



Resolution No. 2020/21-04 in Support of College of the Canyons' Call to Action to Enhance Equity and Pursue Anti-Racism

WHEREAS, the recent and senseless deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and other Black Americans have focused our nation's attention on the needless violence and suffering that many people of color have been subjected to; and

WHEREAS, higher education institutions exist to promote understanding and build knowledge, and therefore should be leaders in creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS, 72 percent of Black/African American undergraduate students who are enrolled in a public college or university in California attend a California community college, with 9 percent and 3 percent enrolled at California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) campuses, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors adopted systemwide *Vision for Success* goals for the state's 116 colleges to reduce equity gaps among traditionally underrepresented student groups; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors is moving forward with adopting a statement in Title 5, Division Six, Chapter 2.5 of the California Code of Regulations regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that says, "To advance our goals of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice for the success of students and employees, we must honor that each individual is unique and that our individual differences contribute to the ability of the colleges to prepare students on their educational journeys. This requires that we develop and implement policies and procedures, encourage individual and systemic change, continually reflect on our efforts, and hold ourselves accountable for the results of our efforts in accomplishing our goals," and

WHEREAS, College of the Canyons, in its Mission, Vision, and Philosophy statements has committed itself to promoting, encouraging, and celebrating the diversity of students and staff and fostering in our campus community a climate characterized by civility, collegiality and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, College of the Canyons has established student alliance groups, including the African American/Black Student Alliance, the Latinx Alliance, the Trans Alliance, the Gender Sexuality Alliance, the First-Gen Student Alliance, the Autism Social Alliance, and the Veteran Student Alliance, in which faculty, staff and administrators foster a sense of belonging on campus by helping students connect with mentors, counselors, financial aid advisors and other resource specialists, and create opportunities to discuss issues in safe and brave spaces; and

WHEREAS, College of the Canyons established Equity Minded Practitioners, a group of faculty, staff and administrators committed to reviewing and changing college policies and practices that create barriers (whether deliberately or unintentionally) for individuals to improve their life opportunities and to co-

creating more fair and just institutional policies and practices that account for disparate life-experiences and foster healthy inclusion through inquiry, shared dialogue and reflection; and

WHEREAS, College of the Canyons recently hosted town hall discussions in which Black students and employees honestly and courageously shared their life experiences and voiced their perspectives on how the college can work to promote anti-racism; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Community College District recognizes that our shared commitment as individuals, as departments, and as a college to promoting social justice and expanding access to higher education can and must result in real opportunities, gains, and equity for students of color;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clarita Community College District stands in support of Black/African American students, college employees and community members and recognizes the responsibility shared by the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, administrators and students to dismantle and eliminate systemic and institutional racism in our college;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees values the collective strength represented in the diversity of our faculty, our staff, our administrators, and our students, embraces critical reflection, and encourages the college community to continue engaging in the difficult and honest conversations concerning social injustice and racial and ethnic bias that are necessary to enhance equity and remove systemic and institutional barriers for Black and African American students.

Adopted and signed this 29th day of July 2020.

Ms. Michele Jenkins
President

Ms. Joan MacGregor
Vice President

Dr. Edel Alonso
Clerk

Mr. Steve Zimmer
Member

Mr. Michael Berger
Member

Mr. David Gonzales
Student Trustee

Dr. Dianne Van Hook
Chancellor