

# LET THEM COOK

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Students will see new public-use microwaves at Fresno City College campus this calendar year.

Omar Gutierrez, FCC's Vice President of Administrative Services, said up to three microwaves could be placed in the cafeteria by fall 2024. Another is likely to be placed in either the Health Sciences, Welcome Center or new Science Building.

Over this summer, the cafeteria will be closed for HVAC and roofing renovations. Gutierrez said the microwaves would be part of the additions.



AS OF MARCH 11, MICROWAVES ARE SITTING IN BOXES IN THE BOOKSTORE WAREHOUSE, AWAITING TO BE USED. PHOTO BY CHRISTIANNA SCHIOTIS.

The only public microwave available to students now is in the Associated Student Government (ASG) office above the Ram Pantry. Ariana Carbajal, a sitting ASG senator, said it is still being determined if they will replace it or if there will be two microwaves in the room.

"We want to make it [microwaves] accessible for everyone and not just over by the Ram Pantry," Carbajal said.

Ram Pantry was not considered a possible location since they do not have a permit from the city of Fresno to serve hot food.

Administrative Services purchased the microwaves, according to Carbajal. The responsibility falls to Gutierrez to authorize the installation.

Gutierrez said there are four microwaves currently sitting in a warehouse.

The purchases come after an ASG bill passed on Oct. 24, 2023. Alongside ordering microwaves, ASG allocated \$600 to purchase utility carts and power strips.

The bill was created by former ASG Trustee Jack Howard, who said it was necessary to meet the demand.

"We'd typically get lines out the door during rush hour. That's only with people in the know about the microwaves," Howard said.

Carbajal said finding the location and shipping caused a delay from the bill's passing to installation on campus.

Gutierrez pointed to the responsibilities a new microwave would bring to the institution, such as replacement if they break or get vandalized.

# PI DAY

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Fresno City College held its annual Pi Day event to celebrate March 14, the date on the calendar that matches the first three digits of pi. This year's Pi Day celebration was held on Monday, March 15 and has been going on for over 10 years.

The event is a fundraiser for the Society of Women engineers and the Science and Engineering club.

For the last three years the event had been hosted by FCC instructors Karen Willis and Rebecca Cherry. This year the event was set up like a game show. Different teachers from the other science departments like chemistry, physics, biology, math and geology all join in for the games.

It was a trivia based game and if the teachers answered the questions wrong they got a whip cream pie to the face by one of their students.

Willis and Cherry were asked to host this event three years ago in 2020. The host wanted two female STEM instructors to host the show since March is also Women's History Month. Willis and Cherry were happy to host and think it is important for women to get into STEM.

"Showing women that we can be in STEM and we can be professional and still have fun and be taken seriously, and go on to support others," said Willis.

This year the two teams were Team Proton and Team Science Rocks. Willis said the game consisted of three rounds of trivia written by ChatGPT. In between the rounds

the two hosts would do different experiments that the teachers could opt for if they didn't want to get pied. The experiments were a pong ping launcher, pressuring a gallon of boiling water and a plastic bottle filled with nitrogen exploding box peanuts.



FRESNO CITY COLLEGE STUDENT PIES FACULTY MEMBERS DURING THE PIE DAY FUNDRAISING EVENT ON MARCH 15. PHOTO BY MICHAEL LIN.

The event had a big turn out of about 50 students and people coming to watch including people from the Board of Trustees and a campus dean. Event organizers were happy about the amount of money raised and the size of the crowd.

"We had a lot of students come out and it was super exciting to see. So we really appreciate all the students that came out to watch and we hope we got them excited about what we do," Cherry said.

The game ended in Team Science Rocks winning. Team Proton had to face the unfortunate punishment of everyone on the team being pied by their students.

# WOMEN IN BUSINESS INSPIRE STUDENTS

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A trio of female entrepreneurs who operate primarily out of the central valley, talked to students on March 11, 2024, at the "Women in Business Panel Discussion" in the Old Administration Building.

Liset Garcia, Devoya Mayo and Marjorie Carlet-Edmonds were the guests of honor, and they spoke on their personal histories, challenges and philosophies for a whole hour. The three women come from very different backgrounds, but they were connected through their core principles and hard-working natures.

Garcia is the founder of the Sweet Girl Farms company, a year-round fruit and flower stand located in Reedley, CA. While her parents had been farming for years, Garcia initially planned to become a healthcare professional in Los Angeles. But after a terrible injury that left her hands stitched and immobile, she moved back to Reedley where she transformed her parents farm into a profitable start-up. Garcia's mother was actually in attendance of the panel discussion, recording every answer her daughter gave.

"I'd notice when I was starting out is that a lot of people would ask, 'Where's the owner of the business?' And they were always in disbelief when I told them it was me... I don't

look like any other farmer in the agricultural industry, so I became a pioneer and I stand by that," Garcia said as applause began to rain down upon her.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) LISET GARCIA, MARJORIE CARLET-EDMONDS, AND DEVOYA MAYO RECEIVE GIFT BAGS ON BEHALF OF FRESNO CITY COLLEGE AS THEY FINISH UP THE PANEL DISCUSSION. PHOTO BY LOGAN PAYNE.

Mayo is an artist of many platforms who got her start in poetry. After hosting poetry readings in the Tower District for three years, she was offered a job at the KFCF radio station where she would eventually host the show, "Move On Up" for five years. The show became very popular in Fresno, but she left the station in 2008 to pursue more creative endeavors.

Since then, she has hosted a web-show with Jason Merle called the "Sucka Free Sunday Podcast." There, the two hosts invite weekly guests to discuss all kinds of things, but with a focus on music that the guests recommend. In addition to the podcast, Mayo cultivates new monthly "Stay Sucka Free" playlists designed to

encourage and empower listeners.

"I have no idea what the opposite sex feels in this regard, but more often than not it's the women who lift me up, even if they have no idea that the importance of what I'm saying affects them also," Mayo said.

Finally, Carlet-Edmonds was a Fresno City photography professor before the pandemic, where she found a new calling in real estate. Now she is known as "The Flipper Queen," a successful house renovator and furnish artist who has worked tirelessly to fit that bill.

"97% of the flippers are men. And when I used to meet these men, some of them billionaires, I would get so nervous and tell myself that I probably don't belong here. The hardest part was the look, their judgment. But I don't need your love, I just need you to know that my hard work is what got me here," Carlet-Edmonds said.

All three women highlighted the importance of being around people who support you and will help cultivate a successful, creative environment. Garcia really leaned into this sentiment, mentioning how hard yet important it can be to stray away from loved ones that don't have your back.

"You are who you hang out with," Garcia began. "Have the courage to overcome the uncomfortable and jump the barriers of what you think is possible. But most importantly, don't ever, ever compare yourself to what you think you have to be."

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