

Wednesday Wins



Hi All,

It has been a while since the last Wednesday's Win, but we have been busy doing the union's work. I am happy to report that we had an extremely successful March in March/March 4th National Day of Action. Last year, we had about a dozen sponsors, 500 participants, and one legislator who spoke at the event. This year, we had two dozen sponsors, including LA County Fed, CFT, FACC, CCA, the State Chancellor's Office, and many of our local community college siblings. We had over 2000 people at the event. Our District financially supported 150 LACCD students and faculty in making the trip to Sacramento. Some of our speakers included Senate Majority Leader and Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus Lena Gonzalez, Chair of the Education Committee Assemblymember Al Murasutchi, the first Filipina Assemblymember Jessica Caloza, President of CFT Jeff Freitas, Wendy Brill-Wynkoop the President of the Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges (FACCC), and Carl Williams the President CFT Council of Classified Employees and Lawndale Federation of Classified Employees. The energy was terrific as faculty, students, and community members came together to support our students, faculty, and staff and fight for the future of education.

None of this would be possible without AFT 1521. As you know, our leadership brought the March back. The March in March Committee met every other week for nine months and then every week for the last three months before the March. Credit has to be given to those who worked tirelessly on this event, especially our own Internship Coordinator, Juan Carlos Vasquez, who chaired the committee meeting, created a website, worked on social media, recruited and organized the students, and helped everyone move through all the logistics needed to create a successful event. I also want to thank our staff. Robert Salazar, who worked on the ordering of t-shirts, food, and other logistical items; Tina Ramlal for her website updates; Sandy Soon Choi and Zakiya Ellick for processing all the needed checks and payments: Chris Cofer for arranging our legislator visits, Eddie Torres for working out our flights, David Orellana and Logan Fisher for coordinating the students getting to and from the airport, Sam Sukaton and Ernesto Huerta coordinating our faculty, and the faculty that volunteered to be chaperones. I also want to thank our new Executive Director, Sally Hwang, who started at the most hectic time and rose to the occasion.

We have already begun to meet again and discuss next year. We want to make the March into a campaign for education. I am grateful for the team we had working on this event, and I am looking forward to moving this beyond a march and into a campaign. We are working hard to ensure the future of education for our students, the protection of academic freedom, and the respect our faculty deserve for your noble work.

In Unity,

A. James McKeever PhD President, AFT 1521 Faculty Guild CFT Vice President



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