

SAN JOSÉ-EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT RESOLUTION No. 041420-5

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SAN JOSE – EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT ARISING DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING SJECCD'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Asian American communities are suffering acts of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions due to fears of COVID-I9; and

WHEREAS, since the December 2019 outbreak of the COVID-I9 virus in Wuhan, China, the infection has grown to more than 1.5 million confirmed cases and more than 90,000 confirmed deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, more than 430,000 cases have been reported in the United States as of April 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, some national leaders have used divisive and inflammatory rhetoric, referring at times to the COVID-I9 virus as the "Chinese virus," and "Kung-Flu"; and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing, tends to incite fear and xenophobia, and may put Asian Americans at risk of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that the COVID-I9 disease 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, as the COVID-I9 virus has spread, numerous Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents and, in some cases, hate violence; 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 San Jose – Evergreen Community College District Board of Trustees wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian

American community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of San Jose – Evergreen Community College District that:

San Jose – Evergreen Community College District denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment and does not support the rhetoric and racist remarks of some national leaders regarding the COVID-19 virus. The District joins 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.

Presented on this 14th day of April, 2020

Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland Board Secretary Wendy Ho Board President