

HONORING MSJC WOMEN

Updates for the parents of Beechtown High School

Women support Women



Jamie Marrs

I am currently a staff member for the chemistry department however I would not be the scientist I am today if it were not for Jamie Marrs. I worked on my associates in science at MSJC. Jamie was the biology instructional aide and she so helpful and attentive to all of the students. Since graduation, we remained friends and now I have to privilege to be one of her peers. When I began my role as a chemistry instructional aide she had that same patience helpful spirit in teaching and training me in all the ordering and administrative systems. I know of many other students faculty and staff that share my sentiment. It is an honor to write this. --Astrid Russell



Gail Hoak and Julie Freeman

I was a student at MSJC, 30 years ago, and I am in awe of both Gail Hoak and Julie Freeman. Such beautiful, brilliant women, that exude integrity, strength and hope. They were, and continue to be amazing role models in my life.

Gail Hoak encouraged me as both a student, and a woman(full of self doubt), who wanted to be a somatic therapist/dance movement therapist. Gail has supported me all throughout my academic endeavors, and she believed in my potential, in ways that I could not fathom. I will be forever grateful for these woman and the impact they have had in my life.

----Sunter McLaughlin



Dr. Jenn Burleson

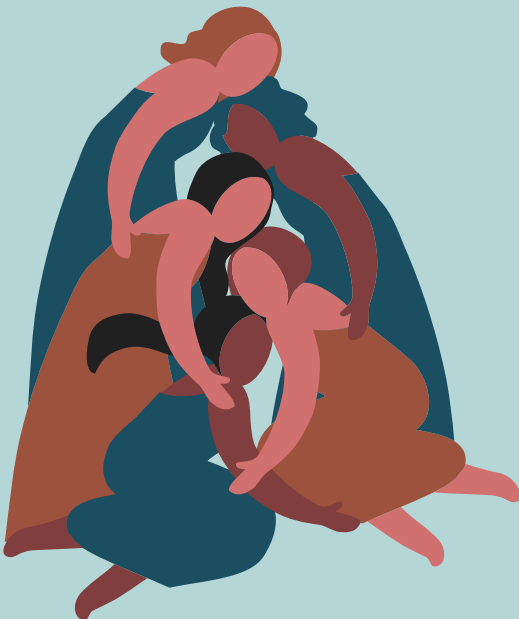
Jenn has created an outstanding athletic support program for our student-athletes and encourages them to succeed in life by prioritizing their need to attain a degree and transfer to achieve a higher level education. As a former student-athlete, Jenn was the ultimate counselor - she ensured I was taking the correct classes to remain eligible to play and helped me graduate by finding a late-start class for me when I had not planned to graduate. My situation was unique because I had a bachelor's degree before I came to MSJC, but Jenn still worked with me to help me attain an associate's degree anyway. After I graduated, the Student-Athlete Support Program was growing, and she encouraged me to apply for a position with the program.

Since becoming a part of the MSJC team, she has helped me grow in a leadership role to our current student athletes, and supported my independence in my role as a tutor and mentor for our players. She is the ultimate role model as a woman of strength, optimism, and determination, and I am grateful to work with her.
--Randi Johnson



Dr. Marilyn Harvey

Marilyn Harvey is worthy of recognition for empowering other women. I was having a rough time and I approached Marilyn not knowing who she was and began to share my frustrations. That conversation is one of the most memorable conversations. Marilyn made me feel empowered by validating my feelings and reciprocating some of her experiences. After the conversation, I introduced myself and she told me she is the new dean of Career Ed. Marilyn is a woman in leadership who goes above and beyond, especially for people, she does not know.
--Basemeh Rihan



The Amazing Women of Puente

Rebecca Coleman, Cynthia Garcia, Rosalva Amezcua, Miranda Angeles, and Alma Ramirez

The amazing women of Puente are holding it down for the Puente students and mentors organizing fun and meaningful events under incredibly difficult situations. Puente is all about familia and connection, and these women

along with their amazing partners (shout out to Addison Palacios and others) are bringing us together over Zoom for dance lessons, cooking classes, game nights, and mentorship training.



Anjeanette Oberg

Anjeanette is a force for good at this college. She is a leader, a champion for needed causes, and she gives voice and agency not just to her students, but to her colleagues as well. She is a consummate professional, incredibly hard working, but more importantly she is dedicated to her calling as a transformative educator. Thank you for welcoming me to MSJC, Anjeanette. It is because of you that I am happy to call MSJC my new home.

Suzanne Uhl

Suzanne is one who believes in others and provides support with her gentle nature. She has always provided me with support and mentoring.

