

## Academic Senate Resolution

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**Title: ASR-5-22 Honoring the Lifework and Contributions of César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta**

**Author/Committee: Vicenta Arrizon/Institutional Effectiveness**

**Senate 1st Read/Vote: 5/17/22 Yea: 49 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

**Senate 2nd Read/Vote: 5/31/22 Yea: 46 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

*Whereas*, César Estrada Chávez who was a farmworker, union leader, civil rights leader, crusader for economic and environmental justice led the political empowerment movement against low wages, working conditions, and unfair treatment of farmworkers; and

*Whereas*, Chávez's leadership through nonviolence and philosophy, "¡Sí, se puede!" or "Yes, it can be done!", influenced millions of students, consumers, and minorities to seek economic and social equality; and

*Whereas*, Chávez along with Dolores Huerta, who are among the most influential labor activists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, led the formation of the first successful farmworkers union through multicultural coalition-building with the Filipino farm labor movement to create the United Farm Workers union to advocate for workers' rights, civil rights, and fair treatment of workers with dignity and respect; and

*Whereas*, Chávez and Huerta led multiple farmworker strikes and boycotts of grapes and lettuce, which resulted in better wages and labor conditions for farmworkers, and also highlighted environmental issues including the use of pesticides that endangered the lives of farmworkers and consumers alike; and

*Whereas*, César E. Chávez was posthumously presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994, and Dolores Huerta was also honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, America's highest civilian honor; and

*Whereas*, California has established an official state holiday on March 31 to honor César E. Chávez;

*Whereas*, Santa Monica College is a Hispanic Serving Institution, that includes a vibrant Latino Center student services support program; and a scholarship in honor of César E. Chávez to celebrate his legacy by recognizing student scholars; and

*Whereas*, the Santa Monica College Academic Senate acknowledge ethnic and gender bias, and also chooses to commemorate the legacy of Dolores Huerta along with César Chávez, two icons of the Latinx community; therefore

*Be It Resolved*, that the Santa Monica College Academic Senate requests the Santa Monica Community College District honor César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta for their transformative social justice work by declaring March 31<sup>st</sup> an official district holiday; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, that the Santa Monica College Academic Senate urges faculty and community members to provide opportunities for instruction on the life and contributions of César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta and the history of the farm labor movement in the United States.