



**MONTEREY PENINSULA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015**

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS

Shawn Anderson

From: Shawn Anderson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:34 AM
To: ALL USERS
Cc: celeste@whitepagecommunications.com
Subject: MPC Regular Board Meeting, July 22, 2015

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear MPC:

MPC's Governing Board will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at the Education Center at Marina. Meeting times are listed below.

Closed Session: 11:00 a.m., MA402
Regular Meeting (Business): 1:30 p.m., MA404
Regular Meeting (Reports): 3:00 p.m., MA404

The Board packet has been uploaded to the Board of Trustees [webpage](#).

Have a great weekend!

Best Regards,
Shawn

Shawn Anderson

Executive Assistant to Superintendent/President and the Governing Board
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940
sanderson@mpc.edu
Phone: (831) 646-4272

Shawn Anderson

From: Shawn Anderson
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 8:54 AM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: American Flags at Half-Staff to Honor Victims of Tragedy in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

SENT ON BEHALF OF MPC SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENT, DR. WALT TRIBLEY

Dear MPC:

Per the Presidential Proclamation copied below, our flags will be flown at half-staff through July 25 to honor the service members killed as a result of the tragic violence last week in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Best Regards,
Walt Tribley
MPC Superintendent/President

Flags at Half-Staff Through July 25 Honoring the Victims of the Tragedy in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Presidential Proclamation

Our thoughts and prayers as a Nation are with the service members killed last week in Chattanooga. We honor their service. We offer our gratitude to the police officers and first responders who stopped the rampage and saved lives. We draw strength from yet another American community that has come together with an unmistakable message to those who would try and do us harm: We do not give in to fear. You cannot divide us. And you will not change our way of life.

We ask God to watch over the fallen, the families, and their communities. As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on July 16, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions **until sunset, July 25, 2015**. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

Shawn Anderson

From: Shawn Anderson
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 11:48 AM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: FW: MPC Theatre presents MISTERY MACHINE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

SENT ON BEHALF OF HENRY GUEVARA

[Click to To Be Removed from our E-Mail List.](#)

THE MISTERY MACHINE at MPC THIS WEEKEND ONLY!

Special MPC Staff Employee, Alumni & Student pricing available...

Only 3 performances!
Join The Mistery Machine
for an evening or afternoon of
great music, comedy, & impersonations!



Featuring music from The Rat Pack, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones,

The Mamas and The Papas, Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young, and more!
Friday & Saturday July 24 & 25 at 7:30 PM
Sunday July 26 at 2:00 PM

VIP Seating: \$25.00
General Seating: \$20.00

[Buy Tickets](#)

MPC Staff, Employees, Alumni, Students!
Call the Box Office at 646-4213 for discounted pricing:

VIP Seating: \$20.00 (MPC)
General Seating: \$15.00 (MPC)



Follow MPC Theater



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See Us



Join
Friends of MPC Theatre

Morgan Stock Stage at MPC
980 Fremont Street, Monterey CA

For tickets or more information go to:
www.Ticketguys.com or call 831-646-4213

You may be receiving this because you previously purchased tickets or requested information on performances at MPC Theatre Company. To stop receiving email notifications simply click below or reply to this email with the header "Re

Shawn Anderson

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 5:04 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Promotional Video

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear MPC,

With the support of Beccie Michael and the MPC Foundation, a promotional video was created celebrating our great college. I showed this video to the Trustees at their July meeting. Please take the time to watch the video. None of the student comments were scripted. Three commercials have also been created using clips from the student stories, which will be airing on television and in local movie theatres very soon. Mac & Ava Productions worked their magic, again, in making these videos. Here is the link.

<https://vimeo.com/132555874>

Many thanks to our Foundation for their continued support of the college and to all of you who make all student success stories possible.

Best,

Dr. T.

Shawn Anderson

From: Leslie Procive
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 1:55 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: FW: Invitation to JYK/MPC Farewell Program
Attachments: 2015Invitation JYKrevise.pub

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent on behalf of the JYK Program

Hello MPC Faculty and Staff,

You are invited to attend our annual JYK/MPC Farewell Program! It will be held this **Thursday, August 6, from 3:00-5:00 pm in LF 103.**

Our 36 students from Osaka, Japan, have been studying English over the last two weeks at MPC during this intensive language program, and will be sharing their experiences and also demonstrating some traditional Japanese arts and culture. The students will also be wearing summer yukatas, which are very lovely.

