RESOLUTION AFFIRMING RÍO HONDO COLLEGE’S COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS AND EQUITY IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in California in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all individuals living in California to stay at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of critical infrastructure sectors; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 has caused an unprecedented hardship for the residents of California—including families in the Río Hondo College District—due to loss of employment, heightened food and housing insecurity, and increased demand for health care; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a destabilizing force that has resulted in a disproportionate impact on the District’s most vulnerable communities, which are already suffering from historical inequities in access to preventative and emergency medical care, economic opportunity, social mobility and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Río Hondo College’s ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion requires the elimination of barriers to equity and the creation of a safe, inclusive environment where individual and group differences are valued and leveraged for growth and understanding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Río Hondo Board of Trustees hereby reaffirm a commitment to remove barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion by working collaboratively with the Chancellor’s Office, local, state and federal governments, businesses, community based organizations, non-profits, and faith communities to provide resources to support our students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the student basic needs resources provided by Río Hondo may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Access to food pantries that include fresh vegetables, hydration, toiletry products, baby products, and provisions for cleaning and sanitizing clothes and kitchen items;

- Emergency funds and gift cards to cover necessities related to housing, transportation, medical care, cleaning and sanitation, food, and educational expenses;

- Access to internet connectivity and hot spots to enable student participation in online/remote learning;

- Access to computer equipment and software to facilitate student participation in online/remote learning;
• Access to academic counseling and mental health counseling;

THIS RESOLUTION OF THE RÍO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS HEREBY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF MAY 2020 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES

NOES

ABSTAIN