PERALTA COLLEGES

Celebrating our
50th ANNIVERSARY

EST. 1964

Berkeley City College
College of Alameda
Laney College
Merritt College
Designed by Chris Gatmaitan

This year, we celebrate our 50th anniversary, and I am proud to say in the past five decades Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney College and Merritt College have played a significant role in shaping the future and fabric of our community, by providing students with outstanding teaching and learning. Since July 1, 1964, the Peralta Community College District has educated, trained and mentored over a million individuals, and has developed and delivered programs to meet the educational demands of our local community.

The Bay Area economy and job market have changed since 1964, and Peralta has been at the forefront of that change by delivering programs and services that sustainably enhance the region’s human, economic, environmental and social development. Together with our educational and community partners, we provide our diverse students and communities with equitable access to the educational resources, experiences and life-long opportunities to meet and exceed their goals.

We are proud of our role in providing 50 years of public higher education to the East Bay and beyond, and invite you to join with us in celebrating this momentous occasion.

Please go to our website peralta.edu, and look for various district-wide, 50th anniversary events happening throughout the year.

Come celebrate with us!

José M. Ortiz, Ed.D.
Chancellor

(Partial article from November 20, 1963 issue of the Oakland Tribune)
In November 1963, the residents of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont voted to form a single community college district. The district began operations under the Peralta name on July 1, 1964.

The Peralta name was selected because all of the cities within the district, now a part of the greater Oakland metropolitan region, are located on the original Spanish land grant for Sgt. Luís María Peralta, dating from August 1820.

Laney College originally opened in 1953 and was operated by the Oakland Unified School District as Oakland City College.

Merritt College opened as a general campus in 1954, and had been known as the Merritt School of Business, Grove Street College, and the North Peralta Community College. Merritt moved to its new campus in the Oakland hills in 1971.

In 1965, a bond issue was passed which established a new downtown Oakland campus building for Laney and a new college in Alameda.

Laney College opened in 1970, and the only California community college on an island, the College of Alameda, opened its new campus in 1971.

Berkeley City College was founded in 1974 as the Berkeley Learning Pavilion, which was renamed the Peralta College for Non-Traditional Study, and operated under the name Vista Community College until 2006.

Peralta Community College District is proud of our history and role in providing 50 years of public higher education to the citizens of the East Bay and beyond.
Just two blocks from the University of California, Berkeley, the new energetic urban campus of Berkeley City College stands on the cutting edge of community college education. University preparation and occupational training classes form the core of Berkeley City College’s curriculum, which also features model programs in fields as diverse as Biotechnology and Multimedia Arts.
College of Alameda, California’s only community college located on an island, is situated on a beautiful park-like campus that offers the quiet of a suburban setting in a bustling urban environment. Founded in 1970, College of Alameda has served more than 500,000 students and enjoys a well-deserved reputation for the excellence of its academic and vocational programs, such as Aviation Maintenance and other transportation technologies and Apparel Design and Merchandising.
Laney College, in the heart of vibrant, multicultural downtown Oakland, features the cosmopolitan atmosphere and human energy of a big-city university. Laney is adjacent to the Oakland Museum of California, blocks from historic Chinatown, and a pleasant stroll from Lake Merritt. Laney College provides its 12,000-plus students ready access to the city’s formidable intellectual, cultural and natural resources, as well as key programs such as Construction Management and related trades and Environmental Control Technology.
Nestled in the hills above San Francisco Bay, **Merritt College** offers students the opportunity to study in one of the most dramatic natural settings in Northern California. With a panorama that includes the Golden Gate Bridge and the Pacific Ocean, Merritt’s striking vistas provide a breathtaking backdrop for a packed roster of first-rate academic and vocational programs, such as Child Development and Allied Health.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Peralta CommUNITY Festival
Peralta Community College District
333 East 8th Street, Oakland
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

50th Anniversary Commemoration Day
“Celebrating Our Past – Charting Our Future”
Peralta Community College District
333 East 8th Street, Oakland
10:00 a.m.

50th Anniversary “Black and White” Gala
Oakland Marriott
1001 Broadway, Downtown Oakland
No-Host Cocktails / Silent Auction – 6:00 p.m.
Dinner/Program – 7:00 p.m.
For information and tickets contact (510) 466-7206 or visit peraltafoundation.org
to sign-up online

Saturday, June 28
Tuesday, July 1
Friday, October 10