--Basemeh Rihan



Rhonda Nishimoto

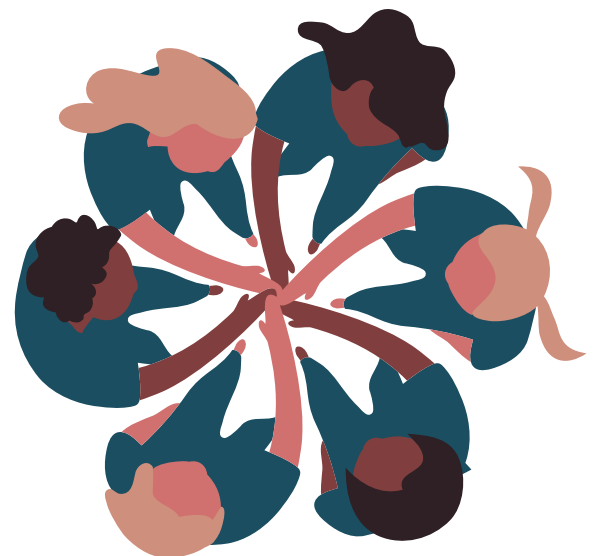
I would not be where I am at right now in my teaching career if not for Rhonda. She took it upon herself to mentor me, guide me, inform me, and encourage me during my first years of being in the classroom (no small task I'm sure!). Her guidance opened my eyes to leadership capabilities, challenged my naïve concepts of education, and instilled confidence in my classroom persona. Thank you for the solid foundation, Rhonda - you are a wise leader and friend.

--Alan Marsala



Christina Yamanaka

Christina has been a co-director for the Honors Enrichment Program and the Chair for the SJC History Department for over a decade. In that time the Honors Enrichment Program and SJC History Department have flourished. Christina's outstanding effort in these areas is definitely worthy of recognition.





Dr. Rosaleen Gibbons

I like to honor my past Chemistry Department Chair Professor Rosaleen Gibbons. Full-time tenured Chemistry Professor Rosaleen Gibbons hired me back at Mt. San Jacinto College during Fall of 2019. She provided a supportive environment for me to continue to provide excellent service. She spent time with me and helped me set up my classes during the Fall Semester 2019 and Spring Semester 2020. Due to supportive faculty like Dr. Gibbons, I was inspired to publish a teaching book called "Mastery of Excellent Teaching". Impressed by superior teaching, she offered me to teach a summer chemistry class in 2020. She has always been responsive to all of my email messages. Great and even greater success my students have achieved and continue to achieve above most professors. It all started here with Rosaleen Gibbons. Thank you Rosaleen Gibbons!

--Harminster Gill

Honoring MSJC Women

Ricki Rycraft

Rickianne Rycraft empowers other women by encouraging us to be the best we can be. Ricki always demonstrates caring and compassion toward others. Her strength is shown through her "temperature checks" of asking others "how are you doing."

--Basemeh Rihan



Carrie Consalvi & Bahareh Alaei

Both Bahareh and Carrie are supportive, encouraging, and fierce advocates for all at MSJC. They are the professional women you want to work with every day. They go out of their way to engender student success and their colleagues' success. I'm honored to work alongside them and call them friends. --Lauren Springer





SQOT Leaders

Bahareh and Lauren helped facilitate a groundbreaking effort to transition MSJC to a fully online college. Their (torture) mentorship and support helped faculty develop and refine the skills necessary to provide accessible, equitable, and engaging online learning environments.

Paula Naggi and Adrian Stroik

I would like to mention two women, if that is possible, both of whom are currently on the staff at MSJC.

Additionally, both of whom I studied under as a student at MSJC, many moons ago.

Paula Naggi and Adrian Stroik were two of the dance professors I studied under as an aspiring dance student at this college. Both women were influential in inspiring, uplifting, encouraging and advising me to both continue my degree in dance and to continue writing about dance which led to me pursuing a four-year program at UC Riverside, and soon after, completing my master's degree in dance at Mills College.

The most wonderful thing about this entire story of these two phenomenal women who encouraged me to continue is that I currently work at MSJC in the dance Department under Paula Naggi, and with Adrian Stroik who continue to be phenomenal dance instructors, exemplar mentors and women who I admire and aspire to become more like. Thank you to both of you for giving me the push of confidence and believing in me enough to allow me to take the steps to where I am today. I am continually grateful!

