RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DISCONTINUANCE OF FEDERAL MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION (MSI) PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) serves a richly diverse student body- 50.8% Latinx, 24.9% Caucasian, 9.1% Asian and Pacific Islander, 4.0% African American, 0.3% Native American, and 6.2% who identify with multiple ethnicities, with more than half of students being the first in their families to earn a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, CSUSM is proudly designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), reflecting our institutional commitment to equity, inclusion, student success, and serving the educational needs of historically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard (2023) majority opinion noted that colleges may still consider such factors as socioeconomic diversity, first-generation status, and geographic origin to foster a diverse student body; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education has announced plans to end funding for Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) programs, including HSI programs, under the false premise that such programs are unconstitutional, despite longstanding congressional authorization and demonstrated importance and positive impact; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 creates a foundation for equitable access to federally funded education, requiring institutions to actively expand opportunity for minorities; and HSI funding represents a fulfillment, not an exception, of these civil rights guarantees; and

WHEREAS, HSIs across the nation educate more than two-thirds of all Hispanic undergraduates, strengthen America's workforce, and provide opportunities for millions of first-generation and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, CSUSM has proudly earned the Seal of Excelencia for its intentional alignment of leadership, data, and practice to accelerate Latinx and Hispanic student success, increasing all student success, and affirming our institutional commitment to meaningful access, retention, and completion for historically underserved students; and

WHEREAS, recent federal actions have redirected funding away from HSIs under a misinterpretation of the legal and moral foundations of these programs, threatening

institutions like CSUSM that rely on these funds to build pathways of opportunity and student success; and

WHEREAS, eliminating HSI funding would undermine CSUSM's ability to continue building pathways of opportunity, developing innovative student success programs, and advancing the university's longstanding commitment to equity for all learners; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty of the CSU Academic Senate affirm that HSIs and other MSIs contribute to a stronger and more just system of higher education and reject narratives that pit communities against one another; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty of the CSU Academic Senate emphasize the need to expand, rather than redistribute, support for institutions serving historically marginalized students, ensuring that all communities benefit from equitable investment and opportunity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate of California State University San Marcos (CSUSM):

1. Vehemently opposes and condemns the U.S. Department of Education's decision to end funding for MSI programs and urges immediate Congressional action to protect these essential initiatives; and

2. Absolutely affirms and steadfastly upholds CSUSM's identity and mission as an HSI and recognizes that such a designation represents not only a federal status but also a moral and institutional obligation to advance educational equity, opportunity, and access for all students; and

3. Staunchly supports and stands in full solidarity with the efforts of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and Latino Justice (PRLDEF) to intervene in litigation and defend the constitutionality and necessity of HSI programs; and

4. Expressly urges the CSU Board of Trustees, the CSU Chancellor, and the State of California to vigorously defend the constitutionality and enduring necessity of HSI designation and funding; and

5. Directs that this resolution be distributed to the following:

Governor of the State of California
California State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Attorney General of California

California Latino Legislative Caucus
CSU Board of Trustees
CSU Chancellor
CSU Campus Presidents
CSU Campus Senate Chairs
CSUSM President
CSUSM Senate Executive Committee
California Faculty Association
California State Student Association
Representative Scott H. Peters (San Marcos)
Representative Darrell Issa (Temecula)
Senator Alex Padilla (CA)
Congressman Mike Levin (CA-49)

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education
California Senate Standing Committee on Education

RATIONALE: California State University, San Marcos is proudly recognized as a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI), a designation that reflects our enduring mission to advance equity, inclusion, student success, and social mobility. MSIs educate over two-thirds of minority undergraduates and provide opportunities for millions of first-generation and low-income students. This funding supports ongoing economic growth, innovation, and strengthens America's workforce. The U.S. Department of Education's decision to terminate MSI funding has already resulted in the loss of a $1.8 million HSI grant at CSUSM and places additional grants at risk, directly threatening programs that provide essential support. The abrupt disruption of these resources undermines the stability of student success initiatives, diminishes our capacity to serve Latinx and first-generation students, and compromises the long-term pathways of access and opportunity that define our mission. Protecting these programs is essential not only to CSUSM's mission, but to every leader who recognizes that equitable access to education is a foundational driver of social and economic justice.