag, gift baskets and gas cards will be given away throughout the week.

Finally, we are honoring the winners of the 2021-2022 Chancellor and Classified Senate Awards: Francys Ropohl, a Cuyamaca College Health & Safety Specialist, Janice Fischer, a Grossmont College Administrative Assistant III in Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development, and Laura Murphey, a District Services Business Analyst with Information Technology. Each will be recognized at the Governing Board meeting tomorrow at Cuyamaca College.

The annual award recognizes the exceptional work and dedication of our classified professionals. This year's award theme is *Building Community*. Each of our winners have done exemplary work fostering inclusive, supportive environments in their departments, colleges and at the District.

Francys Ropohl began in her current role in fall 2021, just as students and employees were starting to return to campus in person after more than a year of remote work. Francys jumped into essential tasks such as developing a COVID-19 contact tracing process while managing a high volume of cases. She acted as a liaison to the outside COVID-19 testing organization, often staying late or starting early to be

there during testing. Francys handled these highly sensitive assignments with patience and consideration. She worked exceptionally well with constituents to maintain a positive work environment. Francys demonstrated a remarkably strong work ethic, always looking for ways to contribute to the goals of the department, division and institution.

Janice Fischer also stepped up at a time when our campus community needed her. Janice volunteered for every monthly food distribution at Grossmont College's food kitchen over the past few years. She worked to ensure that the basic needs of our most vulnerable and at-risk students were met. Janice has not just shown up; she has consistently been one of the hardest working employees at the events. She greets students with a positive, warm attitude and makes sure they have food on rainy days and throughout the hot summer months. In addition, her representation of her department has allowed students to learn about campus opportunities that they may not have otherwise.

Laura Murphey brings an inclusive, thoughtful eye to the information technology projects she works on at the District. Among her many assignments, Laura leads the Districtwide Data Impact Team that brings together employees to tackle data-related concerns to improve processes for students. As a leader, she is fair and mindful of competing priorities, and always seeks to generate consensus among group members. Laura encourages everyone to share their opinions regardless of title or rank. She also makes sure that the student experience is considered in decision-making. She continually advocates for staff, and has been active in her union and Classified Senate during her 37 years with the District.

I am deeply appreciative of the contributions of these outstanding award winners. Please join me in congratulating them, along with all of our classified professionals who are key to our success! We appreciate and celebrate you.

With gratitude,

Lynn

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D.
Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District