

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 16**

RESOLUTION NO. 04 – 20/21

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges system, comprised of 2.1 million students and 115 campuses, provides a variety of special programs and support services for students and is serving California residents, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the United States government in the late 1960's established affirmative action policies to address discrimination and bias in hiring, government contracts and access to higher education towards racial minorities and women; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996 amended the California Constitution by prohibiting public entities on making decisions on awarding contracts, hiring or admissions to higher education institutions to be influenced by race, ethnicity, gender or other demographic information;

WHEREAS, the effect of Proposition 209 inhibited California state and local governments' ability to remedy, for the past 25 years, the continuing effects of past discrimination through race-conscious programs such as those designed to ensure access to higher education through the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, the effects of Proposition 209 reduced percentage of minority student populations admitted to public institutions of higher education in California, placing it in direct conflict with the goals of the current California Community Colleges Vision for Success framework by making it more difficult to close equity gaps; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 209 contributed to the reduced "pipeline" of candidates of color for faculty positions by lowering transfer and graduation rates of students representing communities of color, and

WHEREAS, California is one of only eight states that does not allow race or gender to be considered in hiring, or allotting state contracts, or accepting students into the state's public colleges and universities in order to remedy the effects of generations of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, California has the fifth largest and strongest economy in the world but Proposition 209 has prevented full participation in the state's economic prosperity for over two decades for

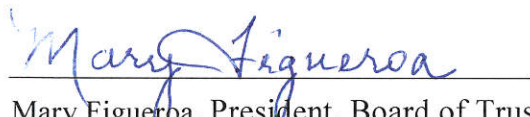
all Californians, and represents a step backwards for people of color and women by limiting their access to economic opportunities and higher education;

WHEREAS, the ethnic and racial make-up of the Riverside Community College District community are closely related to California's statewide demographics; with 53% of the service area population of Hispanic/Latino origin; and, the RCCD service area outpaces both the county (47.5%) and the state (38.6%) with regard to proportion of Hispanic/Latino populations (the principal ethnic group).

WHEREAS, the Riverside Community College District supports the promotion of programs, initiatives and policies designed to instill values associated with community and inclusion; now, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED that the Riverside Community College District endorses Proposition 16 and urges all California voters to vote for Proposition 16 which will allow our colleges to consider contract award recipients, faculty and students, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity or national origin, to access social and economic opportunities to achieve their highest potential, and provide life-long benefits to the communities they serve.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of September 2020, at the regular meeting of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Figueroa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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