



# CHAPTER NEWS

The News you *should* use.....

March 2009

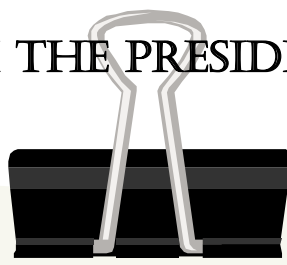
## Protect classified jobs in lean times

Our voice as classified school employees is most important during these times when school districts are making cuts. Our chapter's advocacy might be the difference between losing our jobs and saving the important work we do for students.

As a CSEA member, make sure you are up-to-date with the district's plans to balance its budget. If you hear from chapter leadership about actions we will take as a chapter to protect our jobs, be sure to participate.

It's also important to pass on CSEA materials regarding the importance of our jobs to your co-workers and to the parents of the students we serve. Talk to the chapter's leadership to find out what else you can do to help. By keeping everyone involved and participating, we can help the district find ways to weather these tough economic times.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...



CSEA Sisters and Brothers,  
2009 has started off as a challenging year for all of us. The current economic crisis has affected everyone. Classified employees are feeling the affects in their bank accounts as well as on the job. I'm sure I don't need to tell you that the unfortunate increase in unemployment levels has had a direct impact on our enrollment levels. Our campus is busier and more crowded than ever; especially the Financial Aid Department. Yet despite our increased work and stress loads, I have witnessed our classified employees working harder than ever to ensure our students have what they need to be successful. I wish to acknowledge the hard work that each of you has put in and thank you for your dedication. I truly hope things improve for all of us soon. For now, at least we still have great jobs with excellent benefits, and Dr. Duran continues to assure me that our positions at Merced College are secure. Let's continue to work hard and promote ourselves within the community to make sure it stays that way.

*Christine Grimaldi*  
CSEA President  
Chapter #274

### MERCED COLLEGE CHAPTER#274

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**Be sure to log into your membership home page on CSEA.com to have easy access at hand about our California School Employees Association and your member benefits.**

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles contained in this newsletter are courtesy of CSEA.com.

# CSEA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

Saturday, **APRIL 18, 2009**  
**PETERSON EVENT CENTER, LARGE ROOM**  
720 12th Street, Modesto, CA

**Registration** 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
**Seminar** 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*All K-12, Community College and County Office of Education CalPERS  
Members and Guests are Welcome!*

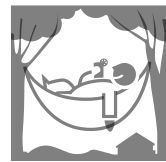
You are encouraged to pre-register at <https://my.calpers.ca.gov>.  
Pre-registration is NOT REQUIRED in order to attend.  
*(Please note: Attendance at this seminar allows you to request an individual  
appointment with CalPERS 90 days in advance of your retirement).*

**THIS FREE SEMINAR INCLUDES:**  
Information and booklets provided by  
CalPERS, Social Security and CSEA Retiree Unit  
Refreshments will be provided.

Co-hosted by: **Stanislaus County Office of Education  
& CSEA Chapter 668**

For more information contact your  
Pre-Retirement Resource Committee member  
**Area E Representative**  
**Ruth Gloria** (209) 238-1437 or  
**Priscilla Lyons-Davenport** (209) 238-1612

*It's Never too Early to Prepare for Retirement!*



essential  
work

extraordinary  
workers



CLASSIFIED  
SCHOOL  
EMPLOYEES

AFL-CIO

*Classified Employee of the Year Award*

The employee selected and sent forward by the  
Board of Trustees sub committee is...

**Shannon Picciano!!!**

## Stimulus bill includes \$115 billion in education funding

When President Barack Obama signed the \$787-billion economic stimulus package into law in February, approximately \$115 billion was slated in aid to public education.

The bill includes money to help local school districts avoid layoffs and program cuts, boosts funding for special education and programs for disadvantaged students, and offers the prospect of funding for school repairs and modernization. Initial reports state that California will get approximately \$10 billion of the aid for public education.

According to Education Week, the amount for education is nearly double the U.S. Department of Education's entire \$59.2-billion discretionary budget for 2009-2010.

