

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



## City of Long Beach, City Auditor



**Laura I. Doud**  
City Auditor

### Advice That Changed the Course of My Life

When I was a sophomore at CSULB, I needed to make a pivotal decision that would greatly affect my future. Fortunately, I received guidance from someone I admired and trusted to help me choose the best path for me.

I was considering leaving college to take a well-paying job. One day while considering my two choices, I stopped by the grocery store and was very surprised and excited to see my wonderful Middle School Principal, Alta Cooke. I shared with her the conflict I felt over my desire to accept a new job with great pay and benefits but that would require me to put my college education on hold. Without hesitation, this wise and educated woman looked at me directly and with a loving but firm voice advised me not to accept the job offer but to stay in school.

I have been grateful ever since for her timely advice that directed me to the road of education.

I stayed in school at CSULB and after graduation, received my Certified Public Accountant's license, Certified Fraud Examiner's license and earned a Law degree. The education I received has been a gift in my life and has provided me with career options. In 2006, I made the



**Laura with Alta Cooke.**

decision to pursue a career in public service and to work towards making a difference in the City I love. For me, it was the right choice, but I would not have had the option if I had not stayed in school.

My advice to students today is the same as my Principal Alta Cooke's advice was to me - invest the time now in education as it will prepare you for many more options to pursue in your life.

333 West Ocean Blvd., 8th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/579-6751  
[www.CityAuditorLauraDoud.com](http://www.CityAuditorLauraDoud.com)