

# 50 years later: what do we carry, what do we bury?

Josh Scott, English faculty  
Solano Community College  
August 2019



**Before I begin, a thank you!**

Sharon McGriff-Payne

A. Marie Young

Pei-Lin Van't Hul & IR dept

Our librarians, especially Ruth Fuller &  
Sharon Vigil (FF public library)

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## 1998

- Did not graduate HS
- Placed into Intro to Algebra
- Earned a “B” in English 1
- Withdrew from Spanish 1 TWICE in my first year at DVC





# My allies, advocates, mentors


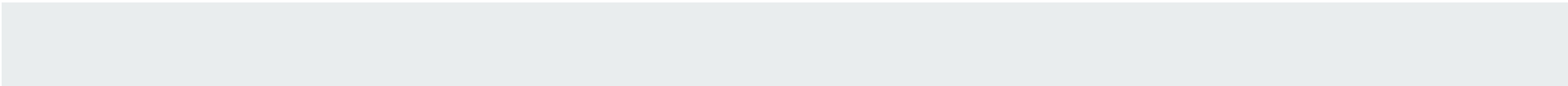
Anne Hallett

David Vela

Keith Mikolavich


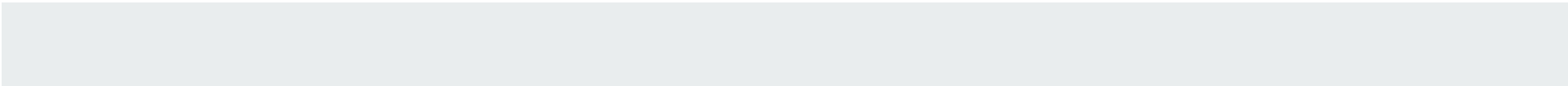
Heidi Goen-Salter

Sugie Goen-Salter



The fundamental principle ....is that **an effective and accountable education system must focus first and foremost on the learner**. Policies, practices, structures, and financing must all be re-evaluated and modified as needed to ensure they are supportive of learners and their acquisition of the knowledge and skills that will enable them to be successful learners and earners throughout their lifetimes.

*California Master Plan for Education (2002)*



“From the outset, [the educator’s] efforts must coincide with those of the students to engage in critical thinking and **the quest for mutual humanization**. Their efforts must be imbued with a **profound trust in people** and their creative power. To achieve this, **they must be partners of the students** in their relations with them.”

Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*



## Inequity, Exclusion

- Last semester, **79% of white** and **Asian/Pacific Islander** students passed English 1, but only **70% of Latino/Hispanic students** and **65% of African American** students passed English 1. **Why?**
- Only **57% of our first semester African American students in the Fall Semester** will return to Solano College in the Spring. If they did not suffer from disproportionate impact, we would have had **110 more African American students in our classrooms** in the spring. **110 empty seats. Why did they not return? And what could we have done to support these students?**



## Closer Look: Vallejo

- Largest, most diverse city in Solano County, yet smallest campus. **Why?**
  - Fairfield @ 192 acres, 4,835 FTES
  - Vacaville @ 60 acres, 1,195 FTES
  - Vallejo @ 10 acres, 933 FTES



## Relationship Trauma: Vallejo

- Misinformation regarding viability of Lake Herman Site
- Vallejo Small Business bureau threatened to “boycott future bond measures” if we went forward with Suisun Valley Site
- In compromise, we promised to offer free busing to Fairfield, but reneged shortly afterwards

**Busing For Students.** In regard to the off-again, on-again busing situation, the board finally decided to begin bus transportation on Sept. 11, the fourth week of school after enrollment had closed. Thus, many Vallejo students who did not have private transportation were denied the privilege of attending college. When the decision to locate the college at the Cordelia site was made, the citizens of the district were promised that free transportation would be provided and the college made accessible to all citizens of the district.

The results of the bus cancellation have been tragic. From a high of 500 daily student riders last year, the administration admitted last Wednesday that only approximately 58 students are using bus service. Again, because of mismanagement, the college enrollment is down over 1,000 students from last year which may result in the loss of thousands of dollars if the state returns to its traditional formulas for funding on average daily attendance (ADA).

Nov  
1968

## BLACK STUDENT UNION



Spring Chairman  
MAY 14 - 1968

- Black Student Union wanted to use mimeograph machines to create newsletter on the Vallejo Junior College campus
- Students weren't allowed to do so
- Students staged a sit-in, police were called
- Some left, but 21 stayed and were arrested

Tuesday, November 5, 1968

### 21 Students Arrested At Solano JC

VALLEJO — Dissatisfaction with typewriters assigned for the use of students to type club material for the Black Student Union, reportedly triggered the arrest of 21 Solano College students Monday for staging a sit-in.

