



Ian Waters &lt;ianwaters04@gmail.com&gt;

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## Peralta The Citizen Request for Comment

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John Al-Amin <jalamin@ccsf.edu>  
To: Ian Waters <ianwaters04@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 20, 2023 at 8:39 PM

Ian,

Thank you for reaching out! Ms. Hendricks comments are false, inaccurate, and inflammatory. As of the date of her letter, CCSF was engaged in financial discussions with its bargaining units as a result of the ongoing deficit spending incurred by the district. Her letter appears to be an attempt to discredit the numbers generated from my office and to sway the governing board from addressing this longstanding issue.

At LACC, I did not work with Ms. Hendricks outside of monthly budget committee meetings, and I cannot remember one instance when I offered to sit and meet with her to discuss budget issues that she met with me. I note that while at LACC, Ms. Hendricks was never collegial with me. Her interactions were always adversarial. I do not know if this was due to her bias against financial administrators, or people of color, but I still dealt with her in a professional manner. However, since you asked me about the veracity of her letter, I have attached links on releases surrounding CCSF and the positive impact of the financial decisions made by the board. I also note that under my leadership, CCSF was able to have its first clean audit in 25 years.

<https://www.ccsf.edu/news/ccsf-stabilizes-finances-sustainable-2022-23-budget>

<https://www.ccsf.edu/news/city-college-upgraded-stable-financial-outlook#:~:text=Following%20a%20review%20of%20the,outlook%20from%20negative%20to%20STABLE>

<https://www.ccsf.edu/news/ccsf-receives-1st-clean-audit-25-years>

What she fails to mention in her letter is that my movement was based on the fact that several colleges went through periods of transition where leadership of the college had changed. Presidents who hired me as part of their team retired or were replaced by new people who wanted their own teams. This is not unusual. For the past decade or so, the tenure for most college Presidents is 2-3 years and Vice Presidents can change based upon the stability of the college or district. It all depends. However, my movement allowed me to gain skills that I would not otherwise had been able to obtain by working only in one district. I have worked in multi-college districts of various sizes, minority serving institutions, urban, and suburban locations, who each had different programs, services, and styles. There are 73 districts in the state. Each operate differently, and for me that was a plus. I have an eclectic skill set because of this.

What she also does not know is that I have chosen to serve as an "interim" while permanent hires were made. Again, those moves had nothing to do with performance. I have been called on numerous times to fill in at places that had vacancies. A number of CBO's do this. Not sure that Ms. Hendrick's is aware of that.

I have been in some challenging places but took the time to make incremental changes and progress that improved the conditions and operations of the places where I have been. I have also been clear in my communication, and take the time to explain concepts and circumstances. You saw an example of that today.

As part of my responsibilities, I provide monthly budget reports to constituent groups and the board. However, expenditures are not static and may change due to postings or other accounting changes. Budget documents are then updated. It's a common practice. They are not inaccurate. However, as I noted, this appears to be a bargaining tactic. By attacking the numbers of the financial office, it is an attempt to bring discredit to the people, including myself, that work in that office and the financials of the college and the district. That is neither collegial or collaborative. Working documents generated by staff in the process are not shared; we provide a final draft for group review when complete. I take the heat as I am the messenger of the information and that's okay. But what is not okay, is slandering someone. It is not professional and appears biased. She did not make the same assertions on the person before me who allowed the college to run deficits for the years before I arrived.

Again, thank you for taking the time to reach out to me.

Yours in Student Success,

John al-Amin, M.A., Ph.D.

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"We are not a team because we work together, we become a team when we respect, trust, and care for each other. Let's work on nurturing a culture of teamwork. Working together, everyone achieves more."

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