

## **Christie Wood, responding to "Election results disappoint Reagan Republican" – 11.9.12**

It has been illustrated quite well in this election that the GOP is no longer the big tent. They have become a party of exclusion rather than inclusion and that is why I changed my affiliation to Independent. I remember Jeff's statements in the past on this blog warning me about who I affiliate with. Seems in his mind if you are a registered Republican it is your duty to ignore, or defame your friends and neighbors if they belong to a different political party. I strongly reject his philosophy and believe I have made that clear in my responses to him.

Now Jeff seems to think if we infuse ideology into curriculum that he can do some kind of brain suck and make everyone think like him. He simply does not understand higher education, and accreditation standards.

NIC students are adults. The average age is 24-30 but many are older. Our role as trustees is to govern the operation of the college district. Our focus is on providing students with a high quality education that will prepare them for academic transfer to another institution if they are seeking a Bachelors degree, or make them immediately competitive in the job market if they desire a certificated program. Our President works with the Board, faculty, and staff to fulfill that goal.

The Board only has authority while acting as a board, not as individuals. Nowhere in state law or board policy is there a provision for personal ideology. If elected board members attempted to control curriculum to reflect their personal beliefs the college would very likely lose accreditation and students would have to go elsewhere for their education.

It is time for all elected officials to work together and put our citizens first. I intend to reach out to our new board members and do just that.