



May 19, 2025

Board of Trustees Resolution

Recognizing May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month

Whereas, approximately one in five adults (22.8%) and one in six youth aged 6–17 (16.5%) in the United States experience mental illness or a mental health disorder in a given year, according to the National Institute of Mental Health; and

Whereas, mental health profoundly impacts an individual's emotional, social, academic, financial, and environmental well-being, with persistent disparities in access to care and outcomes among communities of color and other historically marginalized populations; and

Whereas, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10 to 34 in the United States, and emergency room visits for suspected suicide attempts among teenage girls increased by over 50% between 2019 and 2021, according to the CDC; and

Whereas, more than 160 million people in the U.S. live in areas with a shortage of mental health professionals, with rural and low-income communities being disproportionately affected; and

Whereas, the South Orange County Community College District remains committed to supporting the mental health and wellness of its students and employees through comprehensive services offered at the campus health centers at Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College, as well as through strong partnerships with community-based organizations to expand access to care and promote holistic well-being; now, therefore

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Be it resolved, that the South Orange County Community College District declares May as Mental Health Awareness Month in to highlight the critical role of the district and its colleges in providing crucial behavioral health services and resources to its students and employees; and

Be it further resolved, that the South Orange County Community College District continues its commitment to partner with our community members to ensure that all mental health services are accessible, valuable and culturally appropriate for all SOCCCD stakeholders

Carolyn Inmon, President

Ryan Dack, Vice President

T.J. Prendergast III, Clerk

Lisa A. Bartlett, Member

Timothy Jemal, Member

Marcia Milchiker, Member

Terri Rydell, EdD, Member

Blake Leonard, Student Member

Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, EdD, Chancellor