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City College of San Francisco Announces Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara to be 2019 Commencement Keynote Speaker

SAN FRANCISCO – City College of San Francisco (CCSF) announced that Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, will serve as the keynote speaker for this year’s commencement, which will take place on Friday, May 24th at Davies Symphony Hall. Commissioner Lara, a trailblazing state leader, is the first openly gay statewide elected official in California. An estimated 2,000 students will graduate with an Associate Degree this Spring with 500 students crossing the stage to be awarded their diplomas at this year’s commencement ceremony. In addition, more than 2,000 of friends and families will be attending the ceremony and celebrating their accomplishment.

“Our community colleges are the crown jewels of California’s higher education system, opening doors to the American dream for everyone, and City College of San Francisco is no exception,” said Insurance Commissioner **Ricardo Lara**. “What you do is transformational for students, giving them the tools to excel at whatever they choose to do next.”

Raised by immigrant parents, Commissioner Lara previously served in the California Legislature from 2010 to 2018, where he authored laws that gave access to health care for every undocumented child and teen in California, expanded eligibility for financial aid to undocumented students with an associate degree, reduced harmful emissions from diesel trucks and other super pollutants, and brought equity and justice to juvenile court sentencing. California voters elected him as the eighth insurance commissioner in 2018, leading the state’s largest consumer protection agency.

“City College is a known progressive and sanctuary college, we work hard to increase equitable access to higher education for our students, and we provide support like Free City to help them break down barriers so they can reach their dreams,” said **Alex Randolph**, President of Board of Trustees at CCSF. “And on the day when we celebrate our students’ success, Commissioner Lara’s presence and his stories of personal and professional success will inspire our students that they can build on their accomplishments at City College, and that sky is the limit for all of them from this point and on.”

“Our students deserve accolades and recognition at our 2019 Commencement: they have worked hard to get here,” said Dr. **Mark Rocha**, Chancellor of CCSF. “And they’ll take their place among over 30,000 CCSF alumni on their path to greater success. Here at City College, we will be rooting for them always.”

Today, CCSF serves more than 60,000 students each year with 10 locations throughout San Francisco, the school year of 2018-2019 marks the 84th year of CCSF’s establishment. Summer Session 2019 will begin on June 10th. For more information about CCSF, please visit: <https://www.ccsf.edu/>.

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About City College of San Francisco

For 83 years, City College of San Francisco (CCSF) has been the region’s premiere public, two-year community college. The college is now one of the first in the nation to offer free tuition, providing San Franciscans with the opportunity to access a quality college education and workforce training that leads to university transfer and good jobs. Since its founding in 1935, City College has evolved into a multicultural, multi-campus community college that is one of the largest in the country. CCSF offers more than 250 degrees and certificates and features an award-winning athletics program. For more about City College of San Francisco, please visit <https://www.ccsf.edu/>.