I've enclosed an invitational attachment, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

-Molly May

ESL/Speech Instructor; ESL Dept. Chair
Monterey Peninsula College
mmay@mpc.edu
Office: 831/646-3008

You are cordially
invited to attend
the JYK/MPC



Farewell Program!

JYK/MPC Farewell Program

- Come celebrate the students' achievements.
 - They want to celebrate and honor you for your hospitality.
 - When: Thursday, August 6th
 - Where: MPC Lecture Forum 103: (LF 103)
 - Time: 3-5pm.*
 - The Program will include: group presentations, a traditional Japanese ceremony, and a certificate presentation
- *Program begins promptly at 3:00 p.m.

Shawn Anderson

From: Vicki Nakamura
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:07 AM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda for August 10, 2015

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee meets today, at 3:00 PM, in the Sam Karas Room, Library & Technology Center. The agenda is provided below, for a quick look.

For the complete agenda packet in pdf format, click on this link: <http://www.mpc.edu/about-mpc/campus-information/mpc-bond-measure/citizen-s-bond-oversight-committee/meeting-agenda-minutes>

MONTEREY PENINSULA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

Monday, August 10, 2015
1:30 PM –Tour of Facilities Projects for New Members
3:00 PM – Regular Meeting
Sam Karas Room, Library and Technology Center
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, California

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

Members of the audience wishing to address the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee may do so during the public comment period. Under provisions of the Brown Act, the Committee is prohibited from discussing or taking action on oral requests that are not part of the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes per person or as determined by the committee.

3. Approval of June 15, 2015 Minutes ACTION

4. Accept Bills and Warrants Report ACTION

The list of payments from bond funds expended through June 30, 2015 will be reviewed for acceptance by the committee.

5. Bond Expenditure Status Report INFORMATION

The June 30, 2015 bond expenditure status report will be reviewed with the committee.

6. Meeting Schedule

Future meetings are scheduled for:

- Monday, November 2, 2015 (Annual Organizational Meeting)

7. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics and Announcements

8. Adjournment

Shawn Anderson

From: Alfred Hochstaedter
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:02 AM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Welcome

August 13, 2015

Flex Day Instructor Reflections Enrollment Management

Good morning Friends and Colleagues,

I hope your summer activities continue to be restful and rejuvenating. As many of you know, I'm a big sports fan. I've spent more than my share of time watching sports highlights on ESPN's Sports Center. It was a nice moment this year, by the way, when they gave their ESPY Courage Award to Caitlyn Jenner.

Anyway, as I procrastinate between stacks of papers to grade by watching endless ticker tapes of scores and the inane antics of the sportscasters, I often think that wouldn't it be great if our society revered teachers as highly as we do sports stars and rewarded them just as profitably. If you have too, you might enjoy this short parody from Key and Peele: <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/07/what-if-the-us-treated-teaching-like-it-treats-professional-sports/399938/>

It's amazing what you can get for a head librarian and two lunch ladies to be named later these days...

Flex Day

In a week's time we'll gather for our flex days event on August 20, 2015. Remember that if you want the prepaid lunch that day, you need to prepay by this Friday, August 14. Pay your \$7.50 to any DOM or Shawn Anderson, Leslie Procive, Sandy Nee, Joanne Hagerty, or Stephanie Perkins.

The Flex Day Schedule is on the Academic Senate website:
<http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/FlexF15/FlexScheduleF15.pdf>

We look forward to the keynote of a CTE Faculty Panel including MPC faculty members DJ Singh, Monika Bell, James Lawrence, and Sunshine Giesler.

We have a wide variety of breakouts ranging from open houses of a CTE program; to technical help with curriculum, websites, SLOs, and engaging online learners; to discussions on world events. Please see the schedule for details. We hope you something in each session that will help you prepare for the semester ahead.

Instructor Reflections

It is my responsibility to remind you to fulfill your part in ensuring that MPC actively engages in evaluating student learning and reflecting upon how to improve that learning. The effort to improve is a characteristic of academic quality.

