



Office of the Chancellor

OFFICIAL COLLEGE STATEMENT

December 4, 2017

A Season of Passage and Hope

I am sad to report that over the weekend Coach John Balano, our head strength and conditioning coach, died at work. Coach Balano, 62, was much beloved by his colleagues and many students over his almost 20 years of service to City College. John wrote the curriculum for our Fire Science physical education course. He will be greatly missed.

Earlier this semester, Cheryl Allen, a bright light at City College for over 30 years, also passed away unexpectedly and far too young. Cheryl started as a student worker and then contributed to both Student Development and Academic Affairs as a classified staff member. Her positive energy was a gift to all who worked with her.

We also extend our sympathy to Dean Ray Gamba, whose father passed away over the weekend. Ray will soon be leaving us to take a new position as Dean of Social Sciences at West Valley College, and he goes with our profound gratitude for his long service to the City College family, of which he will always be a part.

None of us will escape the toll of the years but all of us must remain within the memory of the City College family. As we speed into the end of this fall semester and hurtle toward the spring, I will be working with faculty and staff leaders to plan a year-end event near commencement to memorialize all of our passages during the year as well as to commemorate our retirements, tenure and promotions and new faculty and staff, among others.

Yesterday, I attended service at Providence Baptist Church as the guest of Dr. Ophelia Clark of our Business Department. It was joyful, heartening and uplifting

to celebrate the gift we always have with us, especially during this holiday season, and that is the gift of hope.

Yesterday's church lessons reminded me that hope is actually a form of courage. The best way for us to honor the memory of John and Cheryl and all other colleagues is to do good work today the way they would have wished us to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Rocha". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Mark W. Rocha, Chancellor
City College of San Francisco