--Rachel Holdt

Andrea Hammock

I want to acknowledge my department chair, Andrea Hammock. She has been a nurturing and patient leader for several years. She is always upbeat and supportive. She is a fantastic listener, and she really exemplifies what it means to operate from a place of empathy. I recently lost two matriarchs in my family, and Andrea reached out to me in way that really helped. This was not something that she had to do, but the fact that she did says a lot about her. She really cares and wants to bring out the best in each of us, whether it is a colleague or a student. Thank you, Andrea, for being you!

--Estella Gutierrez-Zamano



[Submit an accolade](#)

Anjeanette Oberg

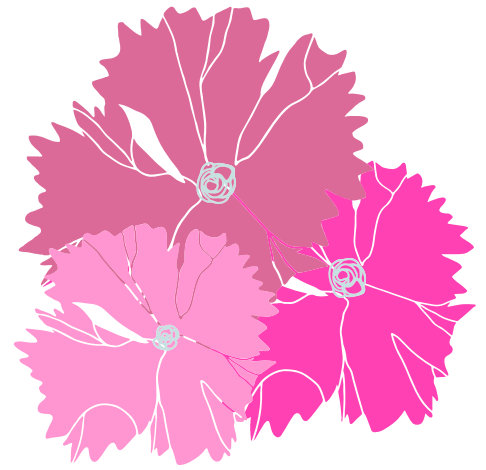
Anjeanette Oberg is a woman empowering other women. She encourages women to speak up but understands the consequences of letting our voices be heard. She is my mentor who has always been supportive and caring.

--Basemeh Rihan

Sunter Mclaughlin

Sunter Mclaughlin is an amazing super woman! She has been a great inspiration in my life and to the lives of many students. Keep up the great work Sunter! I appreciate you deeply..

--Gilbert Espinoza



Jill Lanphere

Jill Lanphere is generous with her talent and expertise. She takes time to help, encourage and cheer me on. On a particular new task recently, she went out of her way to make certain I had every tool and information I needed to be successful. She is someone I admire.

--Naomi Del Rio

“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.”
--Malala Yousafzai

In 2001, I had the opportunity to take English 103 with Michelle Stewart, the woman who unbeknownst to me at the time would be the greatest influence of my academic life. 20 years later, she is still my rock, my mentor, and my friend. Michelle has managed to keep curriculum flowing despite the pandemic, the changes to placement laws, and the shift to CourseLeaf. She serves on basically every committee, spends her weekends reading the curriculum agenda, and still manages to bring us chocolate (when we are FTF) every meeting; her thoughtfulness and diligence are truly unmatched (and no one deserves a break more than she does!). Michelle is one of the smartest people I have ever known, and her intelligence is only surpassed by her work ethic and her kindness. How lucky are we to have her!

Becky Coleman

**MICHELLE
STEWART**

Selena is a woman who has inspired me to be better each day. She approaches each student and colleague with a heart full of love, compassion, and dedication that has been transformative to witness. Through her I have been able to see my own work and interactions

in new and better ways, making a positive impact on our students. Her kindness and subtle gestures go a long way to make a positive impact on people. She is truly a blessing and an inspiration to work with.

Selena
Paesz

Angelica Anderson

The woman who has truly inspired me is Angelica Anderson. Angelica is a graduate of MSJC, and Honors alumnus, and she currently serves as the Honors Enrichment Program's Administrative Associate. Angelica has an amazing ability to motivate and encourage students to believe in themselves using her own academic journey as an example. Her empathy and approachability have helped her create lasting connections with students and faculty alike. Angelica is a true inspiration in showing how far and how much an MSJC graduate can accomplish.



Pat James Hanz

Pat James Hanz hasn't been at MSJC for quite some time, but she left her mark. The woman, who boldly and constantly asked, *Is this the best we can do for students?* The woman, who spared no amount of time or energy on those who cared for students. The woman, who went deeper than the surface, deeper than the politics, deeper than her own needs to bring it for students. The woman I call my friend, who loved me no matter what ridiculousness came out of my mouth. You saw my heart. Pat, I've been on your six my entire career and consider it a privilege to be there.

--Rhonda Nishimoto

[Submit an accolade](#)

Wall of Honor

So many women, past and present, have shaped my journey. I have been challenged, encouraged, and even raised by some of the best women at MSJC. I am so grateful to the many I get to call colleagues, friends, and family. Thank you to all the amazing women in my life! --Selena Paez



The final volume of Honoring MSJC Women will be delivered on 3/25. It is not too late to honor someone. Click the link below:

[Submit an accolade](#)



Amy Campbell

I'd like to take this time to honor Amy Campbell, Director of Adult Education and Non-Credit Programs here at MSJC. Amy leads our team with a glass-half full mentality always and has student service at the forefront of all her endeavors. She is a no-nonsense kind of person, but she has the greatest capacity to make you laugh and build you up. I admire her leadership style and continue to look to her as a mentor and am lucky to call her a friend.