Please fill out Instructor Reflections forms for the classes you taught last semester. Be sure to emphasize those classes that have not yet been reflected upon so that the institution can be sure that it has evaluated as great a cross section of courses as possible in recent semesters. See me or your division chair for help in identifying those courses that have yet to be reflected upon.

As usual, here's the link to the form on the Academic Senate Website:

<http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/Home.htm>

Also on this page are links to the form in WORD format. If you try the online version and have trouble using it, please use the WORD form, send it to me, and I'll enter it for you. But do me a favor and give it a try first. We do realize that the form is clunky and problematic for some combinations of browsers and operating systems. We are trying to address this issue and hope to have a new system in place at some point during the coming academic year. That wasn't a promise. That was a hope. ☺

Enrollment Management

About a week ago, several of us went to a workshop on enrollment management up in the Bay Area. It covered the spectrum of issues from recruitment, to retention, to completion. The topics were a combination of how to run a college both efficiently and in the best interests of meeting student needs, including a few of the conflicts inherent therein. All of us attending could see that MPC has a lot of work to do in the areas of reducing student barriers, marketing, scheduling, and improving efficiencies, among many others. My crystal ball says you'll be hearing more about this from college leadership in the coming year.

If you've made it this far

Here's a pair of Wood Ducks that I found recently in their natural habitat: up in a tree on the banks of a river. This one happens to be along the Pajaro River near Watsonville. That's the female above and the male down below. They're uncommon in Monterey, but much more common up in Santa Cruz. Enjoy!



I look forward to seeing all of you at Flex Days,

Thanks,

-Fred

Shawn Anderson

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 4:29 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: The Flex Days of August

Dear MPC,

For those of you who have had a chance to be away from campus, welcome back. To the balance of us, welcome to the Flex Days of August! Our Academic Senate President, Dr. Hochstaedter, has already sent an informative message to you that includes the schedule for Flex Day activities next week. Here is the link, again, for the Flex Day schedule <http://www.mpcfaculty.net/senate/FlexF15/FlexScheduleF15.pdf>. The Key and Peele parody Fred included is a "must-watch."

Flex Days are an opportunity for staff development for all employees. While we acknowledge that many of the sessions in the afternoon on 8/20/2015 are geared more for faculty, the general sessions in the morning and program reflections are to be attended by as many of our staff as possible.

Therefore, our managers and supervisors know to close services to the maximum extent possible so employees can attend the general session from 8:30 to 11:00 AM and the program reflections session follows in the afternoon. Some areas have scheduled program reflections at times that work best for them. That is fine, as long as the work gets done.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all again and starting our year with renewed energy to serve our precious students.

Best,

Dr. T.

Shawn Anderson

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 5:03 PM
To: ALL USERS
Subject: Important Letter from the ACCJC Regarding MPC and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes
Attachments: Monterey Peninsula AR_SLO Ltr 8_12_15.pdf
Importance: High

Dear MPC,

Please see the attached letter from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The letter was sent to me as notification that MPC is under enhanced monitoring for our "student learning outcomes practice." This enhanced monitoring may result in the college being required to submit a special report to the ACCJC providing the ACCJC with additional information, should a review of our March 2016 Annual Report not be sufficient.

The attached letter clearly identifies the areas of concern to the ACCJC. Importantly, these areas are also of concern to MPC. At MPC, we are establishing a culture in which continuous improvement of our student learning outcomes and programs is the most important driver of planning and decision-making on an institution-wide basis. The recent ACCJC letter simply reinforces what we already know and is a call to action to implement improvements by our March 2016 Annual Report.

The self-study process has identified other areas of concern that will require urgent action. These will be brought forward to the campus on Thursday of Flex Days and will be a part of our campus-wide work this year.

Please remember that MPC a great college that will become even better.

Best,

Dr. T.



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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Associate Vice President
NORVAL WELLSFRY

August 12, 2015

Dr. Walter Tribley
President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: 2015 Annual Report Responses
Notice of Enhanced Monitoring and Possible Special Report

Dear President Tribley:

Monterey Peninsula College is being given notice of enhanced monitoring and the possibility of a needed special report. We ask that you provide this letter to others on campus as appropriate and to the governing board.

