

The Board of Trustees of Coast Community College District unanimously adopted the following resolution on June 17, 2020.

RESOLUTION # 20-45
A Resolution of the Board of Trustees
of Coast Community College District
to Condemn Racial Injustice and Commit to Action

WHEREAS, the Coast Community College District joins in shared anguish at the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Amhaud Arbery, affirming that their lives matter and condemning the brutal injustices that cut their lives short; and

WHEREAS, Floyd, Taylor, and Arbery are three among many Black lives lost to a system of racism, discrimination, and injustice that has marginalized and disenfranchised people of color throughout America's history; and

WHEREAS, people of color in this country are disproportionately deprived of adequate health care and economic opportunity, leading to even deeper losses in our minority communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting unemployment; and

WHEREAS, social justice is a collective responsibility requiring changes to existing policies and practices in order to further diversity, equity, and inclusion in our classrooms, offices, and throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, equity in educational opportunity requires substantive and meaningful inclusion of people of color, particularly embracing the diversity of voices among our students, faculty, staff, managers, and community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, community colleges are called upon to take the lead in breaking barriers that reinforce racial division and social injustice, so that students hear a multitude of voices discuss and debate critical issues of social justice; and

WHEREAS, our colleges are uniquely positioned to influence the preparation of those charged with public health, public safety, and social services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that this message of support and solidarity in and of itself is inadequate in addressing our community's sadness and anger, and that this expression must be followed by comprehensive, consistent, sustained, and focused action by the District and Colleges; be it

RESOLVED, that the Coast Community College District will engage in an ongoing program of equity advocacy designed to create a dialogue of compassion and understanding that brings to life the District vision for a community that is culturally engaged and globally aware embracing diverse perspectives rooted in a shared commitment to civil liberties and equitable access to education, healthcare, and other fundamental needs; and

RESOLVED, that the District recommits itself to support faculty, staff, and administration in unwavering pursuit of quality higher education that closes achievement gaps through bias-conscious changes in approach both within the classroom and within student support services; and

RESOLVED, that the District seeks to build upon and magnify best practices within our Colleges, including existing curriculum on anti-racism and ethnic studies as well as ensuring the continued leadership of the Criminal Justice Training Center in the areas of de-escalation, implicit bias, and impartial policing training for first responders; and

RESOLVED, that the Coast Community College District does hereby proclaim its solidarity with those who protest peacefully against injustice, racism, and hate.