



WEST VALLEY-MISSION COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION NO. 24071601

ENDORSEMENT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 2093 (SANTIAGO) COMMUNITY COLLEGES: CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PROMISE: FEE WAIVER ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING FORMULA.

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 19, enacted in 2017, established the California College Promise, which enables California community colleges to waive enrollment fees for one academic year for first-time, full-time students; and,

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2, enacted in 2019, expanded the California College Promise by enabling community colleges to waive fees for two academic years for full-time students and expanded eligibility for students in the disabled student services program enrolled in fewer than 12 units; and,

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 123, enacted in 2022, expanded the eligibility for the Promise to full-time returning college students; and,

WHEREAS, although the Promise provides students with a tuition-free education at a community college, students are left with little or no financial support after they complete their associate degree; the Public Policy Institute of California found that bachelor's degree students graduate with an average of \$17,400 in debt; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Policy Institute also found that low-income students are less likely than their higher-income peers to enroll in and complete college; and,

WHEREAS, California's economy requires individuals with an advanced education, with current trends indicating that 38 percent of all jobs will depend on workers with a bachelor's degree in 2030; and,

WHEREAS, it is vital for California to provide resources to the most vulnerable student populations and expand the Promise to students seeking a community college bachelor's degree; and,

WHEREAS, the California College Promise Grant currently provides free tuition to an estimated 1 million community college students in the state, almost half of the 2.1 million students enrolled in California Community Colleges (CCC). To receive the grant, students must fall within the income standards; and,

WHEREAS, The California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Program began with a pilot program at 15 community colleges in 2014. In 2021, the program expanded indefinitely to include up to 30 baccalaureate degree programs in two application cycles per academic year; and,

WHEREAS, CCC currently offers 33 bachelor's degrees, with programs ranging from respiratory care, dental hygiene, and health information management to automotive technology, biomanufacturing, and mortuary science. All four-year degrees offered by CCC are exclusive to the system and are not available at California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) campuses; and,

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2093, introduced by Assemblymember Miguel Santiago, would provide free tuition to all full-time students pursuing a bachelor's degree at a community college, encouraging more students to enroll in higher education and helping them graduate with less debt while ensuring that California remains competitive in the global market; and,

WHEREAS, the West Valley-Mission Community College District is committed to providing equitable

educational opportunities and ensuring that financial barriers do not impede students from achieving their educational goals; and,

WHEREAS, the West Valley-Mission Community College District Promise Program has allowed thousands of students to attend its colleges tuition-free; and,

WHEREAS, the West Valley-Mission Community College District plans to offer a baccalaureate degree at Mission College in Emergency Services Administration and at West Valley College in Park Management, further expanding educational opportunities to meet the needs of the community and local workforce demands; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the West Valley-Mission Community College District strongly supports Assembly Bill 2093, as it aligns with our mission to provide high-quality, accessible, and affordable education to all students; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees urges the legislature to pass Assembly Bill 2093, recognizing the transformative impact it will have on the lives of countless students by extending the California College Promise program and enabling more students to achieve their educational and career goals without the burden of excessive debt; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chancellor to provide the Board's resolution to members of the legislature and partners in statewide community and business organizations to garner support for the passage of Assembly Bill 2093 and the advancement of the District's mission to provide accessible high-quality education.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, This 16th day of July, 2024, by the West Valley-Mission Community College District Board of Trustees.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Signed: _____

Anne Kepner, Board President, WVMCCD

Signed: _____

Bradley J. Davis, Chancellor, WVMCCD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Anne Kepner, President · Susan Fish · Adrienne Grey · Randi Kinman · Mary-Lynne Bernald · Robert Owens · Karl Watanabe
West Valley College, Saratoga · Mission College, Santa Clara