

## Board of Trustees Regular Meeting (VIII.E)

Meeting	April 20, 2021
Agenda Item	Equity (VIII.E)
Subject	Equity Resolution No. 51-20/21 - In Support of a Declaration that Racism is a Public Health Crisis
College/District	District
Funding	N/A
Recommended Action	Recommend approving Resolution No. 51-20/21 - In Support of a Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

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### Background Narrative:

Riverside Community College District supports the California Community College Board of Governors' call to recognize the contributions of students, faculty, staff and administrators by recognizing April 2021, and every April thereafter, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awareness Month in California's Community Colleges. RCCD is committed to addressing systemic racism by ensuring that its colleges and education centers work to enrich the District's diverse communities by providing a comprehensive program of educational opportunities that promote access, success and equity.

Prepared By: Rebecca Goldware, Vice Chancellor, Institutional Advancement & Economic Development

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF A DECLARATION THAT RACISM IS A  
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 51-20/21**

**WHEREAS**, the California Community Colleges, the largest system of higher education in the country with more than 2.1 million students at 116 colleges, serves a diverse student population, more than any system of higher education in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Riverside Community College District offers open-access and a path to economic and social mobility for students of which 61 percent are Hispanic; 18 percent are White; 8 percent are African American; 5 percent are Asian; with 82 percent under the age of 29; and

**WHEREAS**, states, counties and cities across America make declarations that racism, xenophobia and discrimination as well as other intolerances are a public health crisis with calls of change for government entities, the criminal justice system, educational institutions, health care centers, social services and housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Riverside Community College District recognizes the importance of faculty and staff as leaders of student success as well as drivers of the commitment to promoting equity policy especially when it addresses human and social services, economic development and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, students, faculty, staff and administrators continue working to understand the experiences of people of color and create a more inclusive working and learning environment; and in doing so erase any racism that derails educational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Riverside Community College District invites students, faculty, staff and administrators and the communities it serves to support a call of action through action that highlights and works toward the need for diversity, equity, inclusion and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, April is Community College month, the Riverside Community College District's colleges — Moreno Valley College, Norco College and Riverside City College — can use the 30 days as an opportunity to honor and acknowledge the contributions of students, faculty, staff and administrators in removing racism; and

**WHEREAS**, Riverside Community College District encourages its' colleges to celebrate its racial and ethnic diversity by showcasing and amplifying the role of students, faculty, staff and administrators dedicated to equity, leading to college-wide discussion in order to foster an understanding in order to develop an appreciation for District's rich diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees provide educational opportunities through its Culture of Care initiative while addressing and dismantling racism in order to learn how it affects the delivery of educational services; and

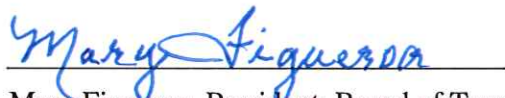
**WHEREAS**, Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees will remain steadfast in its advocacy efforts at the state and federal level as a way to encourage educational opportunities as a means to move its communities forward; and

**WHEREAS**, Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees develops strong community partnerships while identifying specific goals and objectives in order to enhance racial equity within the District; and

**RESOLVED**, Riverside Community College District supports the California Community College Board of Governors' call to recognize the contributions of students, faculty, staff and administrators by recognizing April 2021, and every April thereafter, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awareness Month in California's Community Colleges; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Riverside Community College District is committed to addressing the systemic racism by ensuring that its colleges and education centers work to enrich the District's diverse communities by providing a comprehensive program of educational opportunities that promote access, success and equity. The District is unequivocally committed to impacting social and economic mobility for our students and communities; transforming lives through education to positively impact our local and global community.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 20th day of April 2021, at the regular meeting of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.



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