

April 2022 | Volume 2 | Issue 4

# CSEA Cerritos Chapter 161 Clipboard



AFL-CIO

*Our Mission:*

*To improve the lives of our members, students, and community.*

## **Cerritos Chapter 161 Members,**

It has been great to see more of our union brothers and sisters and this has brought more liveliness to our campus. I thank you for your resilience and your patience as we continuously adapt to new changes in our governing rules. As we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, I remind any of you who received an excess vacation letter to coordinate with your managers and use your vacation accordingly.

### **Return to Campus:**

The Summer 2022 Return to Campus Plan was distributed on Tuesday, 3/29, so if you have not read the document, I highly encourage you to do so.

The Return to Campus task forces reconvened on 2/24, where representatives provided feedback on recommendations to the document. Groups were asked to gather feedback and in the March newsletter we asked you for feedback - thank you to those who sent in recommendations.

On 3/17 the task force groups received an email that on 3/24 the leadership group would discuss masks. During the 3/24 leadership group, CSEA advocated to remove the testing for booster eligible employees immediately as we have seen the greatest impact to our members. According to the District this move could not be done immediately as the logic to OptimumHQ would need to be changed. Based on the mask mandate survey, CSEA supported the voluntary use of masks with encouragement to continue to wear masks and you see that reflected in the document. Please note that the District will retain its right to change the mask from optional to mandatory should the need arise.

### **March Chapter Meeting Recap**

The Executive Board reported that Michele Kingston was selected as the nominee for the 2022 Unsung Hero for our chapter. She will be honored at CSEA Area G Member Recognition Banquet on Saturday, May 7th. Congratulations on this well deserved award and we thank Michele for her dedication to our chapter.

We also asked the membership to attend the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 20th. This is your platform to support the Negotiations Committee/Team to advocate for our Health and Welfare benefits along with COLA plus on schedule raises. You can also speak on keeping or removing mask mandates, testing requirements, or any change to any of the policies set in the Return to Campus Plan, BP 2905 and AP 2905. Please join us on 4/20, come early and have some pizza between 5:45-6:45 PM and then to the meeting at 7 PM. Wear blue or your CSEA apparel to show your support during the day and evening.

The membership motioned to approve two delegates to conference and those who volunteered to attend the Annual Conference were Amna Jara and Michele Kingston. Kathy Hogue was designated as the alternate.

The membership motioned to survey CSEW giveaways this year with the Zip Up Hoodie coming in as a clear winner. If you have not completed your order form, please make sure you do so by 4/12 at Noon.

### **CSEW ZIP UP HOODIE ORDER FORM**

If you would like to be part of our member spotlight and be part of a future edition of our chapter newsletter complete the form: **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **CalPERS Candidate**

Thank you to those who signed the petition to support CSEA endorsed CalPERS candidate Kevin Palkki. The signature gathering is the first step which gets Kevin Palkki on the ballot. The following step is voting him as our representative.

Some facts about Kevin:

- Kevin has extensive experience as a school employee and CSEA leader, has a master's degree in global business, and multiple financial management certificates, including one from Harvard. He is well prepared for this position and is an excellent candidate who will make us all proud.
- He will work hard to safeguard the pensions of all public employees and fiercely defend the defined benefit program that allows us to retire with security and dignity. He knows how important CalPERS pensions are because he is a classified employee earning a pension.

### **Employment Opportunities/Hiring Committees**

- You can find employment opportunities online at <https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/cerritos.edu> If you or someone you know is interested in applying for these jobs, do so before the deadlines.
- With the posting of employment opportunities, members will have an opportunity to complete the interest form to be considered to serve on a hiring committee. Be sure to complete the interest form by the deadline to be considered.

### **It's never too late to join CSEA!**

- Are you a classified employee and not part of CSEA? We urge you to join CSEA today! Visit [www.csea.com/join](http://www.csea.com/join) and complete the online application. It's fast and your membership helps preserve all the benefits we enjoy today.
- Are you a CSEA member? Consider donating \$1 per month to the Victory Club. These funds help with lobbying legislation issues, board elections and much more. Reach out to an executive board member and we will help you fill out the application.

### **Meeting Opportunity Winners**

Our March chapter meeting opportunity winners are Mario Morales, Brenda Sierra and Michele Kingston. Congratulations!

***“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward,  
safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you”***

**– Princess Diana**



**In Solidarity,  
Irlanda Lopez | Chapter President  
CSEA Cerritos Chapter 161**

#### **Upcoming Executive Board Meeting**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
11:00 am via Zoom  
Meeting ID: 992 5083 1588  
Passcode: 520251

#### **Upcoming Chapter Meeting**

Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
12:00 pm via Zoom  
Meeting ID: 962 5896 2048  
Passcode: 032641

**EXECUTIVE BOARD****President**

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**1st Vice President**

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**Treasurer**

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**CPRO**

Isabel Aguilar  
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**Negotiation Update****3-Year Successor Contract**

On March 16, 2022, we met with the district for our regularly scheduled negotiations meeting. At this meeting we sought clarification on the districts Article 7.9 Holiday Pay proposal. At the opening of the meeting, we were informed that interim VP Ron Cataraha would no longer be on the district's negotiations team. Less than a week later, we all received the email from President Fierro that Mr. Cataraha was no longer employed with the district. We will continue to negotiate our successor contract as planned and see if the district will replace the interim VP with another executive committee member or leave it as is. As always, we will keep you informed of any changes as we receive them. We have an upcoming negotiation meeting with the District on March 30th.

continued on next page.

**NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE**

(\* Team)

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### Mandatory Vaccine Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

We have reached a tentative agreement (TA) with the District on this MOU, held informational town hall meetings (twice), and sent this out for a ratification vote to you the members. Please be sure to vote – voting started March 23 at 8am and will conclude April 4 at 8am.

### April 20th Board of Trustees Meeting

CSEA Chapter 161 received word from our faculty sister, CCFF President, Lynn Wang, on March 23, 2022, that CCFF had reached impasse with the district on their negotiations process. This comes after 15 months “at the table”, over 60 proposals, and 24 meetings. This means that the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) has officially declared that the district and CCFF have not reach an agreement on their overall successor agreement and they will have mediation hearings with a third party to hopefully resolve the issues. One of the major issues CCFF President Lynn Wang, highlighted was the district’s unwillingness to come to agreement regarding on schedule pay raises that are fair and equitable.

We are asking all chapter 161 members to join the faculty and the leadership of CSEA and CCFF on April 20th at the 7pm Board of Trustees meeting. Come to the meeting!

Wear your CSEA shirts and show your support for our brothers and sisters in CCFF!

Show the Board of Trustees that we the Classified also need on schedule pay raises.

### **Remember:**

**United We Bargain,  
Divided We Beg**



***Anika Javaid***  
*IERP Research Analyst*

***Antonio "Nio" Lavermon***  
*LGBTQ+ Liason/Program Facilitator*

### Employee of the Month



**Congratulations to Jose Morales!**

**February 2022, Employee of the Month**

**Floor Maintenance Mechanic, Facilities**

### Member Spotlight



#### Meet Dr. Richard Garcia

Richard is an EOPS Specialist and has been a member for 9 years. He just started his own family a few years ago, so family outings with his wife and two children have become his favorite thing to do. Whether it is the park, day trips, or family vacations, these trips with his loved ones provide him with a sense of purpose, a boost in self-esteem, and a positive life perspective.

He is a loving human being who values community and comradery. He wants to see the best in people and wishes them the best in their endeavors.

Say Hello to Richard!



We want to get to know you and introduce you to our Chapter 161 family. Submit your response here: [tinyurl.com/Chapter161memberspotlight](https://tinyurl.com/Chapter161memberspotlight)

**DO YOU KNOW AN EMPLOYEE THAT GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND?**



Outstanding Employee of the Month is an award presented to a classified or confidential employee who goes above and beyond their daily job duties. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding employees and to motivate all staff to do their very best.

If you know of a Classified/Confidential Employee that has made an outstanding contribution to the college, the community, students or to another staff member, have them recognized by the District!

Get the form here.



# ★ KNOW ★ — YOUR — RIGHTS

- If a supervisor calls you into a meeting, you may have reason to have your union representative present. These are your rights:
- If you think the meeting might lead to discipline, reprimand or dismissal, you have the right to union representation.
- Immediately notify your job steward or other union representative of your meeting with management.
- If the purpose of the meeting is investigatory and could lead to discipline and you have requested union representation, the employer must stop the meeting or reschedule it until a representative is present.
- You must ask for union representation. The employer does not have to advise you of your rights.
- If you request union representation and it is denied, you have the right to refuse to answer any questions that could be used against you. However, do NOT refuse to attend the meeting. CONTACT your representative immediately.

**Remember, you must demand your right to union representation.**

This is your right under the 1975 U.S. Supreme Court Weingarten Decision.

## Congratulations to our CSEA Member of the Year Award Recipient, Alva Acosta!

Alva Acosta has been selected as the recipient of CSEA Member of the Year award.

She will be honored at this year's annual conference held on July 24-28 in Las Vegas. President Fierro will be invited to accept the plaque and display it at the college.

Alva is well deserving of this award and we are glad that the awards committee also agreed.



## **UNION STEWARDS**

Amna Jara  
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Alva Acosta  
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# JOIN US!

# TO SUPPORT FAIR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS!



*Wear your CSEA  
Apparel*  
**OR BLUE!**

Board Meeting at 7PM  
Pizza and drinks between 5:45-6:45 PM  
Come out to support our CSEA  
Negotiations Committee and to show  
support and solidarity with our brothers  
and sisters in the CCFF who have  
declared impasse with the District.

Wednesday  
**20TH**  
April 2022

We encourage members to fill out comment cards, speak publicly supporting full Health and Welfare benefits and Cola plus on schedule raises!

Board Docs Link: <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/cerritos/Board.nsf/Public>

Phone number to call and leave a public message: (562) 888-3610  
The recording is limited to three minutes.





**Going to College is More Attainable  
Now than Ever!**

**Sign up Today to attend a  
CSEA No-Cost College and No-Cost Teacher Credentialing Virtual Information Session**

Do you wish to achieve your higher goals and dreams in this coming year? CSEA is proud to offer quality no-cost college for you and your family members. The number one question we are asked is: "Is this for real?" and we can assure you it is!

Thousands of CSEA members and family members have participated since we first made this available in 2018 and thousands continue to participate to this day. Attend an information session to find out all about it and to get your questions answered.

Take college classes online for professional development, personal enrichment, or to earn an Associate and/or Bachelor's degree, including the option to earn a teaching credential, all at no-cost for tuition, books, and fees.

### **Register to Attend**

Click on one of the selections below to select the date and time that works for you. Once you register, you will receive an email with information about how to join the webinar on the scheduled date and time, and you will also receive reminder emails.

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022 - 5:00pm to 6:30pm**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - 5:30pm to 7:00pm**

**Saturday, April 9, 2022 - 9:30am to 11:00am**