

Ladies and Gentlemen, Esteemed Trustees, Faculty, and Fellow Students,

I stand before you today with a heart full of gratitude and bittersweet emotion as I prepare to bid farewell to my role as the Coast Community College District Student Trustee, a position I have been honored to hold for the past two years. These years have been transformative for me personally, our student body, the District, and our community.

I never saw myself in this position when I first embarked on this journey. Trustee Prinsky and Dr. Mueller cornered me at Coastline College's Veterans Day BBQ and asked me to accept this position. After speaking with my wife, the boss, I decided to go for the position, knowing I could make a more comprehensive change. I was driven by a desire to be a voice for my peers and to advocate for our needs. I knew the road ahead would be challenging, but I was also confident that we could make a difference together. Reflecting on these two years, I am proud of our accomplishments.

We have seen changes and improvements that were once mere ideas. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that student voices are heard, valued, and acted upon. From enhancing our academic programs to improving campus facilities and promoting a more inclusive environment, we have made strides that will benefit future generations of students.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you. To my fellow trustees and administrators, thank you for your guidance and wisdom and for treating me as an equal at the table. Your support has been invaluable; I have learned so much from each of you.

Thank you to the faculty and staff for your unwavering commitment to our education and well-being. Your passion and dedication inspire us every day. You have been our mentors, our supporters, and our advocates.

To my fellow students, thank you for trusting me to represent you. Your feedback, ideas, and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind everything we have achieved. I am proud to have been your voice and worked alongside such an incredible group of individuals.

As I move on from this role, I am excited for the future. I am confident that the foundation we have built together will continue to grow and thrive with the incoming Student Trustee, Darla Nunez. I encourage all of you to stay engaged, continue to voice your opinions, and work together to create a better future for our community.

In closing, being a Student Trustee has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I will carry the lessons I have learned and the experiences I have gained with me forever. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and for your support, collaboration, and friendship.