



President's Report

Optimism One

Hello! As most of you know, YFA parted ways with our previous Executive Assistant, so we needed to find a new one. Brian Greene and I received over a hundred applications for the position, and after several steps of paring down the pool and then two levels of interviews, I am happy to announce that we have hired Maria Carmen Velez. You might recognize her name and face from your classes because she is still a student here. Of course, we have the utmost confidence in her professionalism, skills, and discretion, so please rest assured that she understands and respects the sometimes-delicate nature of our work.

Maria Carmen started this week, so feel free to stop by the YFA Lounge on MJC's east campus to meet her (and grab a snack!). Until then, here's her bio:

My name is Maria Velez, and I am excited to join YFA as the new Executive Assistant. I have a background in administrative support and have gained valuable experience working in the President's Office at Modesto Junior College. I enjoy organizing, problem-solving, and making sure things run smoothly behind the scenes. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family and staying active in my community. I look forward to contributing to the team and supporting YFA's mission.

Negotiations Update - Brian Greene

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey on potential reopener items we ran recently. In addition to using your input to shape our approach to negotiations, the feedback offers a wealth of comments and concerns that are useful topic ideas for upcoming education and communication efforts. Keep an eye out in this space and elsewhere for more information.

The primary purpose of the survey was to help guide negotiations this round and finalize our reopener to the District. We subsequently submitted our 2025-26 initial proposals last Wednesday and expect them to be agendaized for the October board meeting. We understand that the District expects to complete its obligations to start this round of negotiations at the November meeting, with the two teams hopefully meeting shortly thereafter.

As mentioned in the survey, many of the items being negotiated this round were already set through previous agreements, and include such topics as the evaluation process, lab parity, part-time faculty rehire rights, and both full- and part-time health benefits. In addition, we will be negotiating compensation, banked leave, and some MOUs that are approaching their expiration. If you have additional thoughts about any of the items being negotiated, either now or down the road, I encourage you to share them with your YFA Representative(s) so they can be brought forward to the Rep Council.

Trivia Night!

Yes, YFA is here to fight for salaries, medical benefits, and working conditions, but we are not a glum lot. Trivia Night is back for its second time on Thursday, October 16th at Contentment Brewing Company (208 Campus Way, Modesto).

We will feed you. We will hydrate you with non-alcoholic beverages. (Adult beverages are on you.) And we--meaning Erin Black and Brandon Schut--will entertain you. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Trivia starts at 6:30.

Bring your own team or jump into one. The competition is both fierce and fun. In other words, heckling is encouraged. And not only will you battle for bragging rights, but there will be prizes for the winning team.

This is a great opportunity to hang out with those you know (without complaining about A.I.) and get to know those you don't.

Calendar

- Wed., Oct. 1 @ 3-5 p.m. - YFA Executive Board
- Wed., Oct. 15 @ 3-5 p.m. - YFA Rep. Council