

VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



RESOLUTION NO. 2014-04

RESOLUTION – IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 850 – COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, many industries and professional agencies have increased requirements for job qualifications to the bachelor's degree level; and

WHEREAS, workforce demands in many fields are accompanied by extensive shortages of individuals who are educationally qualified for the available jobs; and

WHEREAS, California has identified the need for awarding over one million bachelor's degrees, especially in workforce fields, in order to strengthen the economy; and

WHEREAS, California's public universities lack the capacity for providing baccalaureate instruction in high-demand workforce fields; and

WHEREAS, students who are unable to be accommodated in California's public universities are compelled to enroll in high-cost, for-profit institutions; and

WHEREAS, California's community colleges are able to provide high-quality, affordable, and accessible programs at the baccalaureate level; and

WHEREAS, a Study Group appointed by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges was asked to review the various aspects of offering bachelor's degrees at community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Study Group included members from various constituencies from across the community college system as well as members from the California State University and the University of California systems; and

WHEREAS, the Study Group concluded that the concept of community colleges offering bachelor's degrees merits serious consideration; and

WHEREAS, 21 states in the nation have already authorized community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in selected workforce fields; and

WHEREAS, Moorpark College, Ventura College, and Oxnard College will offer the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program only if they have determined it best serves their students; and

WHEREAS, Ventura County Community College District shall seek authorization to offer baccalaureate degree programs through the appropriate accreditation body.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Ventura County Community College District hereby supports Senate Bill 850 (Marty Block), which would institute a pilot program allowing community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in selected workforce fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Ventura County Community College District hereby authorizes the Chancellor to provide the Board's resolution to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, State Chancellor, members for the legislature, community and business organizations and leaders, and others who can assist in implementing this important new direction in California higher education.

Adopted April 8, 2014:

Arturo D. Hernández, Chair

Dianne B. McKay, Vice Chair

Stephen P. Blum, Esq., Trustee

Larry Kennedy, Trustee

Bernardo M. Perez, Trustee

Jamillah Moore, Ed.D., Chancellor