"We're making the largest investment in education in our nation's history," Obama said.

Nearly \$80 billion of the aid will be given directly to states and districts for pre-college education, the bulk of which will come from three main streams: the \$53.6 billion state stabilization fund, aimed at preventing layoffs and program cuts in education; \$12.2 billion for special education; and \$13 billion in Title I money for disadvantaged students.

According to the California Department of Education, the following aid is also included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

### **Child Nutrition Program**

\$100 million for a grant program for National School Lunch Program equipment assistance.

### **Child Care and Development Block Grant**

\$2 billion available upon enactment to supplement state general revenue funds for child care assistance for low-income families.

255.2 million will be reserved by the states for quality improvement activities, of which \$93.6 million will be used to improve the quality for infant and toddler care.

### **Head Start**

\$1 billion for Head Start.

\$1.1 billion to expand Early Head Start programs, of which up to 10 percent will be available for training and assistance and up to 3 percent will be available for program monitoring.

### **Education Technology**

\$650 million for the Enhancing Education Through Technology Program. Funds will be used through the existing program for technology hardware, software applications, professional development and related instructional technology staff and services.

### **Teacher Incentive Fund**

\$200 million for competitive grants to school districts and states to develop and implement innovative strategies that provide financial incentives to recruit and retain teachers and principals who raise student achievement and close the achievement gap needed in schools.

FOR MORE "NEWS YOU SHOULD USE", ATTEND  
YOUR CHAPTER MEETING!



THE NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 25, 2009 AT 12 NOON IN  
LESHER ROOM 309. LUNCH PROVIDED!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!

# “A Day at the Casino” Staff Development Day 2009 April 16, 2009



**Events:**

Continental Breakfast: 8:15 to 8:45  
Speaker: Dr. Michael Pritchard 9:00 to 10:00 (see below)  
Workshops: 10:15 to 12:30 (2 sessions)  
Lunch— Classified Employee of the Year, bingo, and raffle.

**All events will be on campus.  
More Information to Come**

**Dr. Michael Pritchard** is a high acclaimed keynote speaker at countless conventions, school districts and conferences. He offers an entertaining yet powerfully inspiring message and can successfully incorporate and convey the objectives of any organization or seminar conference in his keynote speech. When applicable, he facilitates this message through breakout sessions or seminar workshops. In addition, Mr. Pritchard has been hired as a host and emcee for countless fundraisers assisting in raising thousands for charitable organizations.

*Celebrate and renew yourself with a big dose of laughter and inspiration.*



## MERCED COLLEGE CLASSIFIEDS

Interested in buying or selling any items or services?

Have some news to share?

What better place to advertise than amongst your colleagues?

If you are interested in posting your ad here (free of cost), please contact your Chapter Public Relations Officer, Angelica Campos @ 384-6293 or campos.a@mccd.edu.

Advertisements do not constitute any endorsements by CSEA or entitle any advertiser to special consideration from CSEA members or staff.



May 17 - 23, 2009

"Classified Employees make a difference in the life of a child every day," says Association President Rob Fecner. "From pre-school children to adults, all students are someone's child and we never forget that. The Legislature is proud of what you do. Your Association is proud of what you do. Now we want you to be PROUD of what you do".

**The celebration began with CSEA**

Classified School Employee Week began as a resolution at CSEA's Annual Conference in 1984. Two years later, it was adopted as California Senate Bill 1552 and decreed to be an official recognition of classified school employees. Today, CSEA members celebrate the week with picnics, barbecues and other social events. At work, many members wear CSEA shirts and other symbols of union pride.

Our chapter is looking for volunteers to help coordinate our local CSEA activities. Please contact Juan Eduardo Alvear-Fuentes at 381-6565 or alvear.fuentes.j@mccd.edu if you are interested in participating.

## CSEA Blood Donor Program

We all expect blood to be there for us, but barely a fraction of those who can give blood actually do. That's why CSEA has partnered with the American Red Cross and other blood centers across the state to help save lives with the gift of blood.

