

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



Resolution No. 20/21-21, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

WHEREAS, the education of historical events to students, individuals, and community members is important in the understanding of history, the growth and empowerment of future generations, and the prevention of atrocious acts against humanity; and

WHEREAS, every student and person, regardless of ethnicity or national origin, should be made aware of past and present genocides, atrocities, and hate crimes committed against any targeted individuals and groups of people; and

WHEREAS, over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children, from 1915 to 1923 were massacred, starved, and dehumanized during a genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire, Turkish paramilitary forces, and the Young Turks also known as the Committee of Union and Progress; and

WHEREAS, Christian Armenians lived under the Ottoman Empire in Eastern Anatolia as a minority group and as non-Muslim residents, were obligated to pay higher taxes, barred from participating in government, and stripped of their legal rights; and

WHEREAS, Armenian intellectuals with aspirations for representation in government, teachers and intellectuals, and the clergy were arrested and executed; and

WHEREAS, during World War I, the Ottoman Empire took action to carry out massacres with the intent to annihilate the Armenian population within Turkey and its surrounding regions to create a Pan-Turanist empire, for which the Committee of Union and Progress actively organized the forced “turkification” of its minority population; and

WHEREAS, the massacre began with the deportation of Armenians from their ancestral homeland where men, women, and children were sent on death marches into the Syrian Desert and concentration camps; and

WHEREAS, Armenian soldiers in the Ottoman Forces were worked to death in hard labor or executed, Armenian women were kidnapped, raped, murdered, and held captive under their capturers, children were sold into Turkish and Kurdish Muslim families, and placed into “Turkification” centers run by the government to eliminate the Armenian language, their ethnic heritage, and Christian religion; and

WHEREAS, for over a century and to this day, the Republic of Turkey officially denies the Armenian Genocide and the atrocities perpetrated against the innocent civilian population to exterminate Armenians; and

WHEREAS, the continued denial of the Armenian Genocide and the active elimination of the existence of Armenians in the region is a continuation of genocide; for which Armenians around the world and here in Orange County seek recognition and justice for the crimes perpetrated against them; and

WHEREAS, Armenians annually observe April 24th as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day to honor the victims of the genocide, to spread awareness, and prevent such crimes against humanity from repeating;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in observance of the national recognition of the Armenian Genocide, the North Orange County Community College District designates and observes April 24th of each year as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the North Orange Community College District, this 11th day of May 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Ryan Bent, Stephen T. Blount, Jeffrey P. Brown, Barbara Dunsheath, Ed Lopez, Jacqueline Rodarte, Evangelina Rosales, Student Trustee Ester Plavdjian, and Student Trustee Chloe Reyes

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None



Barbara Dunsheath
Board President