

## What will distinguish your upcoming term as a member of the community college board from prior terms and board members? \*

My upcoming term will be different from my last two terms because we have done the very hard work of getting the college to be able to serve students, to get accredited once again (final accreditation decision is in mid-2023) and provide services that we have not had the funding to provide for many years.

Some of the things we'll be able to fund this year include:

- Paying for student debt incurred during the pandemic. As Chair of the Student Success and Policy committee, I led the team that dug into student debt and worked with the Chancellor to negotiate using the Free City Funding to partially pay around \$2.5M in student debt. This is one way to erase barriers so that our most disadvantaged students are able to enroll this upcoming semester.
- In 2023, we will receive the \$400,000 that I spearheaded for a Free Transit campaign for CCSF students out of the developers of Balboa Reservoir. The current Chancellor and I went back to the developers after several years a few months back and they reaffirmed their commitment to giving this funding as part of their commitment to be good neighbors with City College.
- They also reaffirmed their commitment to faculty and staff housing as part of Balboa Reservoir. The Trustees negotiated that as part of the same MOU, and I'm super proud to be able to diversify the faculty by providing an affordable place to live for diverse faculty who are coming from outside of San Francisco or who do not have housing now. Housing is one of the reasons we cannot attract diverse faculty.
- Our registration system has been the bane of City College since I've started here. With our increasing reserves, we'll be able to fund a new student-friendly registration system. Believe it or not, the online registration sucked (anyone who tried to register at City College knows what a barrier it is).

- Student workforce development—this year, we'll be able to bring back jobs for students on campus. This is HUGE as every time a student has to go to a job elsewhere, it takes time and energy away from studying.

I'm the only Trustee with an MBA who runs a small business here in San Francisco. My comfort around numbers and spreadsheets can continue to be used to call out issues with our budget, things that are not accounted for. If you watch our (endless) videos, you will see that this is a role I play with some (some would say too much) vigor. But we are accountable to the taxpayers and the students and the community at large, so I feel compelled to do so. I am proud that we have a balanced budget and finally funding for so many things we have not been able to fund over the past years like refreshing technology

Finally, as a transit advocate, I believe this next term holds the best chance for City College to **finally** get a Rams Transit Pass. We are the only higher educational institution in San Francisco without a transit pass, and it's time that we get one. Our pass, however, **MUST** be no- or extremely low-cost, which means we'll be marshaling all of our local, state, and possibly federal revenue sources and negotiating with SFMTA to offer it at a reasonable cost. The amazing **Transit Pass Team** meets bi-weekly to advocate for state funding (AB1919 is in Senate Appropriations) and to meet with Supervisors, SFMTA Board and BART Board members to explain why this barrier to education must be removed.

What do you think the problems are with the board and with City College? How will you address them? \*

Stability: When I got on the board, I said I'd be here until we were fiscally stable (if the voters are willing). I believe we are almost there, even though we have lost almost 28% of our students during Covid. Unfortunately, we are not alone in losing students—almost all community colleges are down in enrollment because of the pandemic. The

legislature has made adjustments to its requirements that mean that the “fiscal cliff” may be kept at bay. But, we MUST get our students back.

Student Support: As Chair of the Student Success and Policy Committee and as a Trustee who works closely with students through the CCSF Transit Rams Pass Team, made up of student leaders, I have seen how we need to do more to support students, whether through free books, free transit, or help with housing and food insecurity. More support is always needed.

Faculty Diversity: We have not moved the needle on faculty diversity despite a focus over the past seven years. Our classified staff is diverse, but not faculty. There are institutional reasons for that, which the Academic Senate and Trustees are committed to changing in the upcoming years.

What are your thoughts on the SF WERCS (CCSF funding) ballot measure, and will you support or oppose it? Will you be actively involved in your support/opposition? \*

I am on record, as are all the Trustees, as supporting SF WERCS, and I gathered signatures for it. I will continue to actively support it.

What programs will you prioritize to assure that CCSF continues to serve the community? \*

**Access to mental health for our students and staff:** Both our staff and students after 2.5 years of Covid, are exhausted and traumatized. Fellow Trustee Aliya Chisti and I held a set of four forums about a year ago to hear from constituents of City College. The fora were digital and included many staff, students, and community members. What we heard was that people were depressed, struggling, and anxious. We cannot forget our staff as we come out of the pandemic. We must match salaries to the levels of others in the Bay Area, and, as will be possible through our negotiations with the Balboa Reservoir housing development, to be built adjacent to City College’s Ocean Campus, provide affordable staff housing. We must also provide information about and easy access to mental health services, which they have as part of their healthcare, but may be unaware of.

**Student Programs:** I know that student leaders put a lot of time into leading the school and I think they should get a monthly stipend for doing so. It is a ton of time, and they are juggling so much. Senator positions are unpaid—that is not acceptable and means that Senators have to juggle more to be able to help lead the college. I would love to see even a small stipend (maybe dinner?) for students to come and offer public comment at our meetings. They are the least heard-from group, and obviously that is not OK.

**Performing Arts and Music:** During the upcoming term, the new Performing Arts and Education Center will be completed. I would like us to start NOW to re-imagine the next level of performing arts for our students, for faculty, for our community.

**Puente Program (and Mission campus in general):** The Puente program is an award-winning program that pairs up mentors and mentees mostly of Latinx background first-time college-goers. The program is centered around social and cultural things and is very flexible. It is, in short, a great program that I have participated in three times so far while at City College (I highly recommend it for anyone interested in getting to know our students—you have a lot to offer). This program needs to continue to be funded as we are a “Hispanic-Serving Institution,” meaning that 25%+ of our students are Latinx.

**EOPS: The Extended Opportunity Programs and Services** is available to low-income students who do not expect funding from their parents. It provides one-on-one counseling, priority registration, EOPS computer lab, transfer workshops, and the EOPS summer bridge program. Trustee Shanell Williams found it invaluable for her when she was at City.

**Programs for Veterans:** Many Vets come to City College because they receive a larger stipend to go to San Francisco than many other community colleges. That’s great and we have a great Veterans program. But, just like other students, Veterans have suffered greatly during Covid, particularly with housing insecurity. We need to keep Veterans’ programs strong and well-funded.

**Programs that support AB705 transition:** It is exciting to see the % of Latinx and African American students enrolling and getting through the college-level English and Math classes literally double as a result of AB705, meaning that they can, if they desire, get to a four-year college or graduate with an AA in significantly less time than before. But this only works if we continue to have the funding to provide the extra support that we currently do for students coming out of the K-12 system underprepared for college, including tutoring, supplemental classes that help with homework, mentoring and more.