CSEA's Blood Donor Program is the Association's first statewide community service project. It was created in the spirit of CSEA's Have-a-Heart Month, a time dedicated to replenishing the [Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund](#).

Members are encouraged to continue making financial donations for the Assistance Fund, but this year we hope members will also make another type of donation: saving lives with blood donations. In fact, with just two blood donations, you can save up to six lives.

### Win two plane tickets

Giving blood is gratifying in itself, but as a token of appreciation, we'll also enter your name into a drawing for two plane tickets (up to a \$500 total value). To enter the drawing, fill out the donation form (**see the form attached to this newsletter**) and leave it with the staff at the blood donation center. They will forward it to CSEA. Bring a copy of the donation form each time you give blood (or bring the back cover from *Focus* magazine). After your second blood donation this year, we will enter you into the drawing. A healthy donor may give blood every 56 days, and you can have up to four entries for the drawing in December 2009.

*For More Information, visit the link below:*

<http://pub.csea.com/cseaHome/SchoolCommunity/BloodDonorProgram/tabid/918/Default.aspx>

### Blood Donation Centers

Northern & Southern California  
**American Red Cross Blood Services**  
[www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org)  
 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543)

San Francisco Bay Area, East Bay, North Bay & Shasta County  
**Blood Centers of the Pacific**  
[www.bloodcenters.org](http://www.bloodcenters.org)  
 1-888-393-GIVE

Central & Northern California  
**BloodSource**  
[www.bloodsource.org](http://www.bloodsource.org)  
 1-866-82-BLOOD (822-5663)

**Note:** CSEA has partnered with most of the major blood centers in California. These blood centers cover most counties in California; however, CSEA cannot guarantee that all blood centers and blood drives are aware of this drawing. In that case, ask for a blood center verification form, which you can then send to CSEA along with the [donation form](#).

### A blood transfusion helped save Emma and Abraham

Theresa Montenegro has three beautiful children. Donated blood helped save two of her children's lives. Here's what she has to say about the importance of donated blood:

"When Emma was born, she got an infection in her blood. We had no choice but to accept donated blood. We were so scared; we couldn't imagine putting someone else's blood in her little body, but we would do anything to save Emma's life. Emma received blood three times during her two-month hospital stay.

"Abraham was born at 31 weeks and weighed 2 pounds, 14 ounces. We were told, again, our child needed a blood transfusion. Because of what had occurred with Emma, we just knew we had to depend on donated blood. When he was discharged, Abraham was healthy at 4 pounds, 15 ounces.

"I could go on for days about how grateful my family is that someone took the time to donate their blood, and how we were blessed by someone we didn't even know.

"Since this experience, I talk to whomever I can to explain some of the facts about blood donation, such as, a lot of the blood used in California is imported. I know better than most how important it is we all do what we can to make sure there is enough blood. It would be wrong if I didn't do my part to encourage others to donate."

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**HELP WANTED**

*CSEA is in need of volunteers for placement on campus hiring committees.* If you are interested in serving on a hiring committee in the future, please contact Angelica Campos ([campos.a@mccd.edu](mailto:campos.a@mccd.edu) or ext. 6293) to have your name placed on our contact list.

When a position opens at Merced College, CSEA forwards our list of to Human Resources and a representative from CSEA is chosen from our list.

In the event that you are asked to represent CSEA on a hiring committee for a classified position, please be sure to inform the interviewee that you represent the union they would be a member of as a classified employee of Merced College.



**CSEA YouTube Channel**  
**CSEA has its own YouTube channel.**  
**Check out some of our programs at:**  
**<http://www.youtube.com/user/CSEAvideo>**

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**News and Issues:** Learn what impacts you and your job. Also, find out what CSEA members are doing to make a difference in their schools and communities.

**Member Benefits:** Get the latest discount specials, including statewide promotions plus local specials.

**Training Opportunities:** CSEA offers a variety of training programs to members. Find out what's currently being offered.

**Announcements:** Keep posted on upcoming events, deadlines and other timely announcements.

Sign up at [www.csea.com/newslink](http://www.csea.com/newslink)