

**STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION No. 2020.11**

**RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN
SENTIMENT ARISING DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
AND AFFIRMING SCCCD'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-19; and

WHEREAS, since the December 2019 outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Wuhan, China, the infection has grown to nearly three million confirmed cases worldwide; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, more than 983,457 cases have been reported in the United States as of April 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, some national leaders have used divisive and inflammatory rhetoric, referring at times to the COVID-19 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-19 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-19 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, State Center Community College District serves Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare Counties with a cumulative Asian population of 22 percent and 10.5 percent of its student population is Asian; and

WHEREAS, at State Center Community College District, Asian Americans make up 10 percent of our enrollment and 22 percent of the population in the four counties we serve; and

WHEREAS, the State Center 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 that the Board of Trustees of State Center 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 5th day of May 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes _____ Noes _____ Abstain _____ Absent _____

President or Clerk of the Board (Signature)

Printed Name