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LA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

(LOS ANGELES, CA) - The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution on December 7th, stating the District's commitment to offering a diverse, inclusive, and safe learning environment for all students. The resolution directed the Chancellor to protect student information from external agencies and called on local, state, and national leaders to support the success of all students pursuing their learning and life goals.

The Resolution was put forward by Board Vice President Sydney Kamlager, Trustee Mike Eng, and Trustee Ernest Moreno.

“All of our campuses should be considered refuges, that is, safe spaces where students are allowed to think, try, fail, learn and ultimately grow without fear of retribution or deportation,” said Board Vice President Sydney Kamlager. “This is the first of what I expect will be many actions the Board will take to protect and support our students while the federal government re-examines its approach to students with DACA status.”

“As an immigration lawyer and trustee, I pledge my commitment to join my colleagues and district administration in providing a safe learning environment for all students in our district regardless of immigration status,” said Trustee Eng.

“The board of trustees want to make certain that all students are in a safe environment and are secure from all threats and intrusions that would threaten their opportunity to pursue their educational goals,” said Trustee Moreno.

Students from several of LACCD’s nine colleges attended the December 7th board meeting in person to speak in favor of the resolution.

About the Los Angeles Community College District
The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is the largest community college district in the country, spanning 36 cities in Los Angeles County and serving nearly 250,000 students per year at its nine colleges. Drawing 80 percent of its enrollment from historically underserved populations, LACCD offers affordable and accredited higher education that empowers students to transfer to four-year institutions, earn associate’s degrees, and obtain training and job skills that open doors to lifelong opportunities.

Members of the Board
Scott J. Svonkin, President | Sydney Kamlager, Vice President | Mike Fong, Second Vice President | Mike Eng | Andra Hoffman | Ernest H. Moreno | Nancy Pearlman | Alexa Victoriano, Student Member

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ADOPT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALL Students

The following resolution is presented by Board Members Kamlager, Eng, and Moreno:

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is the "People's College" - in which students from every walk of life, every zip code, every language and every capability enroll.

WHEREAS, Approximately 250,000 students enroll at one of the LACCD's colleges every year, of whom 80 percent are people of color; and

WHEREAS, The LACCD Board of Trustees supports the District's nine colleges in upholding the values of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion as the core of their educational offerings; and

WHEREAS, In supporting the nine colleges, the Board of Trustees holds them as beacons of democracy for public discourse and free expression of opinion; and

WHEREAS, The AFT Faculty Guild and the District Academic Senate (DAS) of the LACCD hold the classroom as a safe haven where there is freedom of expression in thought, deed and action; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees supports both faculty groups in reaffirming their respective commitment, as representative bodies of the LACCD faculty, to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and safe learning environment for all students free from discrimination, bullying, harassment, and fear; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has encouraged the establishment of educational services and support Centers at LACCD colleges to serve the multitudes of people from different walks of life and communities; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees join the AFT Faculty Guild and DAS in encouraging faculty members to use the learning environment to show compassion and support for all students; now be it

RESOLVED That the Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor to work with the Office of General Counsel to provide timely and accurate information to faculty, staff and students on students' rights to privacy and the limitations on the information which can be provided to external agencies; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor and college presidents to continue to provide a safe work and learning environment by establishing appropriate procedures to maintain student privacy, providing open forums for public discourse, and ensuring counseling and support services as appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Board of Trustees calls upon local, state and national leaders representing the educational and civic, business and non-profit, and religious sectors to join us – both as a moral imperative and national necessity – to support the success of all students pursuing their learning and life goals.