

Resolution Affirming that Black Lives Matter and Confirming Our Commitment to Improving Academic Success Outcomes for Black and African American Students

(WCC Academic Senate Resolution 21-03)

WHEREAS, Woodland Community College (WCC) and the WCC Academic Senate embrace and are committed to fostering an equitable, inclusive, respectful, and supportive educational environment focused on student success for every student; and

WHEREAS, Woodland Community College recognizes Black Lives Matter as a social movement founded in response to the unjust killing of and systemic violence against Black and African American people, and the inequities in the US criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd, a Black man in Minnesota, was murdered as he lay handcuffed and face down by a white police officer pressing his knee upon Mr. Floyd's neck for nine minutes and 29 seconds; and

WHEREAS, the casual brutality of Mr. Floyd's murder shocked and angered tens of millions of Americans and people around the world, shining a glaring spotlight on the many other unjust killings of Black and African Americans and the struggles of Black and African Americans against racism in its myriad forms, including systemic inequities in law enforcement and justice systems, which led to sustained protests by tens of millions demanding meaningful change; and

WHEREAS, while the recent conviction in George Floyd's murder trial provides some measure of justice in this instance, it must not be considered a victory that indicates meaningful change has occurred, and the movement for meaningful change highlighted by the ongoing Black Lives Matter demonstrations must continue; and

WHEREAS, WCC serves a diverse student body, including Black and African American students, and a majority of our students are persons of color; and

WHEREAS, although WCC strives for an equitable, inclusive educational environment, we recognize, that despite our efforts, achievement gaps exist and barriers to success can detrimentally affect our Black and African American students, as well as all our other disadvantaged students who need and deserve a full and fair opportunity to graduate, transfer to a four-year institution, pursue a successful career, and make a positive difference in their lives, their communities, and in the world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The WCC Academic Senate condemns police brutality, supports meaningful change in the legal and justice systems, and affirms that Black Lives Matter; and

RESOLVED: That the WCC Academic Senate affirms its commitment to improving the educational success of our Black and African American students, as well as students from other historically disadvantaged or marginalized populations of our society; and

RESOLVED: That the WCC Academic Senate will work collaboratively with our students, faculty, staff, and administration, to remove barriers and use available resources (and secure new resources when possible) to improve the educational outcomes of the aforementioned students, move to eliminate equity gaps, and promote an environment where all students feel welcome, respected, and valued at WCC; and

RESOLVED: the WCC Academic Senate supports professional development that will increase cultural competence and eradicate discrimination, racism, and bias at WCC.

On behalf of the WCC Academic Senate,



Christopher Howerton, WCC Academic Senate President 2020-2022

Date: May 14, 2021