

# Chapter News



MERCED COLLEGE



## Message from the President

*Allow me to offer my congratulations to our new elected officers. I have great confidence in that they will represent us well.*

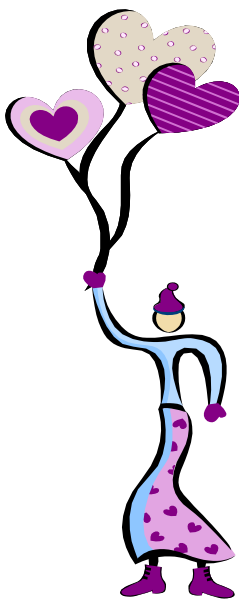
*In addition, substantial credit should go to you, the classified staff. For your hard work, dedication and perseverance in spite of the enormous challenges you were confronted with during this last school year. There are still many challenges we will have to face in the upcoming year. With the challenges we are set to face this coming year I would like to encourage more members to get involved.*

**We are what we repeatedly do.  
Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.**

~Aristotle~

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*The campus will be closed February 18th and 21st in observation of Abraham Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents Day.*

## NEW CSEA OFFICERS FOR 2011:

*President:* Richard “Z” Zeunges

*Vice President:* Bob Barrera

*Secretary:* Julissa Macias

*Treasurer:* Maria Soto

*CPRO:* Nora Martinez

*Chief Job Steward:* Christine Grimaldi

*Chief Negotiator:* Glen Harvey

*Negotiator(s):* Glen Harvey, Rosalie Kekahuna,

Traci Wells & Laurie Barney

*Congratulations to our new Officers for 2011!*

### ***Get involved to strengthen your contract***

**A contract is only as strong as its enforcement. To make sure management is living up to its side of the bargain, you have to know what the contract says. Read your contract and understand what it says. If you don't understand something, ask your job steward to explain it to you. And if you believe management has violated any of your rights as defined by the contract, tell a job steward or your chapter president.**

**Also, support your negotiating team when they go to the bargaining table-after all, they're there to represent you. Respond to surveys and let your chapter representatives know what you want. Through the collective bargaining process, you can get a lot—especially with CSEA on your side.**

The Classified Staff Development Committee is currently recruiting members.

We need hardworking, self-motivated, and creative individuals to help us plan and coordinate this year's events. We are currently working on

◆ Classified Staff Development Day 2011

◆ CSEA Week 2011

We could use your help!

Join the fun and meet some great people!

*If interested contact*

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*or*

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## HEALTH CARE REFORM

One of the greatest benefits negotiated is our terrific health care package, which includes SISC III Anthem Blue Cross PPO medical plan, dental and vision insurance.

The new national health care act signed into law by President Barack Obama has sent district officials jumbling to determine how the new law will affect our health care plans, then how to disseminate that information to faculty and staff.

There are many uncertainties that will not be settled in the near future. One question is whether plans will be allowed to be "grandfathered" in, and how that might affect provisions of the law that are not in the old plans.

The new act will prohibit insurance companies from denying health care based on pre-existing conditions, and stop them dropping coverage when people get sick.

In addition, all insurance plans that provide dependent coverage will be required to cover dependents up to age 26; the law also will cap out-of-pocket costs.

One provision that likely will affect our health plan is the so-called "Cadillac Tax." The law imposes a 40% excise tax on high-value or "Cadillac" health plans.

In January of 2010, thanks to negotiation by organized labor, the White House agreed to limit the scope of the Cadillac tax in return for union support of the bill.

The threshold for the tax is about \$27,000 for a family plan (originally had been set at \$23,000); dental and vision plans are exempt from the threshold.

In addition, the effective date for the tax was moved from 2013 to 2018.

CSEA has supported health care reform since the beginning. In fact, CSEA supports a single-payer, universal health care system, under which everyone would be covered for all medically necessary services, which includes: doctor, hospital, long-term care, mental health, dental vision, prescription drug and medical supply costs. Patients would regain free choice of doctor and hospital, and doctors would regain autonomy over patient care. CSEA believes that that cost of health insurance will continue to rise at double digits unless a single-payer system can be instituted to contain costs.

Go to [csea.com](http://csea.com), the state CSEA website, to read more about CSEA's proposal to continue insurance reform. Whether or not you agree with CSEA's stance on health care, it is important to become educated on all the implications of health care reform.

[Contact Information]

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***Dependent Scholarships***

Since the early 1960's, CSEA's Scholarship Program has awarded more than a million dollars to union members and their dependents that want to begin or continue their secondary education. \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to recipients based on academic achievement, character, leadership and extracurricular activities within the community. Financial need may also be taken into consideration on some. There are graduating high school senior, community college and college/vocational school scholarships.

**Applying for a CSEA Scholarship just got easier!** As of 2011, you no longer need to include a FAFSA with your application.

**Applications are accepted Jan. 1 - March 31**

[Download Application](#) (PDF 578KB)  
[http://members.csea.com/MemberHome/Portals/0/csea\\_pdf/2003.pdf](http://members.csea.com/MemberHome/Portals/0/csea_pdf/2003.pdf)

***Member Career Grants***

CSEA offers grants to members who are going to school on a part time or full time basis. \$1,000 grants are awarded to recipients based on financial need, goals and objectives, citizenship, and CSEA activities.

**Applications are accepted until October 31, 2010**  
*Applications will be available for download in June.*

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***MEMBER BENEFITS SERVICE CENTERS***

**866-ITS-CSEA (866-487-2732)**

***Purchase CSEA discount tickets online, in person or over the phone from CSEA's Member Benefits Service Centers***

***Fresno***

***(800) 439-6626***

***CSEA's Fresno Field Office sells tickets Monday through Friday from 8:30—4:30.***