



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Compton Community College District Board Adopts Resolution Supporting Black Students

The Compton Community College District (CCCD) Board of Trustees adopted a [resolution](#) at its June 16, 2020 meeting affirming its commitment to student success for Black and African American students.

“The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and many others must not be ignored,” said Compton College President Keith Curry. “As an institution of higher learning, we have to stay committed to Compton College’s [mission statement](#). We are committed to enhancing the student success of our diverse community. We also must remain committed to our students by protecting, honoring, and maintaining the integrity of their lives. As a community college, we cannot operate in a vacuum and ignore what is happening in this nation, as many people are hurting.”

CCCD Board of Trustees President Sonia Lopez applauds the District for reaffirming its commitment to ensuring the success of Compton College students. “The events of the last few months, although disheartening, have brought to the forefront the reality our community has been experiencing for far too long. The lived experiences of our youth, particularly Black youth require our attention and furthermore, it is critical we take concrete steps to support and make resources available to overcome the systemic harms they face,” said Lopez. “In this historic moment, and for the foreseeable future, we embrace the need and opportunity to re-commit ourselves fully to the success of our students in their educational, career and civic endeavors. It is not sufficient to say Black Lives Matter, but we must actively seek opportunities to dismantle systemic oppression inside and out of our institution. We invite all to tell us who you are and what you care about, so that we can ‘Say Your Name!’”

The Compton Community College District resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the African American Student Success Virtual Townhall was convened with over 1,000 California community college practitioners, policymakers, and national scholars to discuss financial aid reform, housing, food, technology and transportation insecurities, impacts of COVID-19 on African American students, and policy recommendations to support this student population; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, through May 1, 2020, African American Success Week was held, with an average of 300 participants participating in daily webinars covering recommendations for black student success, housing insecurity, COVID-19, and listening to Black student voices; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd, a black man in Minnesota, died, face down, under the knee of a white police officer; and

WHEREAS, reactions to the unjust death of Mr. Floyd have varied, and the nation continues to witness the Black community pushed to the edge by systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges (CCC) represent and serve one of the most diverse populations in the world in terms of race, ethnicity, language, culture, nationality, socio-economic class, age, physical ability, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges' unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion requires that we advocate and employ our collective voice to identify and eliminate barriers to equity and that we act deliberately to create a safe and inclusive environment where individual and group differences are valued and leveraged for our growth and understanding as an educational community; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of California's Black undergraduates (72 percent) are enrolled in a California Community College, making the CCC system the primary source of higher education for members of this demographic group.

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority (77 percent) of Black students attend community college part-time (fewer than 12 units in a term) due to employment, family, and other commitments; and

WHEREAS, most Black community college students are adult learners who work full-time while attending college part-time, have family commitments/responsibilities, and struggle with basic needs insecurities. The students who need the most get the least financial support; and

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges receive the least amount of per-student funding in comparison to the state's other public educational sectors, University of California: \$33,569; California State University: \$18,445, California Community Colleges: \$8,306; K-12: \$12,018.

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of Black high school graduates are not eligible to apply for admission to the CSU or UC systems; and

WHEREAS, 35 percent of Black high school graduates completed the A-G course requirements compared to 52 percent of White high school graduates; and

WHEREAS, 27 percent of Black families live below the poverty line (less than \$24,399 per year) compared to 16 percent for all California families. 48 percent of Black families earn less than \$48,678 per year compared to 36 percent for all California families; and

WHEREAS, the ratio of Black students to tenured and tenure-track Black faculty is 81:1 in California Community Colleges, while the ratio for White students to White tenured and tenure-track faculty is 37:1; and

WHEREAS, practitioners and policymakers will utilize race-conscious perspectives in making decisions to improve the success of Black students; and

WHEREAS, a race-conscious perspective is defined as being conscious of how institutional racism shapes educational access, educational trauma, opportunity, lack of culturally relevant practices, and success in the U.S. for people of color, justice-impacted families, and other minoritized groups.

WHEREAS, 37 percent of Black community college students earn a degree, certificate, or transfer within six years; and only 3 percent of Black students in California Community Colleges transfer within two years; and only 35 percent of Black students transfer to a public university within six years; and

WHEREAS, the state of California and the California Community College system need to address structural inequities of Black student success by way of policy efforts and advocacy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, hereby reaffirm our commitment to remove systemic barriers for Black and African American students by working collaboratively with our governing boards, the California Community College system as well as local, state and federal governments, businesses and community-based organizations to provide race-conscious decision making in support of Black community college students as they complete their academic programs and as Black students transition to a four-year college or university, or employment; and be it further

RESOLVED that as the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, we affirm our commitment to foster a culture in which all members of the Black and African American community, (1) feel safe, respected and valued; (2) are invited to participate fully, share their unique gifts, talents, and backgrounds; (3) increasingly recognize the value of perspectives that differ from their own; and (4) understand that diversity and inclusion are key priorities of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, as stated in the organization's values; and be it further

RESOLVED that we support the following recommendations be implemented to support Black and African American Students at California Community Colleges:

- The recommendations developed by the California Community Colleges Black and African American Advisory Panel; and
- Equitize funding across public postsecondary education for lower-division courses; and
- Increase the Cal Grant to cover the Total Cost of Attendance; and
- Update Cal Grant eligibility requirements to meet the needs of Black community college students (e.g., adult learners who attend part-time); and
- Explore options to allow students to use the Cal Grant to attend out-of-state institutions; and
- Reinvest in California Community Colleges Student Equity and Achievement Program; and
- Allocate COVID-19 stimulus funding with a race-conscious perspective.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, the Resolution #06-16-2020A Affirming Our Commitment to Student Success for Black and African American Students was adopted and confirmed by the Governing Board of the Compton Community College District of Los Angeles County, on June 16, 2020.

“As I reflect on the events of the past couple of months, I am reminded that there is still much work to do for the realization of freedom,” said Curry. “This has been a long journey, and I want to emphasize that Compton College, as an institution, will remain committed to our student success and particularly Black student success. We also must remain committed to our students by protecting, honoring, and maintaining the integrity of their lives.”

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About the Compton Community College District

Board meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. The District is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.