



Office of the Chancellor

OFFICIAL COLLEGE STATEMENT

August 21, 2017

**On the Occasion of the Opening of the Fall Semester
and the 2017-2018 Academic Year**

First Day of the Fall Semester: Working Adult Degree Program Students and Me
LGBT 5 Introduction to Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Studies
Downtown Campus, Saturday, August 19, 9:40 AM



On Saturday, August 19, I had the great pleasure of officially kicking off the Fall Semester by visiting this class of students enrolled in our Working Adult Degree Program. I was very grateful to Dean Lillian Marrujo-Duck and Dr. Ardel Thomas for inviting me. These wonderful colleagues and students may have thought I was there to inspire and motivate them but I was the one who came away inspired by them. It made

my day and filled me with such hope to meet such earnest faculty and enthusiastic students who had overcome much just to report to class. And I am learning quickly that at City College such a class is the norm, not an exception.

Today, our first Monday of the semester, I offer a message of welcome, a message of gratitude and a message of support

I **welcome** you to the opening of the 82nd academic year of City College of San Francisco. As I mentioned at Flex Day, this is a very special academic year because it is the first in five years to begin with the full reaffirmation of our accreditation in hand. We are now on the threshold of an exciting year in which we will work together to call into being a bright future for City College.

I also **thank you**. “Free City” has helped to bring us well over four thousand more students than at this time last Fall. I thank all of our staff for the extra work necessary to get so many students to the start of classes. And I thank each of our faculty for the caring attention and enthusiasm our students will surely encounter in class.

Finally, I offer not just a word of **support** but an earnest effort to make this support a reality. Our entire administration has rededicated itself to the principle of servant leadership. We are open to listening how we can best serve you in our shared mission to complete successfully every student in our charge. And many know by now you can catch me at Philz most early mornings if you want to share your experiences and show me how I can help. (P.S. I was there this morning at 6:40 AM! I know, it’s too early for many people, so I’m working on evening hours too!)

When I visited Dr. Thomas’ LGBT class on Saturday, I told the students that I would return on the last day of the semester to make sure the entire cohort had made it through successfully. I know I can count on Dr. Thomas and each of you, my faculty and staff colleagues, to put “Students First” today and every day of the year.

You have my warmest best wishes for a successful and often beautiful academic year.

In the fullness of a City College heart ,

Mark

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