



CASSANDRA JAMES

CASSANDRA'S BACKGROUND

Cassandra James was born and raised in San Francisco. She first attended CCSF in 2005 when she was in high school through a program aimed at giving seniors the chance to take college courses. Cassandra went to college in New Orleans until Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, and she was forced to come back home. Cassandra has had many jobs, including being a community liaison, a program coordinator working with incarcerated young women, and a crisis intervention specialist for a family violence law center. Like many students, she had to navigate her education while also supporting herself in the process. "I've always worked full time. I was my own supporter."

WHAT BROUGHT CASSANDRA TO CCSF

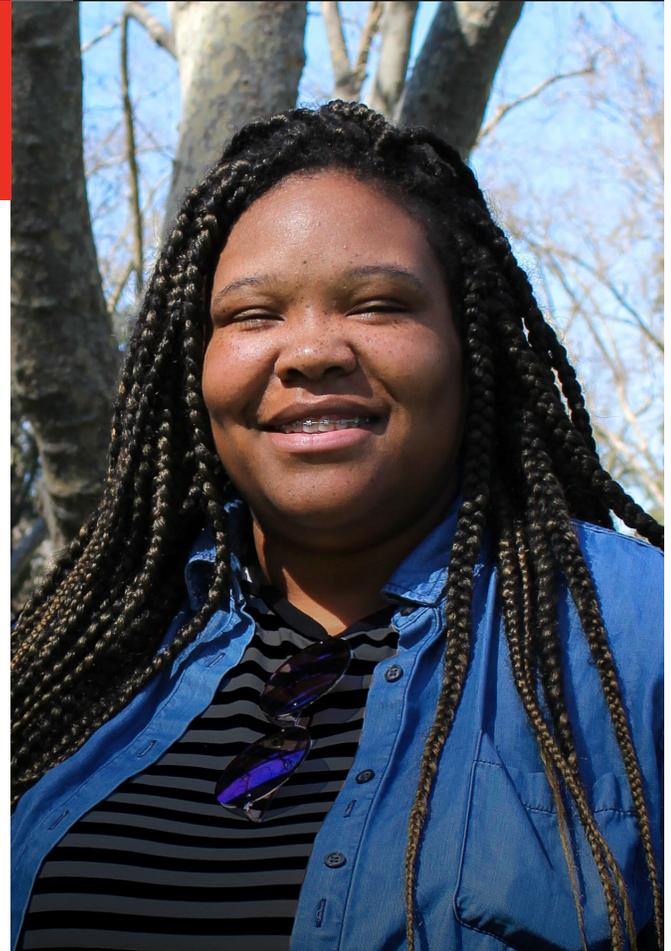
After becoming a mother, Cassandra knew that without a proper education, she would always be a frontline worker. She dreamed of a better situation for her family, one where she could earn a pension, retirement, and insurance. Growing up in San Francisco, she had many successful jobs but often felt held back by her lack of education. Cassandra thought it was deterring her from moving up from the positions she already had. After spending many years, she found the Working Adult Degree (WADP) Program at CCSF and knew this was her best opportunity.

CASSANDRA'S CCSF EXPERIENCE

Cassandra attributes her finally being able to complete her degrees largely to the support she received from WADP. "Just being around other people who are working 40 hours a week, who are tired, who are parents, who have tried and failed and tried again, and who fought through this [too] gave me the strength to finish." Steadily and without judgment, she was prompted by her instructors, time and time again, to finish what she started. "Anything is possible, and I have never been prouder of myself than I am right now."

WHY CCSF WAS A GOOD CHOICE FOR CASSANDRA

Cassandra fought for her education while supporting herself and raising her son. "I started and stopped and started and stopped. But the doors felt always open for me at CCSF." Cassandra is graduating in May 2019 and has been accepted to Mills College. She says she will walk at all the graduation ceremonies for her three degrees to take part in the celebration of how proud she is of herself. "This is home; this is right; and this is a part of my story."



WADP

"WADP provided the support and motivation necessary for me to successfully graduate from CCSF. I'm forever grateful to the WADP. Thank you!"

Cassandra James

Degree/Certificates

[AS in Social and Behavioral Sciences](#)

[AA in Arts and Humanities](#)

[AA-T in Social Justice: Ethnic Studies](#)

Gainful Employment Disclosure Data: <http://www.ccsf.edu/GainfulEmployment>