

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**



**Resolution No. 20/21-05, In Support of California Proposition 16:
Repeal Proposition 209, Affirmative Action Amendment**

WHEREAS, Indigenous, Latinx, Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other people of color and women have historically faced racism and discrimination in the United States (U.S.), including the denial of equal opportunity in employment and equal access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government in the late 1960s established affirmative action policies to address discrimination and bias in hiring, government contracts, and access to higher education towards racial minorities and women; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996 amended the California Constitution by prohibiting the consideration of race, sex, and ethnicity in admission to public employment, public education, and public contracting; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 209 inhibited California state and local governments' ability to remedy the continuing effects of past discrimination through race-conscious programs, such as those designed to ensure access to higher education through the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 209 deterred the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California from implementing race-conscious policies, services, and interventions in programs that increase student achievement such as counseling, tutoring, outreach, and financial aid; and

WHEREAS, the effect of Proposition 209 was to reduce the percentages of underrepresented students admitted to public institutions of higher education in California, placing it in direct conflict with the goals of the California Community Colleges Vision for Success by making it more difficult to close equity gaps; and

WHEREAS, within the community colleges, 73 percent of students are students of color, immigrants, or both, yet the majority of college faculty and staff are white; and

WHEREAS, empirical studies have repeatedly indicated that diverse faculty have a positive impact on student educational outcomes and produce students who are better prepared for leadership, citizenship, and professional competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, for California community colleges, the enactment of Proposition 209 has made it challenging to reflect the diversity of the student body through the hiring of diverse faculty, staff, and administration; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of Proposition 209 would additionally enable the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California campuses to target enrollment and support efforts to address the higher education opportunity, transfer, and completion gaps faced by Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and API students; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 16 on the November ballot will repeal provisions of Proposition 209 to allow public institutions to consider race and gender with the goal of eliminating discrimination in state contracts, hiring and college admissions; and

WHEREAS, the North Orange County Community College District is unwavering in its support and promotion of programs, initiatives, and policies designed to demand equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and social justice on its campuses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees supports Proposition 16, which would repeal provisions of Proposition 209 and reinstate affirmative action which will permit students, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin, to access social and economic opportunities to achieve their highest potential; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chancellor to provide the Board's resolution to members of the State Legislature, statewide organizations, local community and business organizations and leaders, and others who can assist in securing passage of this amendment to the California constitution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the North Orange Community College District, this 13th day of October 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Stephen T. Blount, Barbara Dunsheath, Ed Lopez, and Jacqueline Rodarte

NOES: Ryan Bent and Jeffrey P. Brown

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None



Ryan Bent
Board President