



**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06**  
**VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS FOR  
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2020, the African American Student Success Virtual Townhall was convened with over 1,000 California community college practitioners, policymakers, and national scholars to discuss financial aid reform, housing, food, technology and transportation insecurities, impacts of COVID-19 on African American students, and policy recommendations to support this student population; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 27, 2020, through May 1, 2020, African American Success Week was held, with an average of 300 participants participating in daily webinars covering recommendations for black student success, housing insecurity, COVID-19, and listening to Black student voices; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd, a black man in Minnesota, died, face down, under the knee of a white police officer; and

**WHEREAS**, reactions to the unjust death of Mr. Floyd have varied, and the nation continues to witness the Black community pushed to the edge by systemic racism; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is recognized as the end of chattel slavery in the United States and liberation from the greatest robbery of black wealth in our country's history; and

**WHEREAS**, California Community Colleges represent and serve one of the most diverse populations in the world in terms of race, ethnicity, language, culture, nationality, socio-economic class, age, physical ability, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, 72 percent of Black undergraduates who are enrolled in a public college or university in California are enrolled in a California community college compared to 9 percent and 3 percent enrolled in a California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) institution, respectively<sup>i</sup>. In contrast, 68 percent of White students are in community colleges, 12 percent are in CSUs, and 6% are in UCs; and

**WHEREAS**, the overwhelming majority (77%) of Black students attend community college part-time (fewer than 12 units in a term) due to employment, family, and other commitments<sup>ii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, most Black community college students are adult learners who work full-time while attending college part-time, have family commitments/responsibilities, and struggle with basic needs insecurities. The students who need the most get the least financial support; and

**WHEREAS**, California Community Colleges receive the least amount of per-student funding in comparison to the state's other public educational sectors, University of California: \$33,569; California State University: \$18,445, California Community Colleges: \$8,306; K-12: \$12,018<sup>iii</sup>.

**WHEREAS**, nearly two-thirds of Black high school graduates are not eligible to apply for admission to the CSU or UC systems<sup>iv</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, 35 percent of Black high school graduates completed the A-G course requirements compared to 52 percent of White high school graduates; and

**WHEREAS**, 27 percent of Black families live below the poverty line (less than \$24,399 per year) compared to 16 percent for all California families. 48 percent of Black families earn less than \$48,678 per year compared to 36 percent for all California families<sup>v</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the ratio of Black students to tenured Black professors is 1:131 in California Community Colleges (CCC), 1:46 in the CSU, and 1:32 in the UC. Comparatively, the ratios for White students are 1:4 in the CCC, 1:16 in the CSU, and 1:8 in the UC<sup>vi</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, practitioners and policymakers will utilize race-conscious perspectives in making decisions to improve the success of Black students; and

**WHEREAS**, a race-conscious perspective<sup>vii</sup> is defined as being conscious of how institutional racism shapes educational access, educational trauma, opportunity, lack of culturally relevant practices, and success in the U.S. for people of color, justice-impacted families, and other minoritized groups.

**WHEREAS**, 37 percent of Black community college students earn a degree, certificate, or transfer within six years; and only 3 percent of Black students in California Community Colleges (CCC) transfer within two years; and only 35 percent of Black students transfer to a public university within six years<sup>viii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ventura County Community College District's unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion requires that we advocate and employ our collective voice to identify and eliminate barriers to equity and that we act deliberately to create a safe and inclusive environment where individual and group differences are valued and leveraged for our growth and understanding as an educational community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the VCCCD Board of Trustees, hereby reaffirm our commitment to diversity and inclusion and support immediate action to remove systemic barriers for Black and African American students; and support collaboration with Moorpark College, Oxnard College, Ventura College, Ventura College East Campus, and the District Office, as well as local, state and federal governments, businesses and community-based

organizations, to provide race-conscious decision-making in support of Black community college students as they complete their academic programs and as Black students transition to a four-year college or university, or employment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the VCCCD Board of Trustees, affirm our commitment to foster a culture inclusion, (1) feel safe, respected and valued; (2) are invited to participate fully, share their unique gifts, talents and backgrounds; (3) increasingly recognize the value of perspectives that differ from their own; and (4) understand that diversity and inclusion are key priorities in the organization’s values; and we believe that higher education should be available to everyone, in a culturally competent environment; and call upon each other, students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to be accountable catalysts of change.

We are committed to inclusiveness and equity for all students, faculty, staff, and our community.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2020.

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Bernardo M. Perez, Board Chair

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Joshua Chancer, Vice Chair

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Larry Kennedy, Trustee

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Dianne B. McKay, Trustee

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Gabriela Torres, Trustee

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Greg Gillespie, Ph.D., Chancellor

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*<sup>i</sup> Source: Campaign for College Opportunity “State of Higher Education for Black Californians” 2019 report*

*<sup>ii</sup> Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office MIS Data Mart. Analysis based on AY 2018-2019*

*<sup>iii</sup> Source: Community College League of California 2020 Fast Facts*

*<sup>iv</sup> Source: Campaign for College Opportunity “State of Higher Education for Black Californians” 2019 report*

*<sup>v</sup> Source: US Census*

*<sup>vi</sup> Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office MIS Data Mart. Analysis based on AY 2018-2019*

*<sup>vii</sup> Race-Conscious – recognizing the realities of race for people of color and the ways in which institutional racism shapes educational access, opportunity, and success in both historical and contemporary U.S. contexts*

*<sup>viii</sup> Source: Campaign for College Opportunity “State of Higher Education for Black Californians” 2019 report*