

RANCHO SANTIAGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resolution 22-22 in Recognition of AAPI Heritage Month and Its Significance to RSCCD

Resolution No. 22-22

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Rancho Santiago Community College District recognizes the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States of America join together each May to pay tribute to the generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Orange County is inextricably tied to the story of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects; and

WHEREAS, the Asian-American population, according to the United States Census Bureau, grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging 55.5 percent between 2010 and 2020, and during that same time period, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population grew by 30.8 percent; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 22,000,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,600,000 residents of the United States who identify as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up nearly 7 percent of the total population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869 with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrations; and

WHEREAS, section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and

WHEREAS, 2022 marks several important historical commemorations for the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities, including—

- 1) the 140th anniversary of the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which banned the entry of Chinese immigrants to the United States for more than half a century and spurred a series of anti-immigrant policies targeting immigration from the Asia-Pacific region;
- 2) the 40th anniversary of the murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American man beaten to death in Michigan by two White men angered by layoffs in the auto industry;
- 3) the 30th anniversary of Public Law 102-450, which designated the month of May as “Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month”; and
- 4) the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions program, which was authorized under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007; and

WHEREAS, since March 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents related to the COVID–19 pandemic, and in that time period—

- (1) there has been a significant increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in the United States, including a 339 percent increase in 2021, and a 12 percent increase in 2020;
- (2) there has been an 1,800 percent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in Orange County from 2019 to 2020, according to the Orange County Human Relations Commission.
- (3) there have been over 11,000 hate incidents that have been reported since the start of the pandemic, according to Stop AAPI Hate, and countless others that have not been reported;
- (4) on March 16, 2021, 8 people were murdered, including 6 Asian women, at 3 separate Asian-owned businesses in the Atlanta, Georgia, region; and
- (5) 1 in 5 Asian Americans (21.2 percent) and Pacific Islanders (20.0 percent) reported experiencing a hate incident in 2021, according to Stop AAPI Hate; and

WHEREAS, discrimination targeting Asian Americans, especially in moments of crisis, is not a new phenomenon and has occurred throughout United States history, including—

- (1) the Page Act of 1875, which prohibited Chinese-American women from immigrating to the United States;
- (2) the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which was the first law to explicitly group an entire ethnic group from immigrating to the United States;
- (3) the signing of Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which authorized the relocation and incarceration of approximately 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II, the majority of whom were United States citizens;
- (4) the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982 by two White autoworkers who mistakenly believed that Chin was Japanese and blamed him for the loss of their jobs due to the rise of the Japanese automotive industry;
- (5) the Cleveland Elementary School shooting on January 17, 1989, when a gunman used an AK–47 to kill 5 children, 4 of whom were of Southeast Asian descent;
- (6) the rise in discrimination and violence against Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian Americans following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon;
- (7) the mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, on August 5, 2012, where a White supremacist fatally shot 6 people and wounded 4 others; and

WHEREAS, in response to the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes throughout the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress passed the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act ([Public Law 117–13](#)), which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on May 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the government of the United States and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

WHEREAS, legitimizing and embracing “Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month” provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, The Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees recognizes the [shameful legacy](#) of Santa Ana City Council in 1906 for utilizing leprosy as a [malicious justification](#) for setting Santa Ana’s Chinatown on fire; and

WHEREAS, The Chancellor and members of his Cabinet will continue to take formative steps toward eliminating systemic bias and institutional racism including directing the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to take proactive action in rooting out racism and to internalize anti-racist policies and practices at RSCCD; and

WHEREAS, not only during the month of May, but throughout the remainder of this year, it is important that Rancho Santiago Community College District seeks to understand how to thoughtfully and holistically address AAPI disparities in educational outcomes, degree and certificate completion, and diversity hiring in order to move towards greater equity in our educational system and the larger community; and

WHEREAS, Regional data shows that Asian Americans represent 18 percent of Orange County residents, and institutional data shows that only 8 percent of the Rancho Santiago Community College District student body is comprised of Asian American Students; and

WHEREAS, Regional data shows that only 24 percent of Pacific Islanders have earned a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 44 percent of County residents overall, and the RSCCD Board of Trustees recognizes that the District can and must do more to increase representation of Asian American student population; and

WHEREAS, celebrating "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month" provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Rancho Santiago Community College District continues to expand avenues to broaden the diversity of our employees and vendors by increasing recruiting networks for Faculty, Classified and Management roles with Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) and seeking a diverse pool of business vendors and community partners; and

RESOLVED, that through Santa Ana College's approved three-year Student Equity Plan, 2019-2022, built by college constituency groups with a focus on student access, equity, and success, the college established goals that by the end of 2022 it will increase the retention of Asian and Filipino students by 15 percent; and be it further

RESOLVED, that through Santiago Canyon College's approved three-year Student Equity Plan, 2019-2022, built by college constituency groups with a focus on student access, equity, and success, the college established goals that by the end of 2022 it will increase enrollment of Asian and Filipino students, and will increase completion and transfer of Asian and Filipino students to reduce equity gaps by 40 percent for each of these metrics; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rancho Santiago Community College Board of Trustees do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize and embrace the month of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and that the Chancellor distribute a copy of this resolution to both campuses to increase awareness about Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

Dated this 16th of May 2022.

Ayes: 7 Trustees: Arias Miller, Crockett, Hanna, Hernandez, Labrado, Tinajero, Yarbrough
Noes: 0 Trustees
Absent: 0 Trustees
Abstain: 0 Trustees



Marvin Martinez
Secretary, Board of Trustees