

Thank you, Beccie and MPC Foundation for sponsoring and hosting this Sam Farr photographic collection!!! I am delighted beyond words.

I would like to share a story that highlights our fabulous Sup/Pres' visionary leadership and support for this exhibit. He never complains, never boasts, he is modest and unassuming. Yet he knows how to get things done and how to make good things happen.

A few years ago, our board went through the participatory governance process to obtain concurrence on incorporating the pledge of allegiance into our board meetings. While waiting, I realized we didn't have a flag, so I asked Congressman Farr to fly one over the U.S. capitol in honor of MPC. In the meantime, Dr. Tribley procured the two beautiful flags that are proudly displayed here in the Sam Kara room. The Sam Farr flag arrived with a signed certificate commemorating the date it was flown over the U.S. capitol – August 18, 2014.

Why the pledge of allegiance, you might ask? Because it reminds us at the beginning of each meeting that we are all working for something much larger than ourselves. Our mission, educating students for success, is the vital key to making our democracy stronger, more viable, more accessible, more equitable. We are the most diverse country on earth, yet we are one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

At the recent Education Summit, a key note speaker, author Dr. Francisco Jimmenez, told the audience that he believes education makes our democracy stronger, better. He came here as a child, was deported along with his parents, and came back later with them and the right legal papers. Francisco and his family worked in the fields to help support their family. One of Francisco's teachers encouraged him, giving him Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* to read as an assignment. He discovered that this was his story too. Inspired to become a teacher himself, Dr. Jimmenez has received prestigious awards for teaching and writing, most notably the John Steinbeck Award. His story surely reminds us too that education is the foundation for success.

Education is critical to our well-being and prosperity as a nation. Our mission could not be a higher calling. We are blessed to be here in this role. It is an awesome responsibility, one we embrace with all our hearts. The pledge of allegiance reminds us of the importance of this calling, this responsibility.

To continue the story, Dr. Tribley and I briefly discussed inviting Congressman Farr to campus to thank him for his support and perhaps to have a showing of his photographs. I remember Dr. Tribley responding, "we'll do something."

Years went by. Congressman Farr retired. Then at the Nov 15, 2017 MPC Foundation board meeting we received this elegant invitation to a showing of Sam Farr's photographs. Imagine my

delight and joy. This would not have happened had Dr. Tribley forgotten about “we’ll do something”. This is a superb example of the positive creative outcomes one can achieve when everyone is working harmoniously together as a caring team.

We thank our art and hospitality departments, our foundation, and all those who worked to make this exhibit possible, to include my colleague, Trustee Dr. Steck, and all those who supported us through the participatory governance process. This is a superb example not only of great leadership but also one that showcases the best that MPC is, an institution full of generous, caring, intelligent people who want the best for all. Molly Jansen is so proud of her hospitality students. At the MPC Foundation Gala she mentioned the exhibit and how much she enjoys having her students participate, and how wonderful the exhibit is for MPC. Molly Jansen and Melissa Pickford are perfect role models for all of us. An example of what magic happens when people work together for the good of all.

I am so blessed to have such wonderful trustees to work with. Our team rocks! I am inspired by them and thank God for them every day. We are so so lucky to have Dr. Tribley as our S/P. Together, all of us, will continue to strive to make MPC the very best it can be. Let’s lock arms, hold hands, and move forward together to achieve wondrous creative solutions. Thank you for listening.