

Statement of Solidarity with our Transgender Students and Colleagues
DVC's Pride Alliance with ASDVC and the Academic Senate and Classified Senate
April 2021

This year, even as President Biden moves to overturn some of the heinous institutional attacks of the previous administration on rights for transgender and LGBTQ+ people and takes steps to acknowledge transgender rights, at least 28 states have introduced—and in some cases passed—anti-trans legislation. Bills and laws such as those in Arkansas, Texas, Idaho, and South Carolina attempt to limit trans teens' access to timely gender-affirming healthcare, allow doctors to refuse to treat trans patients, and bar trans women and girls from participating in sports competitions consistent with their gender identity. DVC's Pride Alliance unequivocally condemns these—and all—transphobic aggressions.

We, along with the Academic and Classified Senates and ASDVC, stand in solidarity with all our transgender students and colleagues, as well as with trans people in our broader community and across the nation. We stand for a campus and a country where people of all gender identities—transgender, intersex, non-binary, gender non-conforming, and cisgender—and all gender expressions are safe, supported, and welcome. We categorically reject any attempts to harm, invalidate, erase, and oppress transgender people.

As the White House noted in a statement last week, transgender people face discrimination “in employment, housing, health care, and public accommodations.” Nearly one in three trans Americans have experienced homelessness in their lifetimes, and many have limited access to health care, exacerbated by COVID-19. Meanwhile, violence against transgender people, especially trans women of color, remains disproportionately high, and depression plagues the community. Transgender students, for example, [face depression and consider suicide at at least four times the rate of their cisgender peers](#). All of these struggles are heightened for transgender people who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, transgender migrants and asylum seekers, and transgender people with disabilities.

In light of these very real challenges, the trans community needs support and allyship, but instead, many state legislatures are writing bills, which their constituents are not asking for, that codify oppression into law. Even when such legislation is passed quietly, without fiery or hateful rhetoric, the effect is devastating: laws like those just passed in Arkansas restrict the rights of trans people to exist in the world fully, safely, and with dignity. And even when such legislation is not signed into law, its very introduction sends the message across the country that transgender people are undeserving of basic rights, and gives permission to discriminate against—and do violence to—trans people.

We commit ourselves to participating in creating a world in which transgender people are free from discrimination, violence, and oppression, including the additional harm caused by racism, misogyny, and ableism. As was affirmed in DVC's Statement of Solidarity with the AAPI community in March 2021, now is the time for deep, unrelenting, and principled inter-community solidarity. We call on our community to:

- Acknowledge and denounce this escalating climate of transphobia.

- Stand against transphobic legislation and policy everywhere.
- Recognize the intersecting struggles of all oppressed communities.
- Center and affirm the experiences of our transgender community members.
- Interrupt transphobia wherever we see it, on our own campus and in our own communities.

When groups are singled out for hateful treatment—whether at our college or across the country—we at DVC declare our support for those who are harmed. In that support, we demonstrate our values and reveal our core principles. We must always remember that the liberation of any one oppressed community is essential to the liberation of all oppressed communities. Trans rights are human rights.