To: CCSF Community

Date: Sat, 08 Dec 2012

From: Message from Dr. Scott-Skillman, Interim Chancellor

A story about City College in Friday’s San Francisco Examiner has elicited a lot of reaction in the CCSF community. Bottom line: I was misquoted and retractions are at the discretion of the media. However, debating negative, erroneous, or incomplete press quotes and reports, while tempting, is a distraction we can’t afford.

So let me make clear where I stand.

We remain in what can only be termed a crisis situation concerning our accreditation and our finances. The CCSF community is undergoing significant reform, particularly over the past five months. But we are not out of the woods. Much work remains between now and our March 15 reporting deadline to the accreditation commission.

I’m confident in this institution’s resolve and its capacity to change for the better, and I made that clear in my comments to the Examiner. I also acknowledged the fact that many students and potential students have expressed their concern about what the College’s current difficulties may mean for their own educational future. We can’t hide from that. It’s reflected quite tangibly in enrollment trends.

As you know, we are working hard to achieve our base enrollment, involving faculty, staff, and students and investing in enrollment-specific marketing activities. However, we may not be able to reach the enrollment base this year. If that happens, our resources will shrink even further and we will have to make up the difference through additional budget sacrifice.

Softening enrollment is a problem for which CCSF has to take responsibility to do everything in its power to fix. We owe that to our students, and the community that has placed its trust in us, most notably through its overwhelming support of Proposition A.

As your Interim Chancellor, my task is clear: I am determined to work with you to restore CCSF to fiscal and operational stability so we can continue providing our students with the quality educational experience they deserve. We have to keep our focus on the hard work of making CCSF the great institution it must be.

I know we can do that. I have heard, seen, and felt the passion and commitment about CCSF expressed by so many people – a passion and commitment that I too harbor for community colleges and students having vested nearly 42 years in our California Community College System. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment are much appreciated. Together, I know we can move CCSF forward to truly serve the needs of its students.