



## TESTIMONIAL: ROSALIND COOK, NEW ORLEANS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY



When Rosalind Blanco Cook enrolled at Delgado in 1986 she didn't realize that she was taking the first step in a dramatic life-changing process. Nearly twenty years ago, Cook was a divorced mother of three earning a living as a hairdresser who wanted to make some changes in her life.

"I heard Delgado's television commercial that registration was still going on, so I enrolled in a few general education courses. All of my instructors helped me with my studies and to get my life together. At first it was not easy attending school with three babies and continuing to work. I took classes early or late in the evening, and I had to arrange for baby-sitting. I quickly learned about the Pell Grant opportunities available for those who qualify, so I was able to continue my education," said Cook.

As she took more classes, Rosalind began to realize that she wanted to strive toward earning her associate degree. "After taking an American Government class, I knew that I wanted to study political science," she said. "In addition, I became a workstudy student in the Marketing and Information Services Office and I learned how to write press releases and media advisories and how to communicate with the public. I utilized those skills when I was a communications specialist in the Mayor's Office during the 1990s."

After Rosalind earned her associate degree from Delgado, she transferred to UNO and earned a scholarship to continue her education and earn her bachelor's degree in political science in 1996. Two years later, she earned a master's degree. Rosalind has combined practical and academic politics, serving in the Communications Department of New Orleans former Mayor Marc Morial and working as a media specialist during the initial ten months of Mayor C. Ray Nagin's first term.

As spokesperson for the RTA, Rosalind's role is to provide information through communication plans and messages, coordinate news media relations, and provide responses to media requests for information on issues and policies. This included working very closely with city officials to formulate a plan that would help evacuate local residents to the Superdome prior to Hurricane Katrina. Rosalind has also taught American Government, Urban Politics, and Political Science Research Methods classes at Xavier University, University of New Orleans and Dillard University.

"Delgado truly changed my life for the better," she says. "Delgado started me on my career as a life-long learner and gave me the foundation that I needed to continue my education and work toward my doctorate."

*Rosalind Cook, RTA Public Relations Specialist, earned her Associate of General Studies Degree at Delgado Community College in 1990.*