



## Press Release

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
Modesto Junior College & Columbia College

No. 18-08

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Date:** November 21, 2018

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### **YCCD Responds to Potential Strike**

MODESTO, CA - A statement from the Yosemite Community College District regarding the threat of a strike November 27-28, 2018, by some members of the Yosemite Faculty Association:

As reported by the Sonora Union Democrat newspaper on November 16, 2018, the YFA has represented a salary increase of about 22%. The YFA's demands would leave the District financially unstable. Such an exorbitant salary increase to one bargaining unit also would be inconsistent and unfair to non-YFA employees who have settled for lower amounts.

The YCCD Board and Administration believe in our students, faculty and staff. We have given our best effort to avoid a strike, including making a new offer on November 21, 2018. In September, we participated in state mediation to examine the facts and help the parties reach a settlement. The mediator's fact-finding report is expected by December 6.

The District's last best final offer in April put forth a 6% salary increase, comprised of a 2% increase in 2017-18 and a 4% increase in 2018-19. This offer also contains a salary schedule compression that would allow faculty members to attain higher salaries with fewer years of teaching service. Also, the issue of appropriate class size has been referred back to the faculty and administration's class committee for further review and discussion regarding a collaborative solution.

In addition, YFA members enjoy a work year schedule of 8½ months and 100% District-paid medical benefits. Faculty members also receive a District-paid contribution of 18% of their salary paid annually toward their retirement benefits.

The YCCD Board and Administration are committed to providing an excellent education to the nearly 25,000 students at Modesto Junior College and Columbia College. In the event of a strike, our campuses will remain open. Students should check their college's websites for updated information about classes. We remain

hopeful that the YFA will reconsider its decision to strike and that through our mutual efforts we can keep this labor dispute from negatively impacting our students, faculty, staff and the educational mission of Modesto Junior College and Columbia College.

**-YCCD-**