

I am not here to try to sway you or anyone else one way or the other. I am here before you today, I feel compelled to speak to you today, b/c of recent statements and communications that I have seen that have stated that Student Equity did not put students first.

I am here to share with you my honest and heartfelt commitment to our students and to working together as partners, as an MPC family, to help others - our students and our community members - to reach their educational goals.

I am here to assure the board, all of our students, and our Monterey Peninsula community that we most certainly do put students first and that students are the heart of all of our decisions regarding equity on this campus.

And, to be completely honest with you it offends me greatly that anyone on this campus would dare to indicate otherwise.

Whether it is providing direct aid - such as child care support, bus passes, or books to students; supporting increased tutorial support; computers to help them get their coursework completed

Or whether it is the introduction of new programs and projects such as Lobos ambassadors or the MPC Jump Start FYE program, or research efforts such as our student focus groups;

Or whether it is the professional development opportunities sending several faculty & staff to trainings and conferences to help them better teach and support students

Or bringing training opportunities to this campus so that we can learn from other educators no matter what distant lands they might come from or so that we can strive toward and develop a safe and welcoming environment for all of our students, it is all done with students in mind.

Everything is done with students in mind and with a goal of working to identify how we can bring information to this campus and putting systems in place that help us as a college do a better job of supporting students and increasing their successful outcomes.

And, yes, this includes any of the 80 some odd activities that are identified and supported by our SSE Office as identified in both our 3SP and SE plans. But it also includes a thorough look at positions (regardless of their classification) that can be brought to this campus to help us more efficiently and effectively support these efforts and these goals that everyone inside this room (and many who are not able to be with us this afternoon) have dedicated ourselves to - helping students reach their educational goals.

I want to reaffirm here, that our SE program will continue to work toward increasing access, course completion, ESL and basic skills completion, degrees, certificates and transfer and we will always carry students first as we have done over the last few years.

Thank you.

LaKisha Bradley
Director of Student Success and Equity
Monterey Peninsula College