



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01
VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, on August 25, 1619, enslaved Africans from Ndongo and Kabasa of the Angola Region had been captured and kidnapped, and brought on a ship to Point Comfort, present day Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, ushering in a period of 246 years of bondage of humans; and

WHEREAS, in 1776, the Declaration of Independence recognized the United States of America as a new nation dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, in reference to the Declaration of Independence, stated, “Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal”; and

WHEREAS, the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, U.S. President Barack Obama stated in the 2011 Presidential Proclamation on National African American History Month that “Knowledge is our strongest tool against injustice, and it is our responsibility to empower every child in America with a world-class education from cradle to career;” and

WHEREAS, for over 36 million people of African-American descent, the designation and observation of February as Black History Month represents the nation's acknowledgment of the contributions, significance, and continuing role of African-Americans in shaping the culture and history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the history of the United States includes injustices, inequalities, and the denial of basic, fundamental human and civil rights to African American men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X (also known as El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz), Martin Luther King, Jr., and many other African Americans worked against racism to pave the way for future generations to succeed; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in all walks of life have made significant contributions throughout the history of the United States, including through the arts, music, literature, athletics, science, political representation, and the military; and

WHEREAS, central to the role and history of African-Americans is the acquisition of a thorough and meaningful education, which provides the tools to design, control and determine their own destiny, including economic, educational, and political; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is an opportunity for all Americans to commemorate the struggles and victories of African Americans in our history, their invaluable contributions to society, and their unyielding dedication to the overall protection and defense of our nation in matters of both war and peace; and

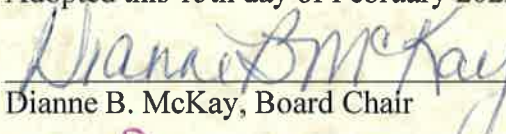
WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees recognizes that the shameful legacy of the intentional structuring of opportunity, implementation of policies and practices, and assignment of value, based solely on skin color and other physical characteristics, has created unfair disadvantages to African Americans and people of color that persist today; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees, in June 2020, passed a Resolution affirming its commitment to student success for African American Students, which cites the District's unwavering commitment to diversity and the need to eliminate barriers to equity and create a safe, inclusive environment, where individual and group differences are leveraged for our educational community's growth; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees, in April 2021, passed a Resolution affirming its commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which cites the importance of diversity and how it enriches the educational experience, fosters mutual respect and teamwork, strengthens communities, and prepares students to become responsible citizens in an increasingly complex, global society and how our educational community must work together to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of communities of color and create a more inclusive learning and working environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Ventura County Community College District hereby permanently recognizes and celebrates Black History Month and encourages its colleges and student organizations to promote historical and cultural awareness by featuring various programs, exhibits and other relevant activities and by participating in events sponsored by local communities.

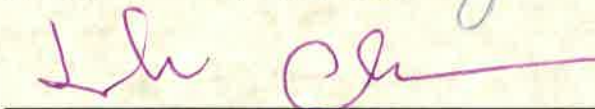
Adopted this 15th day of February 2022.



Dianne B. McKay, Board Chair



Stan Mantooth, Vice Chair




Joshua Chancer, Trustee



Bernardo M. Perez, Trustee



Gabriela Torres, Trustee



Greg Gillespie, Ph.D., Chancellor