

## **Board of Trustees Regular Meeting (IV.B)**

Meeting	February 17, 2026
Agenda Item	Other Items (IV.B)
Subject	Resolution No. 59-25/26 - In Memoriam of Edward J. Blakely, Ph.D.
College/District	District
Funding	N/A
Recommended Action	Recommend adopting Resolution No. 59-25/26 commemorating the remarkable life and legacy of Professor Edward J. Blakely, Ph.D., an esteemed urban planner, scholar, and advocate for social justice.

---

### **Background Narrative:**

Resolution No. 59-25/26 in Memoriam of Edward J. Blakely, Ph.D., honors his life and legacy as a renowned urban planner and social justice advocate, who passed away at 87. Dr. Blakely was an UC Riverside alumnus, his influential career included work in regional planning, urban policy, and disaster recovery, and he advised three U.S. Presidents. His legacy is celebrated through the university's naming of the Sustainable Suburban Development Center and the Edward Blakely Award.

The District recommends the Board of Trustees recognize Dr. Edward J. Blakely's significant contributions and extends condolences to his family.

Prepared By: Wolde-Ab Isaac, Chancellor

### **Attachment(s):**

[Resolution No. 59-25/26 In Memoriam of Edward J. Blakely, Ph.D.](#)

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 59-25/26**

**RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM  
Professor Edward J. Blakely, Ph.D.**

**WHEREAS**, Professor Edward J. Blakely, Ph.D., internationally recognized urban planner, scholar, and champion of social justice, passed away on September 6, 2025, at the age of 87; and

**WHEREAS**, a Southern California native and graduate of the University of California, Riverside, Dr. Blakely distinguished himself as a four-sport student-athlete, team captain, and later inductee into the UC Riverside Athletics Hall of Fame, exemplifying leadership, discipline, and service; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of California, Riverside honored his legacy by naming its Sustainable Suburban Development Center after him, recognizing his transformative work in regional planning and equitable development; and

**WHEREAS**, over the course of his distinguished career, Dr. Blakely authored seminal works on economic development, inequality, and urban policy, including *Fortress America*, and helped shape national and international conversations about poverty, suburbanization, and community resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, he served in leadership roles in academia and public service, including advisory positions to three United States presidential administrations, Vice Chairman of the Presidio Trust, and Executive Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration for New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, as well as advising communities recovering from disasters across the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Blakely was widely respected within the American Planning Association and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, where the Edward Blakely Award honors scholarship advancing social justice in planning, reflecting his lifelong commitment to expanding opportunity and removing barriers within the profession; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his life, Dr. Blakely championed access, equity, and the power of education to transform communities — values that align closely with the mission of the Riverside Community College District to advance student achievement, economic mobility, and community vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, his work reminds us that strong, inclusive communities are built through education, opportunity, and intentional public service — principles that guide RCCD in serving the diverse communities of the Inland Empire; and

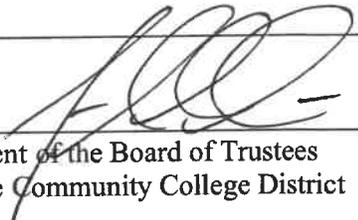
**WHEREAS**, he is survived by his wife, Maaike; daughters, Pieta (Evan) and Brette (Luke); granddaughters, Cobi and Jamie; brother, Warren; and many friends, colleagues, students, and protégés worldwide;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Riverside Community College District honors the life and legacy of Professor Edward J. Blakely, whose commitment to equity, resilience, and community advancement reflects the very ideals that RCCD seeks to instill in its students; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be entered into the official minutes of the Board of Trustees and that a copy be transmitted to his family as an expression of the District’s respect, gratitude, and deepest condolences.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 17th day of February 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS	<u>5</u>
NOES:	MEMBERS	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN:	MEMBERS	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	MEMBERS	<u>0</u>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Board of Trustees  
Riverside Community College District

ATTEST:

  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Riverside Community College District