Member Interviews

by Oranit Limmaneeprasert

Kathy O'Connor

SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE

Gain the insights from long-time FACCC member Kathy O'Connor from Santa Barbara City College

Kathy spoke with FACCC Vice President Oranit Limmaneeprasert to emphasize the vital role that FACCC plays for faculty, extending her encouragement to both full-time and part-time educators to become members. Her journey with FACCC began in 1982 as a part-time faculty member, and since 1987, she has been a full-time contributor.

Kathy's involvement stems from her belief in the necessity of a strong state-level advocate to amplify faculty voices and champion our interests and those of our students. According to Kathy, FACCC conferences serve as empowering platforms for faculty development. She highlights how "The Weekly" acts as a beacon, ensuring faculty stay informed on statewide concerns and advocacy efforts. Passionate about sharing knowledge, Kathy actively disseminates the insights gained from FACCC's emails to her colleagues.

To enhance FACCC's advocacy, Kathy underscores the importance of fostering and amplifying the collaboration between FACCC and the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges. Such a relationship is essential in preventing the recurrence of bills like AB 928 from becoming law. Kathy believes that AB 928's potential impact on students' personal growth and overall well-being, through the removal of important courses, must be addressed and prevented. ■

Robin Daniels

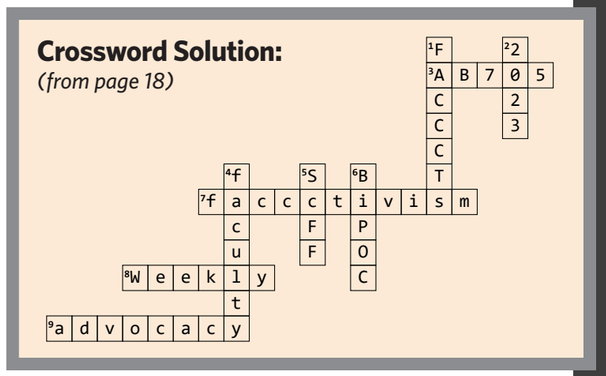
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

FACCC member Robin Daniels from Santa Monica College shares her thoughts with FACCC Vice President Oranit Limmaneeprasert

Robin's journey with FACCC advocacy began in 2016 when she took her first steps by joining a committee. Fuelled by the support of her union and colleagues at Santa Monica College, she embraced the opportunity to contribute more significantly. Her decision led her to run for a position on the FACCC board, a role she successfully secured. Serving on the board proved enlightening, expanding her understanding of pivotal educational policies and the inner workings of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Having actively participated in FACCC's lobbying efforts both in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento, Robin underscores the importance of faculty establishing a continuous dialogue with Congress and the California Legislature. She also highlighted the significance of students becoming engaged in legislative advocacy. According to Robin, FACCC's Lobby Day is a notable initiative, and she praises FACCC's outreach to independent colleges. She envisions a broader reach with more conferences, including one at Compton College, to encourage heightened faculty and student involvement in crucial legislative endeavors.

Robin holds a firm stance on FACCC's ethical considerations. She emphasized the need for conscientious decisions, urging FACCC to abstain from investing in prisons. On a different note, she values the recognition she received this March and underscores the importance of acknowledging and honoring faculty engaged in teaching within the prison system.

This insightful dialogue with Robin Daniels offers a glimpse into the diverse perspectives and goals that FACCC members like her bring to the table. ■

Crossword Solution:
(from page 18)