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## **Assemblymember Ammiano and labor leaders assess decision to terminate CCSF accreditation**

*Opponents of decision to rally in San Francisco today*

**SACRAMENTO** – Assemblymember Tom Ammiano has joined Tim Paulson of the San Francisco Central Labor Council and Alisa Messer, president of the American Federation of Teachers Local 2121, to criticize strongly the recent ill-timed decision by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges to pull the accreditation of City College of San Francisco in 2014. The College serves more than 85,000 students.

"This decision is nothing less than an attack on the people of San Francisco," Ammiano said. "All of us benefit from having this great 78-year-old institution, whether we take courses or not. San Francisco voters recognized that at the polls just last fall when they passed Proposition A to support the college financially. In addition, the appointment of a state official to manage the school takes away the local voice of CCSF's duly elected trustees."

"The quality of education at City College is not in question," said Messer, who is also an English teacher at the college. "For the last year this institution has turned itself upside down to address the recommendations of the Commission, with employees putting in thousands of hours of effort and making huge sacrifices. To be told at the end of this process that the effort has had no impact is simply outrageous."

"City College is vital and has made major progress in turning around many of the shortcomings identified by the Commission," said Paulson. "The actions of the ACCJC – an organization accountable to no one -- have unnecessarily put at risk the livelihoods of the nearly 2,500 hard-working men and women at the college. What's more, their move to deny CCSF accreditation has imperiled the future of San Francisco's working people, who rely heavily on a CCSF education for workforce training, language learning, and a pathway to better futures for themselves and their communities."

"The Accrediting Commission's handiwork has not improved educational quality at CCSF," said Messer. "We want a stronger, better college, but in many instances direction from the ACCJC has moved us in the wrong direction. The Accrediting Commission should be accountable for the impact of its actions."

The Accrediting Commission itself has drawn scrutiny from federal officials in light of its actions surrounding the CCSF evaluation.

"The accrediting agency has only worked half-heartedly to support City College, and instead seems bent on tearing it down," Ammiano said. "The decision needs to be reversed so we can all go to work building on the successes and fixing the few problems, instead of spending our time starting over from scratch because the school was destroyed by naysayers."

*Opponents to the decision plan to rally at 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, in downtown San Francisco, to march from the CCSF campus at 88 Fourth Street to the U.S. Department of Education office at 50 Beale Street.*