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*VP of Public Relations*

## **AS STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH GROUPS FACING DISCRIMINATION**

Date Passed: April 19, 2021

Dear district and campus community,

Cypress College Associated Students stands in solidarity with the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIA) community and condemns any form of discrimination, harassment, racism, and violence aimed at any community. According to the nonprofit social organization Stop AAPI Hate, nearly 4,000 hate incidents against AAPI individuals have been nationally reported over the last 12 months. These vile, hateful offenses which have been brought to the forefront of public discourse are directly at odds with our institution's core values and continue to spotlight the critical need for change and justice in this country.

Just as we stand in solidarity with all groups experiencing targeted discrimination, we will not stand idly by and we must remain in the arena of progress. AS reaffirms our commitment to taking part in these difficult conversations, will continue to provide more virtual safe spaces for constructive discourse, and remains eager to help drive anti-racism initiatives throughout our campus communities. Last semester, AS formed the Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to elevate student-driven voices, provide resources, and spread awareness regarding these distressing issues. Through great persistence and a willingness to better understand each other, we believe positive change is not only achievable, but inevitable.

We must strive for a better society, and in order to do so, we must educate to better understand diverse perspectives and experiences, the contradictory discrimination embedded in our nation's history, and how to build a culture that truly and consistently upholds the principle of "liberty and justice for all." Furthermore, we must firmly denounce actions that subvert basic human decency. We are all human beings and must treat each other accordingly. We must demand dignity and respect for one another. If we do not, civilization will fail, but strong students will do everything in their power not to fail. With unity, we can join the waves of change that strive to fulfill the initial promise of this nation so that we can ALL be proud to call it home. After all, the great seals of this country bear the Latin motto *E pluribus unum* – "Out of many, one." Nearly two and a half centuries have passed since we adopted this phrase. It is about time we live up to it.

In solidarity,

Cypress College Associated Students