The college has been flagged for enhanced monitoring on the basis of its responses in the March 2015 Annual Report concerning student learning outcomes practice. The college may be required to submit a special report providing additional information to the Commission following a review of the March 2016 Annual Report.

Ongoing Course and Program Assessment at Monterey Peninsula College

In its 2015 Annual Report, Monterey Peninsula College reported ongoing assessment in only 51% of its courses (and in 71% of programs). As part of the ACCJC monitoring process and to assist the college as it determines strategies for enhancing its student learning outcomes practice, we recommend the college undertake an examination of its student learning outcomes practices in light of the Commission's standards.

Recommended Evaluation Related to SLO Assessment

As to the courses reported in the 2015 Annual Report without ongoing assessment, we recommend you consider and evaluate:

- The list of the courses, sorted by discipline or program.
 - o Identify whether the courses are prerequisite courses, program entry courses, end-of-program courses, and/or general education courses, as appropriate.
- A list of programs for which 40% or more of the included courses are without ongoing assessment.

Dr. Walter Tribley
Monterey Peninsula College
August 12, 2015

- 2013-2014 student enrollments in each of these programs.
- Information about whether the programs that have classes without ongoing assessment participate in program review, how the college evaluated the discipline's/program's participation in ongoing assessment, and what impact the level of ongoing assessment had on resource allocation.
- Any other information the institution has found pertinent concerning its own evaluation of the courses and programs for which there is no ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes.

Ongoing Assessment of SLOs

In accordance with the Accreditation Standards, member institutions are expected to have ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes in all of their courses and programs. When institutions have low levels of ongoing assessment in courses and programs, including the general education program, institutional compliance with standards is called into question. If an institution's courses and programs are not being assessed on an ongoing basis, then institutions may not be able to demonstrate that, across the institution:

- Student learning results are used to determine how well the college is meeting its mission;
- Data and analysis of student learning outcomes assessment are discussed and used in evaluation, planning, and decision-making;
- Instructional programs are being improved with the use of student learning outcomes assessment results;
- Student support and library and learning support programs demonstrate support of student learning;
- Institutional resources are sufficient, are distributed, and are used to enhance student learning;
- Resource allocation decisions and planned improvements are based upon the analysis of student learning results; and
- The governance bodies, CEO, and board of trustees are focused on student learning at the institution, and are taking policy and leadership steps to improve student learning.

Low levels of participation in the ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes also raise questions whether:

- Course outlines of record are current, and whether they include student learning outcomes;
- Course syllabi contain SLOs consistent with those in the course outlines of record;
- Course sequencing and scheduling decisions are made to enhance student learning;

Dr. Walter Tribley
Monterey Peninsula College
August 12, 2015

- College catalogs and information posted on the college website provide accurate information about programs;
- Students and prospective students have appropriate information about courses and programs of study at the college;
- Student learning assessment and improvement activities are used effectively in the evaluations of those responsible for student learning;
- Resource allocations are primarily “roll-over” activities and may not result in the reallocation of ongoing funds to improve student learning results; and
- Representations by the institution about academic quality are supported by data from every program at the college.

Since 2014, institutions have been expected to demonstrate they meet the Accreditation Standards pertaining to student learning outcomes (SLOs), in the same manner as with other areas of institutional practice.¹ Moreover, the ACCJC recently announced changes to institutional midterm reports prepared under the Accreditation Standards adopted in 2014. Midterm reports will have two areas of focus, both related to enhancement of student learning and student achievement. These include:

- An update on the quality improvement projects identified by colleges in their comprehensive self evaluation Quality Focus Essays, including results from those projects; and
- A multi-year analysis of the kinds of data reported to ACCJC in the annual reports, including student learning outcomes data.

Institutional data and its analysis for use at all levels of the institution, in planning, resource allocation and quality improvement, are increasingly important aspects of demonstrating that colleges meet the standards.

Ongoing Assessment Across the Region

According to the 2015 Annual Report data, nearly 87% of the 104,990 courses offered across the region have ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes. Approximately 2/3 of member institutions report ongoing assessment in greater than 90% of classes (most are at the 100% level). Approximately 15 institutions have ongoing assessment in less than 67% of courses.