Eleven girls were among the students arrested by Vallejo police after the president of the 2,100-student junior college, Dr. N. Dallas Evans, signed complaints charging loitering and disrupting the college.

The students were free on \$350 bail each today.

Police were summoned by Dr. Evans after the Black Student Union members allegedly were assigned to a room with manual typewriters. The students reportedly wanted to use a room equipped with electric typewriters.

The report said an instructor, and Dr. Evans, requested the protesters to leave voluntarily, but were shouted down. Dr. Evans was reported called a "facist pig" and a "racist."

Black Student Union have been demanding more Negro courses, teachers and counselors at Solano College.

## January 6, 1969 Board Meeting

- Over 300 members of the African American Community in Vallejo Attended
- NAACP submitted a letter in defense of the students
- Several reporters were in the room, one transcribed the meeting

Session.

A member of the audience, identified as Mr. Lewis, told the Board - "You are making the biggest mistake you ever made in your life by turning your backs", and then instructed the students to call a strike. Mr. Jan Wood, President of the Associated Students at Solano College, presented the Board with a copy of the results of the Student Council's special meeting, stating that they would hold a boycott unless Mark Jefferson and James Boyden were readmitted to the College in good standing. He stated the students would be hurt by not attending classes and possibly missing finals.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 12:41. It was moved by Mrs. Bradanini and seconded by Mr. Bowen to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Governing Board of Solano County Junior College, after careful consideration of oral and documentary evidence, presented in Executive Session, does hereby determine and order the expulsion of Mark Jefferson and James Boyden as students of Solano College, effective forthwith. The Resolution was unanimously adopted on a roll call vote, with Mr. Anderson, Dr. Hollister, Mr. Bowen, Mrs. Bradanini, Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Wold voting "yes". A court reporter's transcript of the proceedings held in open session shows the following took place:

## ASSC Resolution (January 1969)

The Associated Students of Solano Junior College are calling for support by all students to the following propositions, initiated by the combined efforts of the Associated Student Council of Solano College and the Black Student Union...

Whereas: There is growing tension on this campus between the Black Students and the Administration, and

Whereas: This tension may cause an outbreak of violence on this campus, and

Whereas: There has been an unwillingness to talk on the part of the administration which led to a breakdown on communications, and

Whereas: **The administration action against Mark Jefferson and Jymbo Sudan was purely punitive because they were leaders of the B.S.U. and**

Whereas: The Associated Student Council does not like being dictated to by the Administration, and

Therefore be it resolved: That the Student Council call for an Associated Student Boycott at Solano College, Tuesday, January 7, 1969, and

Be it further resolved: That this boycott be called off if the Board of Trustees readmit Mark Jefferson and Jymbo Sudan in good standing at Solano College.

P.S. The A.S.S.C. will be present at the Board of Trustee's meeting tonight to plead [their] case...we need an Afro-American studies program and no guns on campus.



## The aftermath

“We believe that Solano College should be run for the students rather than for the convenience and pleasure of the faculty, administration and other classified personnel. We also believe Solano College should operate as a free, open and democratic campus....it is the hope of this group that each member of the Solano College staff examines his or her attitudes and actions toward each and every student”

### **21 on JC Faculty Voice Support of BSU Demand**

Added support for the Black Student Union's demands at Solano College was announced by a student and a faculty group over the weekend, while other students protested the BSU's actions.

The support came from ad hoc committees, including one formed by 21 members of the faculty at the school. The student support followed a meeting Friday afternoon with two members of the college district's board of trustees.

Twenty-one members of the college faculty signed a statement which reads, "We believe that Solano College should be run for the students rather than for the convenience and pleasure of the faculty, administration and other classified personnel. We also believe Solano College should operate as a free, open and democratic campus."

The statement also listed five demands and concluded, "It is the hope of this group that each member of the Solano College staff examines his or her attitudes and actions toward each and every student."

A general meeting of the faculty prompted by the statement, was scheduled today at 3 p.m.

College officials were unavailable for comment today.

The Ad Hoc student committee, consisting of 18 Solano pupils, Friday voted unanimously to ask the district board of trustees to support a black studies program. The motion also asked that

coordinator be hired immediately to research, plan and inaugurate a full Afro-American department before the college moves to its new campus in 1970.

A special board of trustees session is expected to be conducted shortly in order to discuss the recent campus sit-in and the board's ruling concerning use of classroom facilities for instructional purposes only.

