



City College Update

By Dr. Anita Grier

Since my election to Community College, I have focused on keeping higher education affordable and available to everyone. I have been an educator and administrator all of my life. I taught Special Education for twelve years, most currently at Denman Middle School. I'm keeping my focus on these major issues that face CCSF:

- **Implementing the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance**, specifically the documents element. As the college lays plans to go to the voters for another Bond, I'm concerned that the general public has lost faith in the leadership of the Administration and the Board of Trustees. We need to demonstrate that we are willing to change the way we do business, and the best way to do that is by adopting the voter initiated Sunshine laws that drive the City's meeting and records procedures.
- **Better program integration with high schools** to prepare students for college. I'll continue to focus on keeping higher education affordable and available to everyone. I have always worked to increase funding and lower tuition. I support remedial programs, but believe students spend more time in those courses than is necessary. We need to do a better job of raising their basic academic skills before they come to college level classes.
- **Tuition Free College Classes.** I'll continue the cooperative groundwork I've begun within the educator communities of the State and federal levels to accomplish a seamless student matriculation, and shared classrooms and faculty.

Of course there are other major issues that confront the Board. The College should set the example for business and residents in energy efficient lighting systems, high efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, computerized energy management control systems, boiler efficiency improvements, energy recovery systems and building shell improvements. CCSF Planning must put Green Building at the top of the list for developments it proposes for both housing and business. Our transportation improvements must be driven by the same principles.

We also have a role in neighborhood planning around our campuses. The most common input from neighbors involves "troubled youth" and that is unfortunate. As a 30-year veteran of some of the toughest high schools in the City, I have dealt with the bad apples and I know when a little tough love is effective and when more drastic measures are needed to turn around young lives. I have served as Program Administrator of "Special Education" at several of our problem sites. The newly dedicated Multi-Use Building on the main campus is a LEEDS silver green building and was developed through community cooperation that is a model for future endeavors.

Though my focus has been academic and much of my life has been devoted to equal opportunity, diversity, ADA compliance and special education for learning disabled students, beyond my concerns as a professional, I care about the future. I think about my high school and college students and I wonder where they will live once they leave their parents and how they will live in a world that has so little to offer in terms of a security. As San Franciscans, these problems continually face us.

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