

From: Andrew Paul Gutierrez

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To: Ethnic Studies; Cc: Linda Darling-Hammond; Superintendent

Subject: [EXTERNAL] CA Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Arab American studies must be included as part of Asian American studies. White nationalism, Islamophobia and xenophobia is on the rise, and it is more important than ever to teach students about diversity, tolerance and about the experience of Americans from the Levant and West Asia. Palestinian history and the Palestinian struggle for human rights is a critical component of this history, and while some may wish to suppress such discourse and call it anti-semitic, such is not the case -- it is a struggle for freedom by a people who have been under Israeli occupation since 1948. Palestinian existence is not antisemitic. Students need to know that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to all people -- there are no exceptions! The views of Arab American scholars and Ethnic Studies practitioners should be heard and collaborated with as you revise CA school curricula.

Kind regards,

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