Of the 12,854 programs offered by member institutions, 91% have ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes. More than 70% of member institutions report ongoing assessment in greater than 90% of programs (with more than half of member institutions at the 100% level). Approximately 15 institutions have ongoing program assessment at a rate of 67% or below.

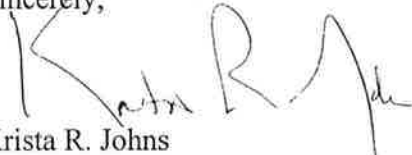
¹ The period for developing institutional practice across the region using sample behaviors compiled in the Rubric for Institutional Effectiveness ended with the College Status Report on Student Learning Outcomes Implementation submitted in 2012-2013.

Dr. Walter Tribley
Monterey Peninsula College
August 12, 2015

Please refer to the College's 2015 Annual Report for additional detail concerning the College submission. The report form instructions can be found at www.accjc.org/annualreport/index.php by clicking on *Getting Started Instructions* in the dialog box. No log-in or password is required for the instructions. We also recommend that you review the Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards adopted in 2014. These can be found at: <http://www.accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards>.

If you have any questions concerning this request for additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krista R. Johns". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "R".

Krista R. Johns
Vice President for Policy and Research

KRJ/mg

cc: Ms. Catherine Webb, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Shawn Anderson

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 10:01 AM
To: ALL USERS
Cc: scrow@mpc.edu; Suzanne Ammons
Subject: Welcome Dr. Steve Crow, Professional Expert in Administrative Services and Educational Leadership

Importance: High

Dear All,

We are bringing a contract to the Board of Trustees in August that enables The District to hire Dr. Steve Crow as a professional expert in the areas related to administrative services. These are the areas of responsibility that our VP of Administrative Services usually handles. Steve comes to us with many years of experience as a VP of Administrative Services in single-college districts (College of the Siskiyous and Southwestern College) within the California Community College system. He has a strong background in sound fiscal management, IT, bonds, transitioning colleges toward new "ERPs," facilities, etc. He is highly regarded by his peers and comes ready to hit the ground *sprinting*, as are all of our P/VP members.

In addition to the significant workload of meeting the challenges in these areas, Dr. Crow will serve as an "objective" reviewer of our finances and fiscal practices. He will complete a rigorous self-assessment of our fiscal management following the checklist that is provided by the California Community College Chancellor's Office (http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/CFFP/Fiscal_Services/Standards/AcctgAdvisories/FS0505_Fiscal_Monitoring_Accounting_Advisory4.pdf). This review will be completed and presented to the campus community and the board of trustees before the end of the Fall Semester, 2015. Likewise, Steve will prepare and join me to deliver an "actuals-to-budget report" to the campus in December. Please know that the actual expenditures of The District are reported monthly to the Board of Trustees. This presentation will be for the general campus audience and will allow us to determine if any one-time funds are available at mid-year for expenditures on mission-critical items, or to be banked for the much-anticipated rise in cost of STRS/PERS and the sun-setting of Prop 30 and the huge source of revenue that Prop 30 is providing MPC.

Steve will also get all participatory groups in his area up and running (ASAG, facilities committee, HWCCC, etc.).

Steve will be here Thursday, August 20 to be introduced to the campus. His current contract starts on September 3 and runs until December 23.

Please join me in a hearty welcome of Dr. Crow!

Best,

Dr. T.

Shawn Anderson

From: Walter Tribley
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 4:43 PM
To: ALL USERS
Cc: Todd Ritsema; Christine Wood
Subject: The passing of Professor Rod Oka

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear MPC,

It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you that Rod Oka, Professor of Chemistry, has passed away.

Rod meant so much to so many. Certainly those closest to him, his spouse and brother as well as his longtime friends in the Chemistry Department and Physical Sciences Division. Our thoughts are with each of you as you experience grief and celebrate your life with Rod.

Rod was an incredible spirit on this planet. He inspired so many students, colleagues, and administrators to believe in themselves and the good in the world. He was also quite the punster. I just smiled when I saw him, because his smile was infectious. He always had that look like he was about to say something very funny, even if he was just saying "hello." Many of you know that he taught some of the most difficult curricula in the so-called "hard sciences." He must have been an artist and a humanist because he saw his role as a builder and a gardener and not a puller of weeds or someone to dismantle the hopes and dreams of students in the name of "high standards in hard sciences." We currently have two full-time faculty that chose to go into chemistry because of their experiences with Rod as their teacher.

