



Social Justice Action Committee

Our Mission

With students as our focus, Porterville College provides our local and diverse communities with quality education that promotes intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and lifelong learning, while preparing students for career and academic success.

Social Justice Action Committee

The general charge of the Social Justice Committee is to examine past and present processes, procedures, and everyday interactions impacting students. Through this examination the committee is responsible for identifying and addressing current and historical injustices with the end goal of developing institutional culture.

Porterville College Social Justice Action Committee Proposal for Resolution

Subject: Recognition of Four Substantial Days

The California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), in accordance with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) directed colleges that they "may" close Cesar Chavez Day and Native American Day in 2016. This directive was followed by a memo from the Chancellor's Office in 2019 stating "if the district does not close for 'Cesar Chavez Day' or 'Native American Day,' appropriate observances should be held in commemoration." Although an option, closing their respective campuses was not mandated by CCCCCO or ASCCC.¹

Furthermore, LGBTQIA+ Pride Month and Transgender Day of Remembrance are also recognized statewide^{5,6} and nationally^{8,9} but lack acknowledgement within Porterville College and the Kern Community College District. Although campus groups have increasingly made an effort to commemorate these days², official acknowledgement by the college of these four days has not yet been realized in response to the directive from CCCCCO and ASCCC.

Whereas,

Four specific days noted by either the Federal Government^{7,8,9} or State of California^{3,4,5,6} that address racial, social, and cultural importance to address historical oppression, racism, discrimination, and classism. The District and the College have failed to observe and commemorate these important historical and justifiable days, while serving a diverse geographic, racial, ethnic, and cultural student body and public community. Additionally, the District and the College receive categorical funding and prominence as a Hispanic Serving Institutions. The District and the College also claim allyship with the LGBTQIA+ community, especially as it pertains to matters involving gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexuality, claims a role in the development of the Warren Court that presided over the Civil Rights Era, and espouses an ethos alignment with the CCCCCO and ASCCC's vision and District's own strategic plan.

Whereas,

Historical racial divides are propagated in Kern County, the birthplace of Cesar Chavez's movement and co-impetus for a global civil rights movement, the home to the Cesar Chavez



Social Justice Action Committee

National Monument, a scoured history of white supremacy in local bureaucracies, campus residencies on stolen land of numerous first nations including, but not limited to: Kawaiiasu, Western Shoshone, Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone, Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Foothill and Southern Valley Yokuts, Tubatalabal, Coso, Kitanemuk, Tule River Tribe; (native-land.ca)

Resolved,

That the Porterville College Social Justice Action Committee work within the college's Participatory Governance to create a college adoption and recognition of these important days. Furthermore, that the Porterville College Social Justice Action Committee work with Kern Community College District governance to develop a district-wide adoption and recognition of these important dates. The four dates in mention are:

- March 31: Cesar Chavez Day
- Last Friday in September: Native American Day
- November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance
- June: LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

The way in which these important dates are recognized at the college will be proposed by the Social Justice Action Committee, in collaboration with Participatory Governance, on-campus student groups, and college constituents.

As of 2022, campus groups in support of this resolution:

- Associated Students of Porterville College
- PC Native American Club
- WeComm PC
- PC Social Justice Committee
- PC Music Club
- PC Pride Club
- Cultural and Historical Awareness Program CHAP
- M.E.Ch.A

References

1. California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. (n.d.) *Attendance accounting and residency*. <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/College-Finance-and-Facilities-Planning/Fiscal-Standards-and-Accountability-Unit/Attendance-Accounting-and-Residency>
2. Porterville College Cultural & Historical Awareness Program. (2023). *CHAP Cesar Chavez event*. <https://www.portervillecollege.edu/chap-cesar-chavez-event>
3. State of California Executive Department. (2022, June 23). *Governor Newsom and LGBTQ caucus lift up California's fight for equality*. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/06/23/governor-newsom-and-lgbtq-caucus-lift-up-californias-fight-for-equality/>
4. State of California Executive Department. (2022, March 30). *Governor Newsom proclaims César Chávez Day 2022*. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/03/30/governor-newsom-proclaims-cesar-chavez-day-2022/>
5. State of California Executive Department. (2022, September 23). *Governor Newsom proclaims Native American Day 2022*. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/09/23/governor-newsom-proclaims-native-american-day-2022/>
6. State of California Executive Department. (2022, June 2). *Governor Newsom proclaims LGBTQ Pride Month*. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/06/02/governor-newsom-proclaims-lgbtq-pride-month/>
7. The White House. (2022, March 30). *A proclamation on César Chávez Day, 2022*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/03/30/a-proclamation-on-cesar-chavez-day-2022/>
8. The White House. (2022, May 31). *A proclamation on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Pride Month, 2022*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/05/31/a-proclamation-on-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-and-intersex-pride-month-2022/>
9. The White House. (2022, November 20). *Statement by President Joe Biden on Transgender Day of Remembrance*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/20/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-transgender-day-of-remembrance/>