



BRICE W. HARRIS
Chancellor

1102 Q Street, Suite 4554 | Sacramento, California 95811-6539
t: 916.322.4005 | f: 916.327.8271
www.cccco.edu

January 2, 2014

Mr. Dennis Herrera
1390 Market Street, #7
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Herrera:

I am writing to request your cooperation in what I believe will be a very important series of communication activities regarding City College of San Francisco in coming days. As you know, Judge Karnow has indicated he may rule as early as this week on actions brought by your office concerning City College of San Francisco. While neither my office nor City College is a party to these actions, we have a continuing responsibility to the community and students of San Francisco to ensure that no additional harm is dealt to the College as a result of the court's decision. One of the greatest threats to the long-term health of the college is the dramatic decline in its enrollment. The way in which the court proceedings are interpreted – especially in media reports – is deepening the college's enrollment challenges, and it is for this reason, I ask you to consider several important facts as you and your representatives communicate the outcome of the court's decision.

Court intervention is not necessary to keep City College open. Regardless of the path Judge Karnow takes, City College will remain open and accredited until the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) makes a final determination. Students should be encouraged to enroll at City College because their credits will count for their certificate, degree and transfer goals. Characterizations that the cases before the court are a "last-ditch" effort to "save" City College are inaccurate and will do additional damage to the college's enrollment. It also detracts from progress the City College community has achieved in the areas of reform, stability, and accountability. We are doing everything in our power to ensure a positive outcome regarding accreditation, and I have every expectation that the ACCJC will acknowledge the college's progress in the coming months.

Under the leadership of our Special Trustee, Robert Agrella, City College has made important strides to secure not only its accreditation, but a stable and productive future:

- Dr. Arthur Q. Tyler has been hired as the new, permanent Chancellor. The school has an accomplished educational leader at its helm who has pledged to stay with CCSF for the long haul.

City College of San Francisco
January 2, 2014

- The college leadership has successfully concluded negotiations with all of its unions.
- An entirely new management and academic leadership team has been employed, including a new Chief Financial Officer, Chief Counsel, Chief Instructional Officer, as well as others in key leadership roles.
- A clear and transparent “roadmap” that shows progress toward each of the 357 individual tasks that must be completed to keep the school’s accreditation has been developed. This roadmap can be found at www.ccsfforward.com, a new website specifically focused on accreditation issues.
- Internal fiscal controls have been tightened and more effective financial planning and budgeting has been implemented.
- Plans for a performing arts center that was scheduled to cost more than was available in bond funds have been suspended.
- The college has entered into a contract with a firm to recoup several million dollars in unpaid student fees, putting the school in compliance with state law, bringing in much-needed revenue, and ensuring equitable treatment of all students.
- The special trustee has leveraged partnerships with philanthropic, business and community groups that are supportive of City College’s plan to remain accredited.
- Most recently, my office and CCSF have partnered on a major advertising and outreach campaign to combat the college’s enrollment challenges. Additionally, many individuals and groups are organizing their own grassroots recruitment and retention efforts – including phone banks and transit station outreach.

Placing undue emphasis on the court’s decision - and failing to note the efforts of school leadership, faculty, students, and others – will tell an incomplete and misleading story about CCSF’s progress toward accreditation. Respectfully, I urge you and your representatives to use your communications platforms to help, not hinder, City College’s efforts to provide educational opportunities for the more than 85,000 students it serves.

Sincerely,



Brice W. Harris