



LACCD STANDS WITH ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF IN WAKE OF ATLANTA SHOOTING

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees, Chancellor, College Presidents and executive staff stand in strong solidarity to denounce the racist acts of violence and killings that occurred this week targeting the Asian-Pacific Islander community of Atlanta, Georgia. District and College officials are reaching out to LACCD’s Asian-Pacific Islander faculty, staff and students with messages of support and are helping to provide town hall forums, vigils and other activities. All flags at all LACCD buildings have been lowered until March 22 in accordance with the [directive](#) from President Biden.

“We condemn racism. We condemn violence. We demand justice for the victims of these criminal acts. We also urge our federal and state leaders to pass enforceable legislation that will help free our society from the grips of mass shootings like what occurred this week in Atlanta,” LACCD Board President Steven F. Veres said.

LACCD Board Trustee Mike Fong, who co-chairs the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Student Affairs, said the shooting is a terrible reminder that racism and hatred of Asians and Pacific Islanders—indeed all people of color—is one of the most pressing issues facing society.

“Less than two weeks after the Board passed an important [resolution denouncing Anti-Asian and Pacific Islander violence](#) our nation finds itself face-to-face with the stark reality that hatred against the API community is terribly real and it must stop now,” Fong said. A full copy of the resolution is included below.

Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., said helping the LACCD API community heal and feel secure will be a main topic at the next advisory committee meeting. “We stand in complete solidarity with the LACCD API community and with the broader API community of this nation in the strongest possible condemnation of these senseless acts of violence and bigotry.”

The next meeting of the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Student Affairs is set for Thursday, March 25, 10-11:30 a.m. Meeting details are included on the attached announcement and [posted online](#).

The Presidents and their executive staffs at the District’s nine colleges have been reaching out to their local API communities to also re-assure faculty, staff and students that racism has no place at their colleges. Los Angeles Harbor College on Wednesday held a special online vigil in memory of the Atlanta shooting victims. Special town hall discussions are being planned at Los Angeles City College (LACC) and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College while messages of solidarity and empathy that denounce the shootings are being shared at the other District colleges. West Los Angeles College plans to hold a special meeting for its API community on Wednesday, March 24.

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation’s largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California’s diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, [@LACCD](https://www.facebook.com/LACCD), and on Twitter, [@laccd](https://twitter.com/laccd) and Instagram, [@laccd_edu](https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu).

Members of the Board

Steven F. Veres, President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D., Vice President | David Vela, Second Vice President
Mike Fong | Nichelle Henderson | Andra Hoffman | Ernest H. Moreno | Elias Geronimo, Student Trustee

Among the messages sent out by the District's nine college presidents, LACC President Mary Gallagher told her college "I am reeling with frustration, anger and sorrow over the senseless violent acts against the Asian/Pacific Islander community. I want all of our Asian/Pacific Islander brothers and sisters to know we stand up with you in solidarity against this violence and all forms of racism."

Los Angeles Pierce College President Alexis Montevirgen said in his message, "We must take responsibility to heal our communities by speaking out to injustices. We must raise awareness to the common grounds we all share by providing space to listen and share lived stories. More importantly, we must stand up against discrimination by claiming and living as an anti-racist institution. We say it proudly. We live it boldly. We are the key to social change.

East Los Angeles College President Alberto Roman said to his college, "Let us remember that there is no solidarity without a foundation of community support. There is no justice without care. I invite you to check in on our AAPI community and open your hearts to help heal the hurt. With unwavering commitment, I will continue to create a culture and climate where all staff and students at ELAC feel safe and honored."

The LACCD colleges include: [Los Angeles City College](#); [East Los Angeles College](#); [Los Angeles Harbor College](#); [Los Angeles Mission College](#); [Los Angeles Pierce College](#); [Los Angeles Southwest College](#); [Los Angeles Trade-Technical College](#); [Los Angeles Valley College](#) and [West Los Angeles College](#).

The following resolution was unanimously approved by the LACCD Board of Trustees at its March 3, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting. The resolution was presented by Trustee Fong, Board President Veres and Vice President Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D.

DENOUNCING ANTI-ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, Twenty-three (23) million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (API) account for 7 percent of the nation's population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Racism toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has always existed, such as the 19th-century scapegoating of APIs, also known as the "Yellow Peril"; and

WHEREAS, Racism against APIs has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, About 31 percent of Asian Americans report having been subject to discrimination since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Pew Research Center report; and

WHEREAS, The use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the "Chinese Virus", "Wuhan Virus", and "Kung-flu" have perpetuated anti-Asian stigma and violence; and

WHEREAS, Since January 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes, micro-aggressions and incidents of implicit bias against those of Asian descent, immigrants, and other vulnerable communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Recently, horrific and senseless attacks against elderly API individuals resulted in hospitalizations and death; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2021, three elderly Asian Americans were assaulted in the City of Oakland's Chinatown District, including a 91-year-old Asian man who sustained serious injuries, such as lacerations, abrasions, and a contusion, in what is deemed a hate crime; and

