

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT STAND IN SUPPORT OF LGBTQ+ STUDENTS AND SUPPORT
PRIDE MONTH****RESOLUTION NO. 78– 20/21**

WHEREAS, June is recognized as Pride Month, commemorating the 1969 Stonewall uprising which highlighted the persecution of the LGBTQ+ community; which marked the beginning of a movement to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ+ individuals in the US; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts, the stigmatism remains — 52 years later; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals encounter familial, social, economic and educational instability, which inhibits their ability to succeed academically and holistically; collectively they have a poverty rate of 21.6 percent, transgender people have especially high rates of poverty—29.4 percent, these poverty rates are much higher than the rate for cisgender straight people of 15.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ students in the California community colleges system struggle with a high rate of food and housing insecurity; transgender students having the highest; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ students experience higher rates of academic impediments due to anxiety, depression, discrimination, drug use, eating disorders, roommate difficulties and financial stress than their heterosexual and cisgender peers; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ students experience higher rates of psychological disorders, self-harm, and suicide; and say they feel less welcome and unsafe on college campuses with a lower sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, if LGBTQ+ students could experience the same levels of support and safety as non-transgender and straight individuals, disparities would disappear or greatly shrink; and

WHEREAS, Moreno Valley College (MVC) will host its first Lavender Graduation in 2021; and the new Welcome Center will usher in a new era for Moreno Valley College with the opening of the Common Ground Center, home to four different communities with one common purpose — inclusion; the Pride community will serve the MVC LGBTQ+ community and allies.

WHEREAS, Norco College (NC) was one of seven community colleges in this state to have a Pride Center following the California Community Colleges LGBTQ+ Summit in 2017. In 2011, the College allocated physical space and launched an Ally Safe Zone program; and

WHEREAS, Riverside City College (RCC) has trained over 100 faculty, staff and administrators through 4 LGBTQ+ Ally Trainings; and RCC was awarded a California Teachers Association grant

to pilot an LGBTQ+ Mentor Program pairing faculty and staff mentors with LGBTQ+ students in order to support students' educational and holistic success; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District (RCCD) leadership affirms the needle can be moved through communication as well as a crusading for the acceptance of all individuals, thus creating life-affirming moments while reinforcing that no individual should be regulated by gender or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, RCCD celebrates each individual's identity and contributions to their community, the District remains determined to pursue equality, respect, and inclusion for individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and supports the rights and liberties, and calls for the equal treatment of the LGBTQ+; and

WHEREAS, greater inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals are positively associated with a country's economic development; yet LGBTQ+ individuals continue to face disproportionate rates of physical, psychological, and structural violence; and

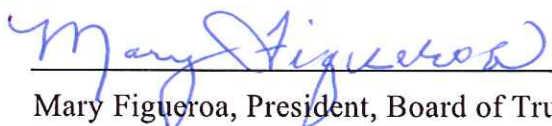
WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals make contributions in the field of education as well in health, business, sports, government, technology, science, the civil rights movement, research and other areas, and effectively work in such fields as nursing, law enforcement, firefighting, government, and education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The RCCD Board of Trustees acknowledges LGBTQ+ rights; will continue to ensure that the District's colleges remain beacons for the LGBTQ+ community looking for educational opportunities and better career prospects; and

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, RCCD Board of Trustees re-affirms it is okay to be you; and expressly supports the rights, freedoms and equal treatment of all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, RCCD observes Pride Month as well as its LGBTQ+ faculty and staff; and will continue to support legislation and identify funding in order to create and expand LGBTQ+ campus resource centers at MVC, NC and RCC in order to further LGBTQ+ student support programs in order to eliminate the barriers to academic success while improving retention and completion percentages among LGBTQ+ students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of June 2021, at the regular meeting of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.



Mary Figueroa, President, Board of Trustees
Riverside Community College District