



October 26, 2026

Board of Trustees Resolution

Recognizing

November 2026 as National Native American Heritage Month

Whereas, November is nationally recognized as National Native American Heritage Month, providing an opportunity to honor the histories, cultures, traditions, resilience, and enduring contributions of Native American, Alaska Native, and Indigenous peoples; and

Whereas, the South Orange County Community College District respectfully acknowledges that our colleges and facilities are located on the ancestral homelands of the Acjachemen and Tongva peoples, whose relationships with these lands extend across generations and whose communities, cultures, and traditions continue today; and

Whereas, Native and Indigenous peoples have made significant and lasting contributions to the history and development of California and the United States, including contributions to education, government, military service, agriculture, environmental stewardship, science, medicine, arts, language, culture, and civic life; and

Whereas, Native American Heritage Month provides an important opportunity to deepen understanding of Indigenous histories and contemporary experiences, including the resilience of Native communities in the face of displacement, discrimination, and efforts to suppress Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions; and

Whereas, institutions of higher education have an important role in promoting greater understanding of Native American history and contemporary Indigenous communities through education, scholarship, dialogue, cultural engagement, and meaningful partnerships; and

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Whereas, the South Orange County Community College District recognizes the importance of creating educational environments in which Native American and Indigenous students, employees, and community members are respected, supported, and represented; and

Whereas, Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, ATEP, and District Services are committed to fostering opportunities for students and employees to learn about and celebrate the histories, perspectives, achievements, and living cultures of Native and Indigenous peoples; and

Whereas, recognizing National Native American Heritage Month reflects the District's broader commitment to educational excellence, equity, inclusion, cultural understanding, and preparing students to participate thoughtfully and respectfully in a diverse society; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the South Orange County Community College District hereby recognizes November 2026 as National Native American Heritage Month and honors the histories, cultures, achievements, resilience, and ongoing contributions of Native American and Indigenous peoples; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board encourages students, faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and members of the broader community to participate in educational programs, activities, and opportunities that increase awareness and understanding of Native American and Indigenous histories, cultures, and contemporary experiences; and

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Be It Finally Resolved, that the South Orange County Community College District reaffirms its commitment to fostering an educational community that respects Indigenous peoples, values diverse perspectives, promotes cultural understanding, and ensures that all students have opportunities to learn, belong, and thrive.

Adopted this 26th day of October 2026 by the Board of Trustees of the South Orange County Community College District.

Carolyn Inmon, President

T.J. Prendergast III, Clerk

Timothy Jemal, Member

Terri Rydell, EdD, Member

Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, EdD, Chancellor

Ryan Dack, Vice President

Lisa A. Bartlett, Member

Marcia Milchiker, Member

Eric Shin, Student Member