**Taking the Lead**

April 2001 Perspective Column

He’s back: Marty Hittelman returns as CCC President

On March 9, 2001 at the CFT convention, I was once again, **after a four-year break,** elected president of CFT's Community College Council, whose membership is comprised of the CFT's community college locals. I have used the last four years to get in touch with activities at the local level. I have been teaching mathematics at Los Angeles Valley College, serving as Executive Secretary for Grievance for my local and as co-chair of the Los Angeles Community College District Budget Committee. I have also helped a number of locals throughout the state by serving on fact-finding panels when their negotiations went to impasse. I am now ready to take up the challenge of leading the council once again.

**Tom Tyner** has done an outstanding job as president of the CCC over the last four years. He has moved the issue of the exploitation and proliferation of part-time faculty to the point where it is now being seriously addressed by Gov. Davis, the State Legislature, and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. The governor's proposed **$62 million allocation to improve part-time salaries** is a testimony to Tom's outstanding leadership and persistence on the issue. Combined with innovative actions by part-time faculty all across the state, the work of CFT lobbyist **Judith Michaels**, and the coordinated work by other community college organizations, we are making real progress. Tom also led the fight to use Partnership for Excellence funds to hire new full-time faculty. We all owe Tom a real debt of gratitude for his outstanding contributions.

As the new CCC President, I dedicate myself to continue Tom's work in the areas of part-time equity and improvements in the full-time/part-time faculty ratio. In addition, I will be working with locals to keep them abreast of all the latest developments in local negotiations.

The job of CCC president includes addressing the Board of Governors and the Legislature on such issues as distance learning, economic development, part-time employment, state funding, legislative initiatives, and increasing the diversity of our faculty and staff: I have already begun that work.

As president, my goal for the next two years is to move the CCC agenda forward: to improve working conditions and retirement benefits for faculty and staff, increase hiring of full-time faculty, make significant progress toward equity for part-time faculty, increase funding for community colleges, and provide universal access to quality education for our diverse student population. Tom has shown that we can make significant forward movement when we work together to push the issues of importance to our members. With the help of all of the locals and their members, we can overcome.