

RESOLUTION 19-29
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
MT. SAN ANTONIO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS FOR
BLACK AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the African American Student Success Virtual Town Hall was convened with over 1,000 California community college practitioners, policymakers, and national scholars to discuss financial aid reform, housing, food, technology and transportation insecurities, impacts of COVID-19 on African American students, and policy recommendations to support this student population; and

WHEREAS, April 27, 2020, through May 1, 2020, African American Success Week was held, with an average of 300 participants participating in daily webinars covering recommendations for Black student success, housing insecurity, COVID-19, and listening to Black and African American student voices; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd, a Black man in Minnesota, ~~died~~, was murdered face down, under the knee of a White police officer; and

WHEREAS, reactions to the unjust death of Mr. Floyd have varied, and the nation continues to witness the Black community pushed to the edge by systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges (CCC) 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, 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 equality, 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%) are enrolled in a California Community College, making the CCC system the primary source of higher education for members of this demographic groupⁱ.

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 commitmentsⁱⁱ; 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: \$12,018ⁱⁱⁱ.

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of Black high school graduates are not eligible to apply for admission to the CSU or UC systems^{iv}; 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. 48 percent of Black families earn less than \$48,678 per year compared to 36 percent for all California families^v; 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^{vi}; 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^{vii} 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 (CCC) transfer within two years; and only 35 percent of Black students transfer to a public university within six years^{viii}; 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 Mt. San Antonio Community College Board of Trustees hereby reaffirm our commitment to remove systemic barriers for Black and African American students by working collaboratively with our College constituent groups as well as local, state, and federal governments, and businesses and community-based organizations to provide race-conscious decision making in support of Mt. San Antonio College Black and African American students as they complete their academic programs and as Black and African American students transition to a four-year college or university, or employment; and be it further

RESOLVED that as the Mt. San Antonio Community College District Board of Trustees, we affirm our commitment to foster a culture in which all members of the Black and African American community, **faculty, staff, and students**, (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 Mt. San Antonio College; and be it further

RESOLVED that we support the following recommendations be implemented to support Black and African American students at Mt. San Antonio College:

- **Implement** ~~T~~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^{ix}; and
- Reinvest in California Community Colleges Student Equity and Achievement Program; and
- Allocate COVID-19 stimulus funding with a race-conscious perspective.

The foregoing resolution was considered, passed, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mt. San Antonio Community College District this 24th day of June 2020.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, William T. Scroggins, Secretary of the Governing Board of the Mt. San Antonio Community College District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board at a regularly called and conducted meeting held on said date.

William T. Scroggins
College President/CEO and Secretary, Governing Board
Mt. San Antonio Community College District

ⁱ Source: Campaign for College Opportunity “State of Higher Education for Black Californians” 2019 report.

ⁱⁱ Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office MIS Data Mart. Analysis based on AY 2018-2019.

ⁱⁱⁱ Source: Community College League of California 2020 Fast Facts.

^{iv} Source: Campaign for College Opportunity “State of Higher Education for Black Californians” 2019 report.

^v Source: US Census.

^{vi} Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office MIS Data Mart. Analysis based on AY 2018-2019.

^{vii} *Race-Conscious – recognizing the realities of race for people of color and the ways in which institutional racism shapes educational access, opportunity, and success in both historical and contemporary U.S. contexts.*

^{viii} Source: Campaign for College Opportunity “State of Higher Education for Black Californians” 2019 report.

^{ix} *The CCC has established transfer partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities that have a proven track record of success in educating Black students. However, there are no HBCUs in California and many of these institutions are incredibly expensive to attend, which makes it difficult for students who are already experiencing significant financial constraints.*