--Jasmine Port

Honoring MSJC Women

Dr. Michelle Stewart and Mrs. Angela Seavey

It is my pleasure to honor Dr. Michelle Stewart and Mrs. Angela Seavey. Over the last few years I have found a sisterhood with these two amazing women. Collectively, these women have supported every aspect of my life including my career goals, my educational journey, and my personal life challenges and successes. I know I can always rely on them, and ask for help, which is a wonderfully reassuring feeling to have with your co-workers. Michelle has mentored me while I work towards my educational goals as well as in my new career role. She is extremely knowledgeable and her life experiences make her a great asset outside of work.

She is someone I continually seek for advice in all facets of my life; she is always motivating and encouraging when I need it most. Angela has also mentored me in my role and has always given me the confidence to perform at my best. She continually supports me in my personal endeavors, sharing with me diverse activities that help bring community into my life and encourages me to be the best version of myself. I love my job and, although my job can never love me back, I feel an immense amount of love and support from my relationships with these two impressive women.

--Lyndsey Tone



**Ms. Aysia Brown,
Aurianna Stirling,
Joyce Johnson,
Mayra Gomez**

I joined MSJC during the pandemic and was fortunate enough to meet some amazing women thus far, but these ladies stand out greatly to me. They have each taken time to guide, listen, mentor, and encourage me in my journey. New to the world of academia as a classified professional, there are so many intricate parts to learn and observe, and each of these women has been most gracious and kind. I am forever grateful to work with them and be able to support them in the respected fields.

--Camille Perry

**Alma Ramirez,
Rickianne Rycraft**

Leadership is a very important tool in education both in the classroom and in the administration. I have had the pleasure to work with both Dr. Ramirez and Dr. Rycraft since they've become instructional Deans and have found their levels of engagement to be beyond my expectations and very motivating. I look forward to their continued leadership at MSJC.

Eileen Doktorski

Eileen Doktorski is a remarkable asset to our college, and most especially, to our students. She is engaging and compassionate as well as highly skilled and thoughtful in her development of art students. She brought a wonderful and fun Recycled Art Fashion Show to MSJC which goes beyond the scope of simply teaching in the classroom. I am privileged to call her a colleague.

--Chet Glaze



*“Nothing can dim the light
which shines from within.”*
- Maya Angelou

Dr. Tati Somers, Heather Pomeranke, and April Vrtis

These three women have been my rock during Covid. They have been only a text message away. They lead the department in training our team to embrace virtual counseling in a time of the unknown. They are innovative, creative, and resourceful while remaining to be student-focused. They continue to be kind and humble while sharing their talents with everyone they come in contact with. I am honored and thankful to call Tati, April and Heather my friends and colleagues. I have learned so much from them over the years. Thank you for being there especially during these times. --Shartelle Fears





“Here’s to strong women: May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them.” –Unknown

I have only “officially” worked with Exec. Dean Teague for a short time but I continue to be impressed by the sheer volume and level of support she exhibits for not only the Team she leads but the students she ultimately serves. I started my career at a larger institution and had the privilege there of working with many brilliant and strong women and I have to say, Rebecca reminds me of these powerful women because she brings an ethos of capacity and aptitude

equal to that of someone who works at a much larger college. Yet she leads with a humility and a grace only someone who understands people and the value people bring to a place like MSJC, can understand. And she does this all with kindness and genuine collegiality. Big shout out to Exec. Dean Teague for her support and work to serve our MSJC students and staff. 😊

--Maya Cardenas

Rebecca Teague

Rose Patterson

Rose is a woman who often works behind the scenes, but her strength is always present. Rose is a mover and shaker, and she has removed many obstacles during the Communication Department speech tournament. She has a smile that is contagious, and a gentle way with her words. I admire Rose for always willing to help and pave the way for others. She is definitely worthy of respect and admiration! --Basemeh Rihan

Dr. Marilyn Harvey

Dr. Harvey leads with the kind of strategic brilliance and fearless leadership any organization would be lucky to have and MSJC is truly lucky to benefit from her wisdom and student-centered passion. I have had the honor of learning from her in the (relatively) short amount of time I have known her and I look forward to her future contributions to not only MSJC, but higher education leadership in general.

