



November 18, 2024

Board of Trustees Resolution

Proclaiming November 2024 National Native American Heritage Month

Whereas, from November 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month; and it is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States; and

Whereas, Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States; and the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that, in 2020, there were more than 6.79 million individuals of Native American descent in the United States. There are now more indigenous people in elected positions in the U.S. government than ever before; and

Whereas, the original inhabitants of Orange County and the surrounding areas are the Gabrieleño (or Gabrielino) Indians and the Juaneño Indians. The Gabrieleño were given this name by the Spanish, because they were named after the San Gabriel Mission, but they call themselves Tongva.

Whereas, the Tongva migrated into the Southern California region about 1,500 to 2,000 years ago. There were about 5,000 Native Americans that lived from the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to the shores of Laguna Beach, and as far inland as Temecula.

Whereas, Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community. They have made important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art; and

Whereas, Native American culture emphasizes harmony with nature, endurance of suffering, respect, and noninterference with others, a strong belief that man is inherently good and should be respected for his decisions; and

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Whereas, countless Native Americans have served in our Armed Forces. They were communication specialists – the American Indian Code Talkers – during World War I and II, sending coded messages in their native languages, indecipherable by opposing forces. Major Howard Connor of the 5th Marine Division stated that “were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima”; and

Whereas, Native American leaders like Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Chair Rose Mary Cambra, Winnebago and Chippewa attorney Colin Cloud Hampson, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Chair Valentin Lopez, and Indian Canyon Tribal Chair Ann Marie Sayers have sustained Native American culture and traditions and shared them with students, scholars, and the community; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, that the South Orange County Community College District recognizes the month of November 2024 as “National Native American Heritage Month” and urges all schools and the community to observe National Native American Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities to celebrate the rich history, culture, and traditions of America’s first citizens.

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