

# Resolution of the Madera Community College Academic Senate

## A Call to Action and Recommitment to the Principles of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression

Whereas the California Community College Chancellor's Office has called on community college professionals across the state to “improve outcomes” for all of the 2.1 million students who are part of our educational system;

Whereas 100% of our students at Madera Community College identify with one or more ethnic groups which represent not only a cross section of our state, but our nation and the world representing a plethora of languages, cultures, traditions and perspectives from across the globe;

Whereas the purpose of a college education is not only to give our students the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for the workforce and their future careers, but to quote Martin Luther King Jr., “Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education,” and in the words of David Hume to “soften and humanize the temper, and to cherish those fine emotions in which true honor and virtue exist”

Whereas colleges and districts across the country are implementing new policies reexamining the classroom environment and campus community including the changing of curriculum, the direction of professional development for faculty and staff, the dialogue surrounding the issues of freedom of expression and academic freedom for faculty, staff and students and the hiring practices for those individuals who will teach future generations of community college students; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Madera Community College Academic Senate calls for the following actions:

1. The reaffirmation of the principle of freedom of expression and to allow all points of view regarding faiths, philosophies, and persuasions which do not defame, intimidate, or incite others to violence to be openly discussed without fear of being censored or marginalized;
2. To foster and encourage an atmosphere of civil debate which allows unpopular ideas or opinions to be voiced while recognizing that bad ideas will be corrected not through censorship but by better arguments;
3. To actively dismantle and discourage the “cancel culture,” speech policing, and social media mob mentality that has overtaken so much of the discourse both inside and out of college communities and public life in general;
4. To recognize that the voicing of an unpopular opinion is not an act of violence, but an opportunity to discuss, debate, and engage in what Frederick Douglass called “the great moral renovator” of our society; and
5. To actively engage with our colleagues, students and our community in the promotion of these ideas and to provide an example of civility and civic virtue that will encourage a society which can be pluralistic and free where people can forge their own paths, honor their deepest

convictions, and live according to their consciences.