

RESOLUTION

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 18, 2020, Page One

Affirming Our Unwavering Commitment to Student Success and Equity as We Respond to and Recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in California as a result of the threat of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a new virus which causes respiratory illness with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 has caused an unprecedented hardship for the residents of California due to loss of employment, increased food and housing insecurity, and an increased demand for health care which has exacerbated the already existing disparity in health care between wealth and poor residents, all of which have contributed to a greater risk of infection, acute illness and a higher mortality rate for the nation's vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the California community colleges represent and serve one of the most diverse populations in the world in terms of race, ethnicity, language, culture, national origin, socio-economic class, age, physical ability, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a destabilizing force that has resulted in a disproportionate impact on California's most vulnerable communities, which has contributed to a deterioration in the level of tolerance, civility and equity in our society, as evidenced by an increase in racially motivated attacks on people of Asian descent and higher mortality rates from COVID-19 illness among African Americans and Latinx persons, which are precipitated by historical inequities in access to preventative and emergency medical care, economic opportunity, social mobility and employment opportunities that allow some California residents to minimize their exposure and susceptibility to the virus; and

WHEREAS, the California community colleges' unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion requires that we advocate and use our collective voice to identify and eliminate those 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; now, therefore,



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May 18, 2020, Page Two

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the South Orange County Community College District, hereby reaffirm our commitment to remove barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion in our communities 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 resources to support our students in their academic programs through the provision of much needed resources in order to reduce the hardship imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the student basic needs resources provided by our college(s) may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Access to food pantries that include fresh vegetables, hydration, toiletry products including toilet paper, baby products and provisions for cleaning and sanitizing clothes and kitchen items;
- Emergency funds and money gift cards to cover necessities related to housing, transportation, medical care, cleaning and sanitation, food and educational expenses;
- Access to internet connectivity and hot spots to enable students to participate in online/remote learning;
- Access to computer equipment and software to enable students to participate in online learning;
- Access to academic counseling;
- Access to mental health counseling;
- Any other such resources and support that the college(s) may deem necessary to support student success and equity.

T.J. Prendergast III, President

Kathleen F. Burke, Chancellor