Most of my interactions with Rod have been in the presence of Todd Ritsema and Christine Wood. I can only imagine their pain. I am imagining them now laughing at something Rod would do and crying at the same time. Rod was extraordinary.

We will miss Rod. Yes. And we have a chance now to honor his memory by laughing with each other, working tirelessly for students, and sharing a pun on a long walk around campus. Please see the link to Rod's obituary below.

We will miss you Professor Oka.

Dr. T.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santacruzsentinel/obituary.aspx?n=rodney-oka&pid=175498414>

MPC to hold trustee candidate orientation

Monterey Peninsula College will hold a trustee candidate orientation for residents interested in running for a seat on the governing board in the Nov. 3 election.

The orientation will be held 7 p.m. Monday in the Humanities Building, Room 106, Monterey Peninsula College, 980 Fremont St., Monterey.

Three seats are available to represent Area 3 (Monterey/Del Rey Oaks), Area 4 (Pacific Grove/Pebble Beach), or Area 5 (Carmel/Carmel Valley/Big Sur).

Dr. Walter Tribley, president and superintendent of MPC, will provide information about the college district, the state community college system and the role of the governing board.

For information, call Vicki at 646-4114.

Obituary: Rodney Oka

December 27, 1952 – August 3, 2015

Resident of Aptos

Rodney Oka, a respected teacher in Monterey and Santa Cruz, a loving husband, and cherished friend to many passed away on Monday, August 3rd after a year long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rod was born on December 27, 1952 in Carmel, California and grew up in Monterey. He went to Monterey Peninsula College and completed his BA in chemistry at UC Santa Barbara. Following that degree he spent a year at UCSB's Education Department, earning two K-12 teaching credentials and also completing minors in history and math. He later earned his MS degree in chemistry from UC Santa Cruz.

Rod spent 9 years teaching at Santa Cruz High School, and then 28 years at Monterey Peninsula College, in addition to a few decades as an adjunct teacher at Cabrillo College. He retired from his teaching career in June 2014. Rod loved teaching and was proud to have earned two "Teacher of the Year" awards while at Monterey Peninsula College. He loved working with his colleagues in the Physical Science Division, and especially his colleagues in the Chemistry Department. He was appreciative of the many students who kept in touch with him for years after moving on from the schools where he taught, going back to his first year of teaching in 1976.

Rod spent over 30 years studying and practicing martial arts, mostly Shaolin Kung Fu and later Tai Chi at the Academy of Martial Arts in Santa Cruz. He spent several years studying French so that he could better enjoy his travels to France. He also loved reading, music, playing guitar, cooking and hosting wine pairing dinners for friends, ballroom dancing, snorkeling in Hawaii, traveling in Europe, hiking and fine dining. Rod and his wife, Rebecca, would seek out restaurants known for their fine food and intimate settings.

Rod was known for his corny sense of humor and quick-witted puns. He was an endless source of joy and laughter to those who knew him. Above all Rod will be remembered as a kind soul extremely sensitive to the needs of others.

Rod considered himself a very lucky person, having been surrounded by wonderful friends, family, and colleagues. He often said that he had the best wife in the world in Rebecca, who took such great care of him and made him laugh each and every day. Their loving relationship was an inspiration to those who knew them.

Rod was preceded in death by his first wife of 28 years, Michele Kathleen Oka, his sister Patti Hudson, and his mother and father. He leaves behind his loving wife and best friend Rebecca Arnesty-Oka, brother Steve Oka, brothers-in-law Darrell Hudson, John Good, and Alan Herren, sisters-in-law Candace Walker, Janet Arnesty, Marcie Arnesty, and Joanne Herren, 3 nephews and 2 nieces. In accordance with his wishes, there will be no public service. A private gathering to celebrate Rod's life will be held this fall.

A scholarship will be established in Rod's name to honor his commitment to and love of teaching chemistry. Donations can be sent to MPC Foundation at 980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940, or made online at www.mpcfoundation.org (click on Donate Now), or by calling the Foundation office at (831) 655-5507.