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2021, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee, a nearly-blind and gentle elderly Thai man, died from injuries resulting from an attack while he was walking in the City of San Francisco, in what is deemed as a hate crime; and

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WHEREAS, The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action launched a hate incident-reporting internet website, titled “Stop AAPI Hate,” at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in March of 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Stop AAPI Hate reporting center documented over 2,800 hate incidents against Asian Pacific Islander (API) Americans in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County is home to more Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders than Asian American populations in 42 states and more Asians live in the San Gabriel Valley than in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and currently, Asians and Asian-Pacific Islander (API) students make up nearly 9.8% percent of the student body at the Los Angeles College Community District (LACCD); and

WHEREAS, Racism, discrimination, violence, and oppression have no place at LACCD or in this country; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles College Community District vehemently denounces the violence against Asian American and Pacific Islanders and wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American and Pacific Islander community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles College Community District denounces hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, xenophobia, anti- Asian American and Pacific Islander sentiment, and hateful acts and violence against any ethnic group and works to ensure that APIs feel safe and welcome, both during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees encourages individuals to report API violence to organizations such as [Stop AAPI Hate](#) and [Stand Against Hatred](#) which provide places where those who have experienced anti-Asian bias or hate incidents can anonymously report their experiences; and be it further

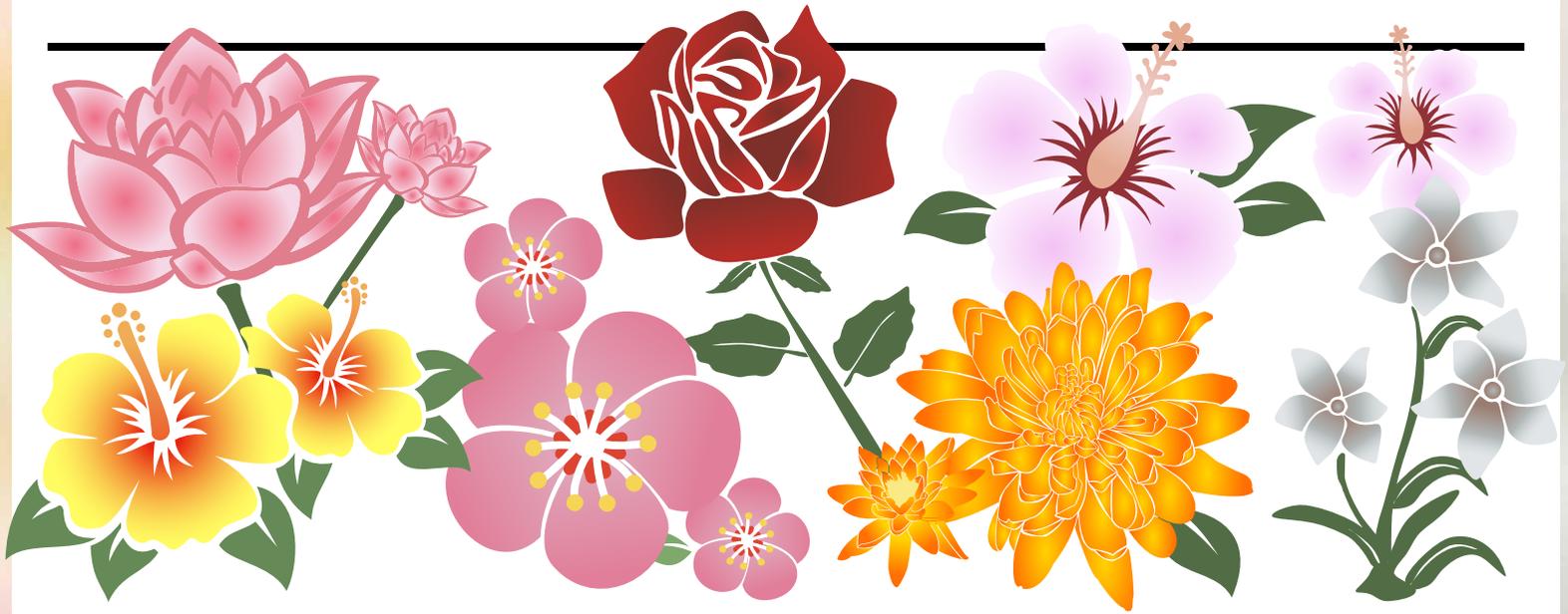
RESOLVED, The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees reaffirms that LACCD is a community that values diversity, equity and inclusion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees urges the Chancellor to transmit copies of this resolution to all nine campuses to increase awareness about LACCD’s intolerance toward Anti-Asian and Pacific Islander violence.

NOTICE FOR THE MARCH 25, 2021 MEETING OF THE CHANCELLOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENT AFFAIRS FOLLOWS.

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PLEASE JOIN US



Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Asian and Pacific Islander Student Affairs

**Thursday, March 25, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Virtual Meeting

URL: <https://laccd.zoom.us/j/92256610540>

Password: 762271

Call-In: (669) 900 6833

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LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST