

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 93-24/25**

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY
AND BOARD INDEPENDENCE**

WHEREAS, the landmark United States Supreme Court decision *Dartmouth College v. Woodward* (1819) established the foundational principle that the governance of institutions of higher education must remain free from undue political interference; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees recognizes that institutional autonomy and board independence are essential to safeguarding academic freedom, ensuring educational excellence, and upholding the Board's fiduciary responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, recent developments at the national and state levels have introduced growing threats to the independence of colleges and universities, including attempts to condition funding or impose governance mandates that undermine local control; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees unequivocally reaffirms its commitment to maintaining the independence of this institution's governance, and asserts that all decisions shall be made solely in the best interests of the District's educational mission, students, faculty, and public service -- free from external political influence; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

1. The Board of Trustees calls upon stakeholders, policymakers, higher education leaders, and the public to stand united in defending the autonomy of America's colleges and universities, which are vital to a strong democracy and a thriving economy; and
2. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Board Chair and Chancellor to publicly affirm this commitment and to actively advocate for policies that preserve institutional autonomy and protect the independent governance of community colleges;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees hereby reaffirms its strong and enduring commitment to institutional autonomy and board independence as a cornerstone of effective higher education governance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Trustees of the Riverside Community College District this 20th day of May 2025,



Jose Alcala, President, Board of Trustees
Riverside Community College District