

PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FLEX DAY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH
MERRITT COLLEGE

Schedule Overview

Links to recordings below



Morning Plenary – Merritt College, Newton/Seale Lounge

- 8:00-8:30 – Continental breakfast
- 8:30-9:00 – Welcome and overview of the day
- 9:00-10:20 – Keynote Presentation: *Building Equitable Approaches to Student Transfer*
- 10:30-11:50 – Chancellor's Address

Lunch Hour – 12:00pm

- Lunch by Ann's Catering
- Chair massages in the R building (11:30-1:30)
- Optional walk to Natural History and Sustainability Program Gardens (beginning at 12:30)

Afternoon Sessions Overview

- The **Learning Center (L-131)** will be open for viewing online sessions in the afternoon from 1:00-5:00pm. Computers will be available. Please bring your own headphones!

1:00pm

- Film Screening of *Through their Eyes: Stories of Anti-Blackness*
- Benefits and Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence
- Short and Sweet: Science Activities to Engage Students Differently
- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) at Peralta

2:00pm

- Burnout: An Exploration of the Silent Epidemic
- Compliance and Collaboration: The Brown Act & PCCD
- Nectir.AI & Chancellor's Office Pilot Project
- Q&A with Faculty Benefits Manager

3:00pm

- PFT General Membership Meeting
- CurricUNET Meta + Maverick Training
- AI Integration in Canvas

4:00pm

- Tai Chi
- Battling the Bots: Distance Education Updates
- Ungrading for Equity
- Tenure Review Orientation

Morning Plenary in Merritt College Bldg. R & Zoom

8:00-12:00

8:00-8:30

Connect with colleagues over a continental breakfast!

Location: Newton/Seale Student Lounge (R Building)

8:30-9:00

Welcome by Merritt President David Johnson, Staff Development Officers Marla Leech and Chelsea Cohen; Peralta Federation of Teachers President Jeff Sanceri; District Academic Senate President Leslie Blackie, and District Classified Senate President Tachetta Henry.

Location: Newton/Seale Student Lounge

Access Recording: <https://youtu.be/TmKhO2fJX8k>

9:00-10:20

Keynote Presentation: Building Equitable Approaches to Student Transfer



Presenters: **Rogéair D. Purnell, MSW, PhD** (she/her) RDP Consulting, President and CEO, and **Maeve Katherine Bergman, JD, & Dr. Sunny Greene**, Guided Pathways Regional Coordinators, Bay Area .

Description: In this keynote presentation, we will share results from both the African American Transfer Tipping Point study and the *Dual Enrollment for Equitable Completion (DE4EC)* initiative. The African American Transfer Tipping Point research project was designed to determine the factors that impact African American/Black students' likelihood of transferring and why such factors are salient to the African American/Black student experience. We will include additional data analysis to incorporate data from the study about students at each of the four colleges within the Peralta District. We will allow all the time for questions and answers throughout the presentation.

Location: Newton/Seale Student Lounge + Online

Access recording: <https://youtu.be/aEXzJuW1n4o>

[View slides](#)

[View Padlet posts](#)

10:30-11:50

Title: Chancellor's Address



Description: Join **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson**, Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District, for her fall semester welcome address.

Location: Newton/Seale Student Lounge + Online

[Access recording](#)

Lunchtime Events - Merritt College R Building

12:00

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Pick up your boxed lunch in the R Building hallway. Feel free to enjoy it on the lawn in front of the library, in the cafeteria dining area, or anywhere that feels inviting. Chair massages will also be available in the R building from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

12:30-1:30

Title: Lunchtime Walk and Tour of Merritt's Natural History & Sustainability (NHS) Program Gardens

Presenter: **Elizabeth Boegel**

Description: Join us for a midday walk and tour of the NHS gardens. We'll meet in front of the Barbara Lee Science Building (S Building) at 12:30 and then make our way to the gardens. Make sure to wear walking shoes and bring a bag for any produce you'd like to pick. You can also bring your lunch to eat under the trees. Limited driving access is available for those with mobility needs; please contact us in advance for directions. This is a chance to slow down, reconnect with nature, and learn more about the NHS's role on our campus.

Location: In front of S Building, in-person only.

