

# NORTH HARRIS COUNTY COLLEGE UNITED FACULTY

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THE ADVOCATE

ELECTION SPECIAL

JANUARY 15, 1991

For the past few weeks, the union's executive committee has been meeting with various people in the college district regarding the upcoming Board election for NHCC. Two members the union has endorsed in the past, Don Stewart and Blaine Mann, are up for reelection, and a decision by Brad York not to run has created an open seat for which four candidates have filed. A questionnaire was sent by the union to each candidate, and responses have been reviewed.

Based upon discussions with faculty, staff, Board members, and citizens from the community, the executive committee made recommendations which were then put to a membership vote. This process has resulted in the following endorsements:

Position 5 XAVIER GUERRA

Position 6 MARGARET COX

Position 7 BLAINE MANN

Xavier Guerra, slating with Blaine Mann, is a vice-president for the Communications Workers of America. As an Hispanic, Guerra would help to increase minority representation on the Board. No other candidate brings as much knowledge of the vocational/technical field, a significant aspect of NHCC's operation. Guerra clearly would be a strong advocate for employees, students, and citizens. He has vast experience in the private sector with employee relations and enlightened management.

Blaine Mann was elected to the Board six years ago with union support. He has been quick to question administrative agendas and has not been afraid to be one voice speaking against many. In part, he has functioned as an excellent "watchdog on the Board." As a result of his refusal simply to go along with the administration's agenda, Mann has developed a group of critics, but even they acknowledge him to be the "brightest mind on the Board."

Margaret Cox, an independent candidate in this race, is a claims representative for the Social Security Administration. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, she graduated with honors from NHCC and went on to earn a bachelor's in philosophy with a 3.8 grade point average from the University

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of Houston. Cox has been a community activist who supported the creation of the college district and has worked with the union in several past Board elections. She presently has a son at Eisenhower High School who will be attending NHCC. Thus, her involvement with the college is significant. She brings insights as a student, campaign volunteer, and active citizen. Cox has had several years experience serving on a public board, a municipal utility district water board, and is a past president.

NHCC faces a number of challenges in the future. As Dr. Pickleman takes the helm, many changes will occur. It is in the best interest of NHCC employees to have as many Board members as possible who share our interests and concerns. The Board, after all, has final approval on policy and sets the tone and direction of NHCC.

The election will be Saturday, January 19, 1991. The AFT encourages your support of these worthy candidates. For information about the location of your polling place on the 19th, please call the District office at 591-3511. If you would like to make a financial contribution or offer some volunteer time to this campaign, please contact Alan Hall at 443-5540 on South Campus.

#### **HUMBLE I.S.D. BOARD ELECTION -- By Steve Davis**

For obvious reasons, NHCC-UF historically has concentrated its political efforts on NHCC Board campaigns. This year's election however coincides with a local school board contest of great importance to our employees. Joan Samuelson, English Instructor at the Kingwood Campus since its inception in 1984, is one of twelve contenders for an open seat (Position 4) on the Humble ISD Board of Regents. The NHCC-UF Executive Committee enthusiastically endorses her effort.

Dr. Samuelson has long-term ties to the area, having graduated from Humble High School in 1965. She taught in area public schools for many years before coming aboard at NHCC. At the Kingwood Campus and through the District, Joan is recognized for her contributions to the college. Renowned for the quality of her instruction, she has twice received the Teaching Excellence Award. Joan was Faculty Senate President from 1988 to 1990 and has also served on a host of important campus and district committees. Not least, she has been a dedicated and stalwart member of this union.

It is so critical to put a person of Joan's ability and educational vision on the Humble Board. She will work to raise educational quality and standards from her perspective as a classroom teacher. She will also fight the well-publicized recent efforts of ignorant and bigoted members of the community to hijack our children's educations. Please do all you can to help her win this race. Those willing to volunteer should call Joan at 358-4112 or Steve Davis at 359-1645.