

RESOLUTION OF THE COALITION OF ASIAN PACIFIC EMPLOYEES DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTIASIAN SENTIMENT ARISING DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING PACCD'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

The Coalition of Asian Pacific Employees (CAPE) at Pasadena City College was established to unite, empower and support Asian Pacific Islander (API) employees at the Pasadena Area City College District. We are employees, staff, faculty and former professionals affiliated with Pasadena City College with the goal of encouraging and advocating for issues that promote diversity and inclusivity at the College, with particular focus on our API community.

WHEREAS, CAPE condemns all hate crimes and discriminatory actions on the bases of race and ethnicity, as well as ability, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, and religion for the physical, mental, and emotional harm caused by these actions; and

WHEREAS, since the 2019 outbreak of the pandemic, the virus has affected millions and caused the untimely death of many around the world; and

WHEREAS, some have used this as an opportunity to unwelcome immigrants and Americans of different ethnic origins; and

WHEREAS, some have used divisive and inflammatory rhetoric, referring at times to the COVID-19 virus as the "Chinese virus," and "Kung-Flu"; and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing, tends to incite fear and xenophobia, and may put Asian Americans at risk of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that the COVID-19 disease does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 virus has spread, numerous Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents and, in some cases, hate violence; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel Valley is home to Asians of various ethnic origins, and currently, Asians make up 25 percent of the student body at Pasadena City College; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Asian Pacific Employees affirms its commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American community members and ensure that they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Coalition of Asian Pacific Employees that:

CAPE denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment-and all microaggressions and hate crimes. CAPE joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian Americans and in combating hate crimes targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. CAPE supports all allies who have joined us in the fight to end all xenophobia, hate crimes and anti-Asian sentiment. CAPE calls on all people to take a stand against hate.

***Presented on this 24 April 2020.***

*D Thongthiraj*

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Dr. Dootsdeemalachanok Thongthiraj  
CAPE President