



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

October 15, 2013

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City College of San Francisco Makes Remarkable Progress Toward Maintaining Accreditation in 100 Days Since Appointment of Special Trustee *State Chancellor Brice W. Harris cites milestones that put college on improved footing*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris today praised the progress that City College of San Francisco has made toward maintaining its accreditation in the 100 days since the appointment of a special trustee.

"Under the leadership of Special Trustee Robert Agrella and Interim Chancellor Thelma Scott-Skillman and thanks to the supportive efforts of the college's administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the community, City College is gaining real traction in its efforts to retain accreditation and put its financial house in order," Harris said. "When the board of governors appointed a special trustee in July it cited the need to accelerate decision-making and action to keep City College open. Preliminary results show that is exactly what is happening. While the college continues to make progress it remains accredited and serving students and the community of San Francisco."

Harris cited several important milestones in the 100-day period:

- An accelerated search for a new, permanent chancellor for City College of San Francisco. Harris said he expects the new chancellor to be named this week.
- A clear and transparent "roadmap" that shows progress toward each of the 357 individual tasks that must be completed to keep the school's accreditation. This infographic can be found at www.ccsfforward.com, a new website specifically focused on City College of San Francisco accreditation issues.
- Appointment of a new chief financial officer. Ronald Gerhard has been named vice chancellor of finance and administration and will start next week. Gerhard comes from the Peralta Community College District, where he had oversight of a \$300 million annual budget. Harris said Agrella would soon name a new chief technology officer, general counsel and several deans.
- With the help of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee's office, key positions in payroll and auditing have been filled, strengthening internal fiscal controls at the college.
- A difficult but financially sound decision was made to suspend plans for a performing arts center that was scheduled to cost more than was available in bond funds.

- More -

- The college has entered into a contract with a firm to administer a student payment program that will recoup several million dollars in past unpaid student fees. This process will ensure not only that past fees are recouped, but also that fee collection in the future is done in compliance with state laws.
- The special trustee has leveraged partnerships with philanthropic, business and community groups that are supportive of City College's plan to remain accredited.
- Collective bargaining agreements have been reached with department chairs and the majority of units representing classified staff.

Harris also noted that strides have been made in improving the upkeep and appearance of the campuses, with a volunteer cleanup project led by classified staff last week on the main campus yielding positive results.

Harris praised the focus that Agrella and other college leaders have maintained in the face of an ongoing state and national debate regarding accreditation in general.

"City College must come into compliance with the same operational, governance, and educational standards that all 112 California community colleges are expected to meet," Harris said. "That is what accreditation is all about. These other distractions won't do a thing to help City College become a stronger institution. Fortunately college and community leadership have remained focused on keeping City College on task and continuing to serve the students who need access to higher education in San Francisco."

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.3 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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