



## **In Support of LGBTQ+ Students**

Whereas, The Academic Senate of Napa Valley College is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, §53200) and is primarily relied upon for standards and policies regarding student success; and,

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently proposed changing the legal definition of gender in federal programs, including in education and health care, to an immutable, biologically-based, male/female binary, determined at birth, a move which runs counter to existing policies, science, decisions and laws that recognize gender is a complex psychological construct not permanently defined by the presence of genitalia at birth; and,

Whereas, Such proposed actions would permit gender discrimination in various forms in colleges and universities that receive federal financial assistance, would exacerbate biases against an already heavily marginalized group of our students, and would negatively impact the achievement of our transgender students, who have expressed in both public and private, their anxieties, fears, and concerns for their physical safety and well-being; and,

Whereas community college students in our state are diverse individuals, whose differences not only benefit our free and open society but contribute to the very fabric of who we are as Americans;

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Napa Valley College reaffirms its commitment, as a representative body of the Napa Valley College faculty, to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and safe learning environment for all students free from discrimination, bullying, intimidation, harassment, and fear; and,

Resolved, The Academic Senate reaffirms the Napa Valley College faculty's commitment to upholding the College Mission Statement's pledge to "provide excellent educational and professional opportunities that are student-centered, equity-focused, and community-oriented" for all students who wish to pursue their educational goals at Napa Valley College; and

Resolved, the Academic Senate encourages the Board of Trustees and the College to continue support for the work of the PRIDE Learning Community through the use of financial, human and other resources to support creating a safe space for our LGBTQ+ community and their allies.