



**SAN JOSÉ-EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION No. 101320-10
LATINX EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION
“CARMEN CASTELLANO DAY”
LIFE AND LEGACY OF A LATINA CHAMPION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

WHEREAS, Carmen Nancy Castellano worked at San Jose City College from 1966 to 2002 and was known as a devoted mother, activist, philanthropist, leader and role model and remembered by her colleagues for her friendship and enduring achievements; and

WHEREAS, Carmen was born in Watsonville, California, the daughter of Ramon Ramirez of Jamay, Mexico and Lucille Ramirez of Bakersfield, California; and had a love of the arts as a young girl engaging in piano, ballet, tap, baton twirling and acrobatics as she grew up in her family home filled with her mother’s favorite music; and

WHEREAS, Carmen attended Notre Dame High School in Watsonville, graduated from Heald Business College, began her career at Cabrillo College and then came to SJCC she where she worked as Faculty Senate Secretary, Secretary to the VP of Student Services and Executive Secretary to four Presidents; and

WHEREAS, Carmen’s family came first and SJCC was her second family providing a platform to enable her to become a mentor, educator, and a leader to students and, at SJCC, Education was her number one priority where she opened the way for students, faculty, and classified staff to attain their goals; and

Whereas, Carmen was a strong leader at SJCC, who is remembered as a mentor, advisor, founding member and President of the Latino Education Association, an advocacy group for Latino students and staff and where she was also a founding member of the Affirmative Action Committee helping to develop the first SJECCD Affirmative Action policies and where she was relentless in her desire to have SJCC mirror the diverse community that it serves; and

WHEREAS, as driving force in establishing the Latino Education Association which represented her extended family, Carmen advocated for the hiring of more Latina/o administrators, faculty and classified staff, and worked to develop a scholarship program enabling many Latinx students to achieve their educational goals; and

WHEREAS Carmen served as President of the Classified Council and considered the classified staff the backbone of the college and was proud to champion their causes and to be their voice as a driving force for justice, equality and education at SJCC; and

WHEREAS, Carmen was honored on September 6, 2012 by the SJCC community and the SJECCD Board of Trustees with the dedication of the Carmen Castellano Fine Arts Center; and
WHEREAS, Carmen saw this as a tribute not only to her, but to the unsung heroes who came before her; and

WHEREAS, Carmen was married to her life-partner Alcario "Al" Castellano for 57 years during which time they dedicated themselves to the education and development of their three children Maria, Carmela and Armando as they proudly witnessed their children's and grandchildren's many educational and professional achievements along with remaining engaged in and were known for their varied community volunteerism and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Carmen and Alacario, after winning the California Lottery in 2001, established the Castellano Family Foundation (CFF) dedicated to Latino family values, the Latino community, and leaders of color through its support of local organizations that advance education, arts, culture, leadership development, diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, with Carmen's approach of developing relationships and providing core funding while requiring that boards of directors reflect the community they serve, the CFF over the first 19 years supported over 200 organizations granting over \$6.5 million with her children continuing the powerful impact of their family foundation; and

WHEREAS, Carmen as a leader of one of the few Latino family foundations was relentless and impactful in advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion encouraging people of color to speak up for their community and call out the inequities caused by racism, sexism xenophobia and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Carmen's innate love for the arts has left an indelible mark on the SJCC campus through her acts of generosity producing many talented students in the arts for the benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, Carmen and Al traveled the world, lived comfortably and were generous with their children, family, and community, and continued serving on the boards of directors of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, Latino Community Foundation, Los Lupeños de San Jose, and Chicana Latina Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Carmen was a role model and mentor to students at SJCC, fellow philanthropists, foundation CEOs, elected officials, and other community leaders, had a far-reaching influence, was greatly loved by her large extended family and was always very generous with her love, time and attention, making people feel comfortable with her as someone they could confide in, trust and count on; and

WHEREAS, Carmen lived an exemplary life grounded in strong values, a big heart guiding her and where she saw a need, she wanted to help as much as she could as she inspired others through her generosity, dedication and fighting spirit; and

WHEREAS, Since her start in 1966, SJCC is a place where Carmen's vital impact endures; and
Whereas, Carmen passed away on July 18 having courageously endured 30 years of kidney disease surrounded by the strength and love of life and family that helped carry her through to the end;

Therefore, be it resolved that, henceforth, September 6th of each year will be declared and celebrated as “Carmen Castellano Day” in the SJECCD in remembrance of Carmen as a model of lasting love, generosity, faith and advocacy which continues to enrich SJCC and all that she touched throughout her life. On this day each year, our community will be encouraged to celebrate with Art’s programming that demonstrates our collective commitment to Arts education.

Presented on this 13th day of October 2020

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Byron D. Clift Breland

Byron D. Clift Breland (Oct 14, 2020 19:34 PDT)

Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland
Board Secretary

Wendy Ho

Wendy Ho
Board President