



Office of the Chancellor

OFFICIAL COLLEGE STATEMENT

December 21, 2017

Winter Solstice

Today is the winter solstice, the day in which the earth leans farthest from the sun, bringing on the longest night of the year and what we commonly call the first day of winter.

For me, this day has always been the most hopeful day of the year because it means that each succeeding day, until summer solstice, is longer. No matter what the trials and tribulations of a given day, we can take hope that now we move inexorably to that longest day of the year when we will bask again in summer's sunshine and warmth.

This is also my metaphor for the journey we are on at City College of San Francisco. Thanks to the steadfast, earnest, and tireless effort of each one of you, our long night ended in this year of 2017. Accreditation was reaffirmed and we declared ourselves a 'Free City' once more. CCSF got its mojo back. So many good things have happened in 2017, and we now move confidently into the New Year.

Your welcome of me has been among the most cherished gifts I have received in this or any year. You have given me the chance to grow and to learn and to become part of the college family. It is so nice to be able to say, "I feel at home."

I *am* at home. This thought settled down upon me as I sat with our Board of Trustees at the remembrance service for Mayor Ed Lee last Sunday. Ed Lee was very kind to me in ways he did not need to be, and that is the measure of a good person. His support of City College was steadfast. But what I saw in Ed Lee is that he always just felt at home. Just a regular guy whose people came from China and who came here from Seattle. Ed Lee always gave you the feeling he felt at home with you. He also just happened to be leading the City of San Francisco.

Like you, I have heard Tony Bennett's rendition of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" a thousand and one times. But when it was played again at Mayor Lee's service, it was the first time I heard it while being at home as a San Franciscan:

*When I come home to you, San Francisco
Your golden sun will shine for me.*

For this holiday season and always, may you always be at home in the golden sun.

With kind regards,

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

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