



January 20, 2026

# Board of Trustees Resolution

## *Recognizing and Honoring February as Black History Month*

*Whereas,* Black History Month is observed annually during the month of February to recognize, honor, and celebrate the significant contributions, achievements, resilience, and leadership of Black Americans throughout United States history; and

*Whereas,* the history and lived experiences of Black Americans are integral to the cultural, social, political, and economic fabric of the nation and have profoundly shaped higher education, civic engagement, civil rights, innovation, and community advancement; and

*Whereas,* community colleges play a critical role in advancing equity, access, inclusion, and educational opportunity, and in fostering environments that affirm the identities of all students, faculty, staff, and community members; and

*Whereas,* the South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) is committed to creating inclusive learning and working environments that honor diversity, promote cultural awareness, and support student success across Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, and districtwide operations; and

*Whereas,* the District's Inspire 2035 strategic plan emphasizes equity, inclusion, student success, and a sense of belonging as core priorities, and Black History Month aligns with and advances these commitments by celebrating the histories, contributions, and excellence of Black communities;

*Whereas,* Black History Month provides an opportunity for reflection, education, dialogue, and engagement that deepens understanding of the ongoing contributions and challenges of Black communities, while reinforcing the District's values of equity, justice, and belonging; now, therefore,

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*Be It Resolved,* that the Board of Trustees of the South Orange County Community College District hereby recognizes and honors Black History Month and affirms its commitment to celebrating Black history, culture, and excellence; and

*Be It Further Resolved,* that the Board encourages students, faculty, staff, and community members to participate in educational programs, events, and activities that promote awareness, reflection, and meaningful engagement during Black History Month and throughout the year; and

*Be It Finally Resolved,* that this recognition reflects SOCCCD's ongoing commitment to equity, inclusion, and the educational mission of empowering all students to thrive.

Carolyn Inmon, President

T.J. Prendergast III, Clerk

Timothy Jemat, Member

Terri Rydell, EdD, Member

Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, EdD, Chancellor

Ryan Dack, Vice President

Lisa A. Bartlett, Member

Marcia Milchiker, Member

Blake Leonard, Student Member