



San José – Evergreen Community College District
RESOLUTION No. 042721-1
REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO
STUDENT SUCCESS FOR BLACK STUDENTS

WHEREAS, daily town halls April 26-30 will be held throughout the week from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Black Student Success Week will share research insights and innovative approaches for improving student success among Black and African American students at California Community Colleges (CCC); and

WHEREAS, Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old Black man, was fatally shot by police officer Kimberly Potter during a traffic stop; and

WHEREAS, Ma'Khia Bryant, a 16-year-old Black teenager, was fatally shot by a police officer responding to a domestic dispute; and

WHEREAS, reactions to the guilty verdict of Derek Chauvin on all counts for causing George Floyd's unjust death were peaceful, and the nation continues to witness the Black community pushed to the edge by systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, the Chauvin verdict is the first of many steps for police accountability and overseeing issues of police excessive force and harassment of our Black community; 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, gender identity, and religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges' 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; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of California's Black undergraduates (72 percent) are enrolled in a California Community College, making the CCC system the primary source of higher education for members of this demographic group; 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; 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.



WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of Black high school graduates are not eligible to apply for admission to the CSU or UC systems; 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. Forty-eight percent of Black families earn less than \$48,678 per year compared to 36 percent for all California families; and

WHEREAS, the ratio of Black students to tenured and tenure-track Black faculty is 81:1 in California Community Colleges, while the ratio for White students to White tenured and tenure-track faculty is 37:1; 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 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; and

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 transfer within two years; and only 35 percent of Black students transfer to a public university within six years; and

WHEREAS, the state of California and the California Community College system need to address structural inequities of Black student success by way of policy efforts and advocacy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the San José-Evergreen Community College District Board of Trustees, hereby reaffirm our commitment to remove systemic barriers for Black and African American students by working collaboratively with our governing boards, the California Community College system, 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 as the San José-Evergreen Community College District Board of Trustees, we reaffirm our commitment to foster a culture in which all members of the Black and African American community (1) feel safe, respected, and valued; (2) are invited to participate fully and 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 of the San José-Evergreen Community College District Board of Trustees, as stated in the organization's values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the following recommendations be implemented to support Black students at California Community Colleges:



The recommendations developed by the California Community Colleges Black and African American Advisory Panel; and

Equitize funding across public postsecondary education for lower-division courses; and

Increase the Cal Grant to cover the Total Cost of Attendance; and

Update Cal Grant eligibility requirements to meet the needs of Black community college students (e.g., adult learners who attend part-time); and

Explore options to allow students to use the Cal Grant to attend out-of-state institutions; and

Reinvest in California Community Colleges Student Equity and Achievement Program; and

Allocate COVID-19 stimulus funding with a race-conscious perspective.

Presented on this 27th day of April 2021

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Byron D. Clift Breland

Byron D. Clift Breland (Apr 28, 2021 19:35 PDT)

Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland
Board Secretary

Maria Fuentes

Maria Fuentes (Apr 28, 2021 22:29 PDT)

Trustee, Maria Fuentes, MSW
Board President