

From: Lupe Gallegos-Diaz
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:01 AM
To: [emails redacted]
Cc: Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AB2016 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC)

Hello Board members,

I am a lecturer Chicano/Latinos Studies and administrator at UC Berkeley, and I stand in solidarity with the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum draft as created by scholars of color from across the state.

UC Berkeley has become a better place since the American Cultures requirement equivalent to an Ethnic Studies requirement that was lead by Ronald Takaki the founder of Ethnic Studies Department at UC Berkeley. Our principles of community are grounded in understanding each other hxstories and learning how we are all part of the rich seeded hxstory diversity and inclusion of California.

We need more resources, curricula and support to better reflect our incredibly diverse student population in Oakland. Our Arab American, Pacific Islander and Central American student populations are significant and growing in OUSD, and they deserve to see themselves reflected in our classroom content. The staff and other students should also learn this history. Our hxstory textbooks are insufficient and continue to be far too Eurocentric, and sometimes offensive or minimizing to communities of color.

Ethnic/Pacific Islander/Arab American/Central American Studies is important to all of us across the state as we need to know and understand each others hxstories and experiences so that we live in a more respectful and inclusive society for all our students, their families and communities. AB2016 is also in line with California's rich hxstory and legacy of values of diversity and inclusion.

Please stand up to 50 years of attacks on Ethnic Studies, and stand with students and educators by voting YES on the ESMC resolution on May 27th!

Thank You,

Lupe Gallegos-Diaz
Director, Chicanx Latinx Student Development
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