
RESOLUTION #20-6-2
DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT ARISING
DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING
EDMONDS COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND
SAFETY OF ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific Islander communities are suffering acts of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions due to fears of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, since the December 2019 outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Wuhan, China, the infection has grown to nearly seven million confirmed cases worldwide; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, more than 1.8 million COVID-19 cases have been reported in the United States as of June 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, some national leaders 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, promote xenophobic discrimination and violence, and puts Asians/Pacific Islanders at risk of harm and 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 Asians/Pacific Islanders have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, harassment, and hate violence; and

WHEREAS, at Edmonds College, Asians/Pacific Islanders make up nearly 26% of our student population, 11% of our employee population, and almost 12% of the population of Snohomish County; and

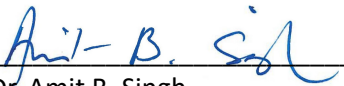
WHEREAS, the Edmonds College Board of Trustees wishes to affirm its commitment to stand up against discrimination and racism and intentionally create an environment that honors the well-being and safety of Asian/Pacific Islander students, employees, and community members to ensure they know they are not alone and that they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry and hatred;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Edmonds College denounces anti-Asian racism and xenophobia and does not condone the rhetoric and racist remarks and actions of some national leaders regarding the COVID-19 virus. Edmonds College joins fellow community colleges, cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian/Pacific Islanders and in combating harassment, discrimination and hate crimes targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders.


Emily Yim, Chair

Date Approved June 11, 2020

ATTEST:


Dr. Amit B. Singh