The college controversy erupted Nov. 4 when 21 students, the majority members of the campus Black Student Union, were arrested after a sit-in a typing classroom by 50 to 60 black students. The college ad-

(Continued on Page 6)

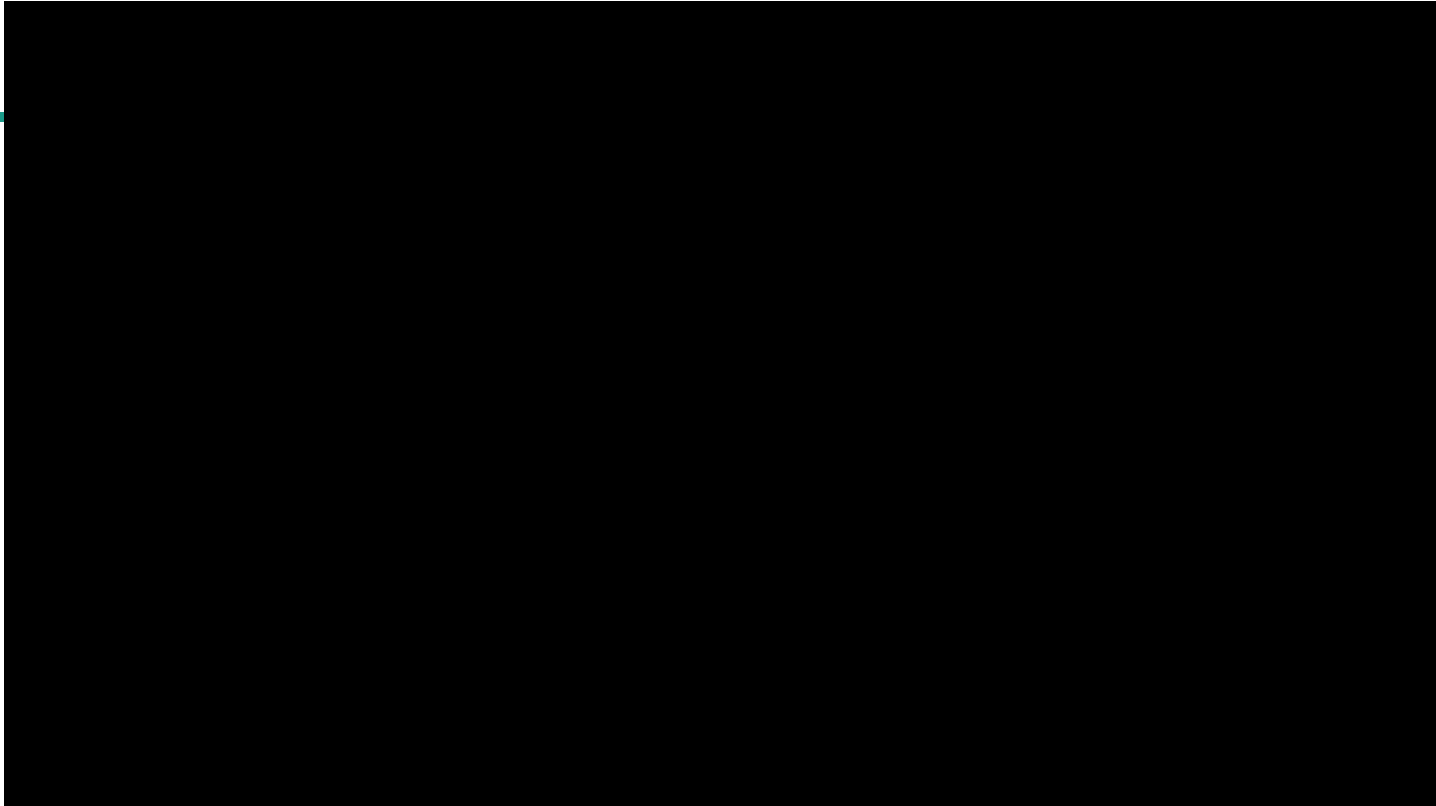
- the students' suspensions were lifted
- Campus asked to drop charges against 21 students, but DA chose to push forward with charges for months afterwards




Doris Higgins, Michael Brown, Jere Faurea, Mamie Jefferson, Mike McGriff, Joe Tholmer, Toni Davis, Jerry Moberry, Jimmy "Jimbo Sudan" Boden.

Photos courtesy of Sharon McGriff-Payne, author of *African Americans in Vallejo*





<https://youtu.be/kYfNvmF0Bqw>



"When you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, **you need to free somebody else.** If you have some power, then **your job is to empower somebody else.**"

- Toni Morrison

## Join Us!

### Student Equity and Success Council

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, 12-1:30pm

More info, contact:

- Faculty co-chair: Josh Scott ([Joshua.scott@Solano.edu](mailto:Joshua.scott@Solano.edu))
- Administrative co-chair: Dwayne Hunt ([Dwayne.Hunt@Solano.edu](mailto:Dwayne.Hunt@Solano.edu))