



My Dear Friends:

I want to share a story about community. You could say that I come from a large family. We are in fact, 15 strong. My parents uprooted us from Mahwah, New Jersey in 1973 to bring their 13 kids to California, where there was something called "junior college." My father was a Princeton Alumni. He served in Korea. His nickname was Hank the Tank. He had 3 jobs. My mother is classical pianist who attended Julliard. They wanted their kids to have a chance at college. In California, junior college was FREE. We sold everything we owned and left the East Coast in an old, red white and blue VW bus we christened Bessie. She had no starter. At the crack of dawn - from one motel 6 parking lot after another, we push-started that bus all the way across the continent before finally landing in a strange and faraway place called Simi Valley. I was 14.

So you see...the California Community College system **transformed** my life, even before I ever stepped foot in one. That's what our Community Colleges are designed to do. **Transform lives.**

24 years ago, my journey brought me to Ventura. I arrived in a white Ford F150 pick-up truck and started a business that I still own today; *451 media*. I started a magazine called *Ventura Life*. I started an art gallery on the avenue called *gallery 33*. My partner and I both fell in love with the landscape and the people of San Buenaventura, where we have owned a home now for 22 years.

11 years ago, the community college **transformed** my life once again, when I went to work for the district. Since then I have survived 8 trustees, 4 chancellors, 7 Vice Chancellors and 8 college presidents. I have worked with many administrators, and collaborated with hundreds of faculty and thousands of students. I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly. It's time to write another chapter, one of leadership. I want to be the **Ventura County Community College District Trustee for Area 1.**

I want to see the College District **transform**. There are things at the district we do right. There are things we do wrong. There is so much more that can be done and I have a lot of ideas to bring to the table. But I cannot do this without you. This is OUR story and we must write it **together.**

Let's bring the community back into the community college and the college back into the community.

I am not a candidate of politics...I am a candidate of my **community!** A candidate of **people!** I lead with my heart. I learned a long time ago how important it is to meet people where they stand, eye-to-eye, and understand their adversity. This is OUR Community College and all are welcome to this table. This is a feast we all create together. It is with *creativity, civility, compassion, and logic* that I intend to represent you.

So I ask you now- are you willing to help me **transform** our College District to better serve you?
I ask for your support as your VCCCD Area 1 College Trustee.

PLEASE help me with your endorsement and/or donation today.

Thank you for your support. I cannot do this without you.

Dina Pielacet

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Every voice matters.

KEEP IT REAL. KEEP IT LOCAL.

Vote on November 6

FPPC# 1407106