



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03
VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION HONORING DOLORES HUERTA

WHEREAS, Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico, the daughter of Juan and Alicia Fernandez; she is the foremost Mexican-American female labor leader, civil rights activist, and community organizer in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta attended the University of the Pacific's Delta College in Stockton, earning a provisional teaching credential; she went on to become a school teacher and grew aware of the need for economic justice through seeing her students attend school barefoot and hungry; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, Dolores Huerta discovered her vocation as a community organizer when she served as a leader in the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization, initiating voter registration drives, urging local governments to improve the living conditions where farmworkers resided, and founding the Agricultural Workers Association; and

WHEREAS, along with famed labor activist Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers of America in 1962, which had a pivotal role in the American Civil Rights movement by organizing field strikes, negotiating contracts, and leading consumer boycotts of agricultural products allowing farmworkers to form unions and bargain for better wages and safe and hygienic working conditions; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta changed the attitudes of farmworkers and the nation by enabling them to live by the La Causa motto "Si Se Puede" ("Yes You Can"), empowering all to fight for civil rights and strive for justice for all; and

WHEREAS, until 1999, Dolores Huerta served as a leader of this pioneering organization by enacting social change through peaceful tactics such as strikes and pilgrimages; her union's efforts inspired and influenced millions of Americans, forging a diverse national coalition of students, middle-class consumers, religious groups, and minorities in a hard-won struggle to achieve fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane living conditions, and, most importantly, dignity and respect for the hundreds of thousands of farmworkers across the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Dolores Huerta received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President Barack Obama, highlighting her tireless advocacy for civil rights, human rights, and social justice; and

WHEREAS, her namesake foundation, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, aims to "inspire and organize communities to build volunteer organizations empowered to pursue social justice;" the foundation focuses on education, health and safety, LGBTQIA+ rights, equality, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, during her virtual presentation at Oxnard and Ventura colleges' Diversity in Culture Festival 2022, Dolores Huerta urged the students, employees, and community members in attendance to participate in the

democratic process by registering to vote and gain an understanding of the political process through doing volunteer campaign work; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District and Moorpark College, Oxnard College, and Ventura College encourage civic engagement, meaning working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference and promoting the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political processes; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta is a role model for VCCCD students, employees, and the community for her staunch support of civic engagement, civil rights, and social justice; students enrolled in Ventura County's community colleges can learn from her actions how to enact positive change for the disenfranchised and marginalized in their communities and the greater world; and

WHEREAS, students and the community at large will benefit from having the opportunity to learn about Dolores Huerta, empowering everyone to fight for fair representation, voting rights, and equitable education; and

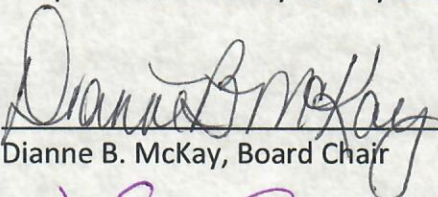
WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District and its colleges actively promote the idea of social justice, whereby everyone should have access to equal economic, political, and social rights, and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Ventura County Community College District and its colleges resolutely support undocumented students and provide services to this population, including access to immigration advocacy organizations, educational grants, and other resources; and

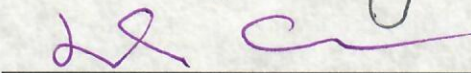
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees, hereby adopt this resolution to permanently honor and celebrate the life and legacy of venerable national civil rights and labor leader Dolores Huerta.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees encourages its colleges and student organizations to learn from Dolores Huerta's tireless dedication to improving people's lives and to conduct celebrations to honor her as a commanding force for civic engagement, social justice, and empowerment for all.

Adopted this 11th day of May 2022.



Dianne B. McKay, Board Chair




Joshua Chancer, Trustee



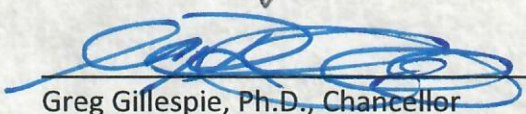
Gabriela Torres, Trustee



Stan Mantooth, Vice Chair



Bernardo M. Perez, Trustee



Greg Gillespie, Ph.D., Chancellor