Afternoon Events

1:00	<p>1:00-2:50 (<i>note: 2 hours</i>) Title: Screening of <i>Through Their Eyes: Stories of Anti-Blackness</i> with Q&A Presenter: Jason Seals</p> <p>Description: Join us for a special screening of <i>Through Their Eyes: Stories of Anti-Blackness</i>. <i>Through Their Eyes: Stories of Anti-Blackness</i> is a thought-provoking, 50-minute film that explores anti-Blackness through the lived experiences of people of African ancestry. It captures the profound impact of systemic racism, cultural erasure, and social exclusion. Additionally, the documentary features candid narratives from accomplices outside of the African community, offering a critical examination of their roles in both perpetuating and challenging anti-Blackness. Immediately following the screening, a facilitated Q&A learning session with African American Studies Professor Jason Seals will provide faculty, staff, and administrators with space to process the film's content, engage in guided reflection, and explore concrete strategies for integrating these insights personally and professionally-- identify actionable steps to foster more equitable practices, and consider ways to support students and colleagues in confronting anti-Blackness.</p> <p>Location: Newton/Seale Student Lounge, in-person only</p>
	<p>1:00-2:50 (<i>note: 2 hours</i>) Title: Short and Sweet: Engaging and Fun Activities to Engage Students in Science Presenter: John Rodriguez</p> <p>Description: Teaching is more fun when everyone (yourself included!) is having fun. In this workshop, a few engaging activities from the perspective of a Merritt College anatomy and physiology instructor will be highlighted that make it a bit more exciting to teach and to learn! Attendees are also encouraged to highlight a short activity that they look forward to doing in class with their science students.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn specific engaging activities you can implement in a science class. ● Glean ideas for new engaging activities for your discipline by viewing specific examples in the A&P discipline. <p>Location: S-305, in-person only</p>

1:00-1:50

Title: Possibilities and Perils of AI for Community College Student Equity: A Discussion

Presenters: **Kimberly King** and **Maria Elena Martinez**

Description: Join community college educators Kimberly King (Psychology, Laney College) and Maria Elena Martinez (History, LA Trade Tech) for a discussion of artificial intelligence as a transformative force that promises unprecedented opportunities while also posing profound challenges. This interactive session explores how generative AI can either bridge or widen opportunity gaps for historically marginalized students in community colleges and the workforce. In discussion together, we'll address practical challenges educators face, from detecting AI use, to creating equitable policies, to preparing students for the changing job market. We will also consider societal concerns, such as "Who controls AI and how does that affect educational equity?" The session emphasizes "critical hope" - recognizing AI's transformative potential while remaining vigilant about risks to vulnerable populations and society.

Outcomes:

- Analyze the role of AI in improving or harming equity in higher education
- Share how you use AI in the classroom
- Discuss how AI is changing the job market and society
- Consider implications of private industry control over AI development

We hope to inspire and learn from each other as we discuss this revolutionary technology. Please bring your experiences, sources and favorite prompts to use in the classroom.

Location: S449 + Online

[View slides](#)

1:00-1:50

Title: Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) at Peralta

Presenters: **Karl Seelbach, Jeejun Bertuso, Tania Mitchell, Tina Humphry, Lashawn Brumfield, Iolani Sodhy-Gereben, Kellie Nadler, and the MAP team**

Description: This session will cover what CPL is, why it matters for student success, and provide updates on the districtwide work underway to build CPL policies, intake processes, and implementation pathways. Join us to learn!

Location: S-455 + Online

2:00	<div data-bbox="262 50 2009 527"> <p>2:00-2:30 Title: Nectir.AI & Chancellor's Office Pilot Project Presenter: Adoria Williams and Chloe Lam</p> <p>Description: Come check out a different type of AI that's not Chat GPT! As part of the State Chancellor's initiative, instructors in various college districts, including Peralta, have been part of a pilot project exploring Nectir.AI. Join Adoria Williams, Merritt College Head Librarian and Department Chair, and Chloe Lam, Nectir's Director of Academic Success, for an overview of Nectir and to hear about our experience using it with students.</p> <p>Location: L-132 + Online Access recording</p> </div> <div data-bbox="262 527 2009 906"> <p>2:00-2:50 Title: Burnout: An Exploration of the Silent Epidemic Presenter: Lisa Sawadogo</p> <p>Description: Feeling overwhelmed or just curious about burnout? This session is a culmination of COA Mental Health Counselor Lisa Sawadogo's sabbatical research and will offer a fresh perspective on why so many people are running on empty. We'll explore what burnout is, discuss cultural implications, and consider what the latest research tells us about its impact.</p> <p>Location: S-449, in-person only</p> </div> <div data-bbox="262 906 2009 1325"> <p>2:00-2:50 Title: Compliance and Collaboration: The Brown Act & PCCD Presenters: Eleni Gastis and David Loy</p> <p>Description: Join Laney College Faculty Senate President Eleni Gastis and David Loy, the First Amendment Coalition's Legal Director, to learn the basics of California's Ralph M. Brown Act, the law that bolsters the public's right to participate in and attend public meetings. Learn how PCCD's shared governance model is an essential part of an open and transparent democracy.</p> <p>Location: S455 + Online</p> </div>
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	<p>2:30-3:00 Title: Benefits Office Q&A Presenter: Phoenix Lara</p> <p>Description: This session is a Q&A with our District Benefits Manager, Phoenix Lara. Bring any questions you have regarding your benefits!</p> <p>Location: Online Access recording</p>
3:00	<p>3:00-3:50 Title: PFT General Membership Meeting Presenter: Jeff Sanceri</p> <p>Description: PFT Members! Join us for our first General Membership Meeting of the 2025-26 academic year. We'll ring in the Fall semester with some of our recent union wins, summer activities, and an update on bargaining. Also, as negotiations become more intense and involved, we'll talk about the next steps in our contract campaign and what we are anticipating from the District at the table. This meeting is open to members only, but don't worry-- you can become a member right now, or at the door! (*Please note: For this meeting and future PFT related meetings and events, we will be prioritizing in person participation. We will leave the chat open for questions, but will not address them until the end or afterwards.)</p> <p>Location: S449 + Online</p>

