

A New Direction for Delancey Street

Robert Mansfield had been in and out of San Quentin on a variety of fraud, embezzlement and drug charges before he walked through the doors of San Francisco's Delancey Street Foundation, one of the nation's most successful self-help treatment programs. The experience completely transformed his life.

Today, he couldn't be on a more different path. As a resident of Delancey Street, which stresses a strong work ethic and supports itself primarily through a number of businesses, Mansfield oversees a café and a credit and collections department. He drives for a limousine service, and sits on the Foundation's educational council.

This fall Mansfield has one more reason to be proud.

Through a new partnership with San Francisco State he is one of 14 Delancey Street residents who are pursuing an Urban Studies degree.

"We're entering a new family relationship with President Corrigan and San Francisco State—a great university and a university that has always cared to be a true urban school," said Mimi Silbert, Delancey Street's founder and CEO, to a crowd of civic and community leaders who gathered in September at Delancey Street to celebrate the center's 30th anniversary.

At the event, President Corrigan named Silbert co-director of the SFSU Urban Studies Program at Delancey Street. "You have forced us to rethink our meaning of impossible," Corrigan said of Silbert, who received an

honorary doctorate from SFSU in 1993.

The classes at Delancey Street are taught by Silbert, SFSU faculty, and education and civic leaders. "You get really spoiled when you learn city politics from John Burton," said Mansfield, of a class he took last semester with the Senate president pro tem. This fall Emilio Cruz, former chief of the San Francisco Municipal Railway, lectures on urban transportation.

"Everything in my life has changed," said Mansfield. "Without this program, I don't think I would ever have had the chance to pursue a college education."

More than 14,000 people have participated in the Delancey Street Foundation since it opened its doors in 1971. For more information, call 415/957-9800.



"You have forced us to rethink our meaning of impossible," said President Corrigan after he presented Delancey Street CEO Mimi Silbert with a framed certificate acknowledging the new partnership.