



SUPERINTENDENT / PRESIDENT
DR. DAVID VIAR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desireé Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford

January 14, 2021

Glendale Community College Community:

As you are so aware, on January 6, 2021, a mob of domestic terrorists stormed the United States Capitol building in an attempt to disrupt a joint session of Congress that was in the process of certifying the 2020 presidential election. The mob's violent attempt to overturn the will of a majority of American voters was incited by the sitting president of the United States and others who refused to accept the election results. This flagrant disregard for the rule of law is a direct assault on America's democratic principles and threatens to erode the democratic process.

As an institution of higher learning, Glendale Community College remains steadfast in its support of free and safe elections and is committed to an informed and educated citizenry which serves to challenge the dangerous influence of misinformation and deliberate attempts to undermine basic facts.

The Glendale Community College Board of Trustees is expected to approve the attached Resolution at its January 19, 2021 meeting.

As the nation moves forward, I know you join me in a commitment to our ongoing work together to create and uphold an anti-bias and anti-racist learning environment focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and access - a learning environment that promotes critical thinking, civic engagement, and the accomplishment of our mission, vision, and values.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Viar'.

David Viar
Superintendent/President

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO.16-2020-2021

STATEMENT CONDEMNING ATTACK ON DEMOCRACY

Whereas, community colleges are recognized as democracy's colleges in the 1947 Truman Commission report that stated, "Equal opportunity for all persons, to the maximum of their individual abilities and without regard to economic status, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or ancestry is a major goal of American democracy. Only an informed, thoughtful, tolerant people can develop and maintain a free society" and noted the threat to democracy world-wide required the U.S. to build a strong and lasting democracy, producing effective citizens, meant increasing the number of people who were educated beyond high school.

Whereas, over 1,000 public community colleges across the country now serve a diverse student population regardless of national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status; and

Whereas, community colleges are focused on student success through the powerful teaching framework of diversity, equity, inclusion and access; and,

Whereas, key learning outcomes of community colleges focus on democracy, the importance of the U.S. Constitution, and all Glendale Community College employees are to take an oath of loyalty to the U.S. Constitution; and,

Whereas, the peaceful transition of power is a foundation of our democratic system of government; and

Whereas, a group of domestic terrorists incited by the President of the United States and Congressional members not fulfilling their Constitutional duties to certify the results of the Electoral College, engaged in a violent invasion of the Capitol resulting in death and destruction; and

Whereas, it is essential Glendale Community College board, faculty, and staff join in unity to foster an equitable and inclusive environment free of racism, hate, and violence.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED, the Glendale Community College District Board of Trustees:

Condemns the elected leaders whose assertions about voter fraud in the Presidential election, made with no basis in evidence, have led to mistrust of our democratic processes; and,

Condemns the domestic terrorists whose violent and lawless invasion of the Capitol was a direct attack on the orderly and peaceful transition of power under the U. S. Constitution; and,

Commends Glendale Community College faculty and staff for their ongoing, focused work to educate our students about American institutions and providing opportunities to learn to think critically, obtaining and weighing evidence so as to make informed decisions; and,

Supports the work of GCC faculty to provide our students the support, encouragement, and guidance to develop and maintain their emotional well-being and intellectual honesty and integrity; and,

Commits to full and continuous support of faculty, staff, and students' diversity of thought and academic freedom, and protection of freedom of speech as an essential part of respectful academic discourse driven toward the college's mission, vision and values.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2021.

Yvette Vartanian Davis, President, Board of Trustees

David Viar, Superintendent/President