

**Resolution 2020-13 of the Board of Trustees of Foothill-De Anza
Community College District Denouncing Xenophobia and Anti-Asian
Sentiment Due to Fears of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Affirming the
District's Commitment to the Well-Being and Safety of Asian American
Communities**

WHEREAS, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District is committed to providing a safe environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, district board policy prohibits speech or expression used as a weapon to harass specific victims and directs the colleges to actively seek to educate staff and students on the deleterious effects of expressions of hatred or contempt based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation or gender identity and to promote equality and mutual respect and understanding among all groups and individuals; and

WHEREAS, Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center reports that 2,995,456 cases and more than 208,131 deaths have been confirmed worldwide since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 928,619 cases and 52,459 deaths in the United States as of April 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that COVID-19 does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes, discrimination, and aggression against Asian Americans are on the rise throughout the country as Asian Americans are being blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial one, and the characterization by some national leaders of COVID-19 as a "Chinese virus" only encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asian Americans at a time when communities should be working to get through this crisis; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Clara County, one of the first minority-majority counties in the nation, Asians have been the largest racial group since 2014, and currently, Asians make up nearly 38 percent of the county's population; and

WHEREAS, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American students, employees, and community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment; joins local districts, cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian Americans and in combating hate crimes targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and affirms its commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District this 4th day of May, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTION:

Judy C. Miner, Chancellor and Secretary to
the Board of Trustees