3:00-3:50

Title: CurricUNET Meta + Maverick Training

Presenter: **Natalie Rasmussen**

Description: We are excited to offer comprehensive training on the new Maverick interface within META, with specialist Natalie Rasmussen. This session will guide users through the intuitive and powerful features of the updated system, ensuring they are fully equipped to navigate and maximize its capabilities. During the training, we will cover:

- Navigating the new Maverick interface with ease
- Creating and managing courses and programs
- Utilizing advanced search functionality
- Running reports to gain meaningful insights
- Exploring new dashboard features for streamlined workflow
- Accessing the updated user guide for continued support

This training is designed to help users feel confident and empowered in using the Maverick platform—enhancing productivity, simplifying curriculum management, and improving the overall user experience.

Location: Online

3:00-3:50

Title: AI Integration in Canvas

Presenter: **Laurie Allen-Requa**

Description: Instructure (the maker of Canvas) is partnering with OpenAI to bring AI tools directly into the Canvas learning platform. Join District DE Coordinator Allen-Requa to discuss what this means for faculty and students.

Location: Online

[Access recording](#)

4:00

4:00-4:50

Title: Battling the Bots with Regular and Substantive Interaction

Presenter: **Laurie Allen-Requa**

Description: Join District DE Coordinator Allen-Requa to explore practical ways you can set up your Canvas class to help combat the takeover of the bots. Using regular and substantive interaction, you not only meet federally mandated standards, but you can quickly find the fake students in your class. We will have examples of what to do in your first week of class and beyond.

Location: Online

[Access recording](#)

4:00-4:50

Title: Ungrading for Equity: Reimagining Assessment for Empowerment and Growth

Presenters: **Nima Najafi Kianfar** and **Adán Olmedo**

Description: Tired of watching grades crush curiosity? So are we. Join BCC Professors Adán Olmedo and Nima Najafi Kianfar as they pull back the curtain on Ungrading for Equity—a practice grounded in Joe Feldman’s Grading for Equity and Susan D. Blum’s Ungrading anthology. This session isn’t just theory—it’s a working model designed and refined in real Peralta classrooms. Discover how replacing traditional grades with reflective self-assessment, flexible deadlines, and a feedback-driven approach has empowered students across backgrounds to take ownership of their learning. Whether you teach STEM, Humanities, or anything in between, you’ll leave with practical strategies and a renewed sense of what assessment can be. Come for the philosophy. Stay for the pedagogy. Leave with a better way.

Location: Online

[Access recording](#)

[Access slides](#)

4:00-4:50

Title: Tenure Review Orientation

Presenter: **TRC Coordinators** and **PFT**

Description: The Tenure Review Coordinators will guide us through the processes and procedures of completing the Tenure Process. Topics will include: faculty and administrator responsibilities, classroom observations, what candidates can expect from committee members, and what committee members expect from candidates, along with guidelines and practical tips. New Deans, new TRC chairs and committee members, and TRC candidates are required to attend.

Location: Online

4:00-4:50

Title: Beginning Tai Chi

Presenter: **Dr. Cali James**

Description: Join us as we end the day and decompress with an in-person movement class. We will be learning the first part of a form that combines movements from Tai Chi and Qigong. It focuses on breathing, balance, and relaxation. This class is designed for beginners.

Location: In front of the Merritt College Library, in-person only