



RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, June is annually recognized throughout the nation as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, the annual Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/and Transgender Pride Celebration is one of the largest events in the country where lesbian, gay/ bisexual/ transgender/and queer people can come together to celebrate with their loved ones and allies the right of a people to meaningfully and proudly express their sexual and gender identities; 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, nationality, social-economic class, age, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender and religious beliefs; LGBTQIA+ is defined as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual communities. The “+” represents those who are part of the community, but for whom LGBTQIA does not accurately capture or reflect their identity; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District recognizes and celebrates our community’s diversity as one of its greatest strengths; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Ventura County Community College District is committed to respecting and affirming the inherent value of the District’s diverse community and amplifying the voices of those who have historically been silenced or who have felt ignored or invisible, including Moorpark College, Oxnard College and Ventura College students, faculty and employees and District employees who are LGBTQIA+; and

WHEREAS, California state law addresses discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying toward LGBTQ youth, there have been numerous studies indicating the inequities experienced by the LGBTQ community, including poverty, homelessness, school harassment, physical assault, domestic violence, hate crimes, mental health issues and substance abuse concerns; and

WHEREAS, the insidious and prejudicial discrimination to which LGBTQIA+ people have been subjected has frequently resulted in violence, particularly against trans and gender-diverse people, of whom at least 350—98% of whom were trans women or transfeminine people—were murdered worldwide between October 2019 and September 2020, with the United States ranking #3 in the total number of anti-trans homicides at 28, 79% of whom were people of color; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that people in our community, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, feel safe, empowered, valued and supported by their peers, educators and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is committed to providing a safe environment that supports learning and awareness as well as encourages all students and employees to pursue and achieve their goals; and


WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District is taking action to ensure that its LGBTQIA+ students and employees are equitably supported to attain academic, professional and personal success by providing Safe Zones and other student and employee training opportunities that seek to increase cultural competence and eliminate prejudice; supporting programs, courses and other efforts--such as flying the Pride Flag during June--that champion inclusivity and raise awareness about issues faced by the LGBTQIA+ community; including welcome messages to LGBTQIA+ students on the District and colleges' websites; and offering and promoting services and resources that support the well-being of the District's LGBTQIA+ community members; and

WHEREAS, despite the challenges they've faced, the LGBTQIA+ community has made innumerable contributions to all levels of society—as astronauts, athletes, civil rights activists, educators, medical practitioners, military leaders, playwrights, poets, politicians, scientists, and more—while remaining steadfast in their dedication to achieving a more just and inclusive society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees recognizes Pride Month as a momentous time to celebrate our dynamic and diverse LGBTQIA+ community and educate ourselves and others about the achievements and challenges of LGBTQIA+ people throughout history; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees, during LGBTQIA+ Pride Month and beyond, is fully committed to creating and encouraging a culture that values members of the LGBTQIA+ community and believes leading a Districtwide dialogue to understand and appreciate our community's diverse voices and perspectives that inspires equity and inclusivity, creates alliances and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous environment for all on our campuses and in our community is fundamental to our mission and in alignment with the Board of Trustees' Strategic Goals.

Adopted this 21st day of June, 2021.



Joshua Chancer, Board Chair



Stan Mantooth, Trustee




Gabriela Torres, Trustee



Dianne B. McKay, Vice Chair



Bernardo M. Perez, Trustee



Greg Gillespie, Ph.D., Chancellor