--Maya Cardenas



JENNY HUGHES

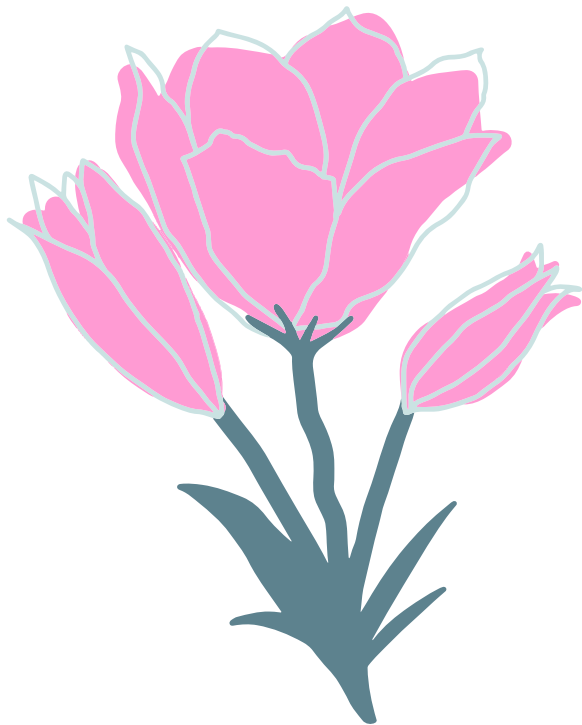
JENNY IS AN AMAZING COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND. JENNY HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TEAM PLAYER, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY SHOW SUPPORT TO ALL OF THE WOMEN IN CAREER EDUCATION. SINCE MY TIME HERE AT THE COLLEGE, JENNY HAS SHOWN A SILENT AND STEADY STRENGTH FROM LISTENING TO MY CRAZY IDEAS TO RECENTLY SUPPORTING ME DURING A FAMILY HEALTH SCARE WHILE IN COVID. HER CONSISTENT WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN AS I DISCUSS OUTCOMES, AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS SHOW THE DEPTH OF HER EMPATHY!! THANK YOU, JENNY!! -CARRIE TATE-MEYER



“And one day she discovered that she was fierce and strong, and full of fire and that not even she could hold herself back because her passion burned brighter than her fears.”
– Mark Anthony



You bring light and energy to all of the projects we are on, and you keep me straight. Together you and Arnita show positivity to all of our strengths and gifts and allowing all of us to bring our whole selves to the table and for that, I say THANK YOU!!! It is my privilege to work with you both and may we continue to improve the success of our students.
-Carrie Tate-Meyer



Arnita Porter & Karla Lacano

What can I say to celebrate the strength the both of you bring to our students and to MSJC!! It has been my privilege and honor to be part of your team here in Career Education. Arnita, you bring this AMAZING calming strength when talking about equity, student success, and honoring the spaces we come into, and Karla, YOU my friend, are an asset to us all!!!

Martina Moncada

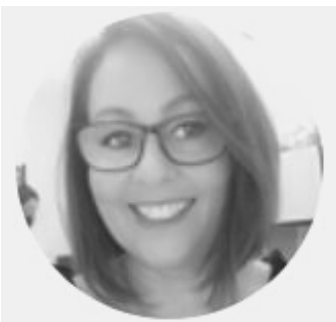


Is a very loving and caring mentor to all her Veteran-Student population... She has a heart of Gold and has been accused of being like a second mother to many of the Veteran-Students under her wing of protection. In addition, Martina acts like a big sister to many of the female veterans and points out the rough spots in the road to higher education success. Martina's prior military Leadership and experience in higher education makes her a natural inspiration to us all... Thank you Martina From your Veteran-Student class of 2021

Dawn Witt

Dawn Witt has a contagious smile and a great sense of humor. She has a genuine love for helping others.

I am a witness of Dawn's quiet support for faculty and classified alike. She has a wealth of knowledge on how to accomplish just about any task at MSJC. She goes out of her way to assist anyone who needs help. Her assistance stems from going to a coworker's office to help them with a task to provide others with groceries. She discretely does all of this. Thank you for helping me honor Dawn Witt.



Michele Weber

Michele and I go way back, as she was my first friend, as an adjunct, at Valley College. She was warm, kind, supportive, and really sweet. Nothing has changed! She is truly a great friend and someone to count on. She empowers other women by making them feel special and heard. She is a fantastic listener who validates the experiences of others. She is an amazing woman! --Basemeh Rihan

Celebrate

We celebrate Women's History Month to remind ourselves of the accomplishments of women throughout the years to our culture and society. From science to politics, it's a chance to reflect on the trailblazing women who lead the way for change. --Google

We celebrate the **women of MSJC**, who have persevered, stood in the face of adversity, fostered change, and invested time and energy for the very best for students.

It has been an honor to assemble this ode to the Women of MSJC. --Rhonda Nishimoto