

**PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Item 3

Support for the Federal Pell Grant Program  
RESOLUTION 10/11-18

WHEREAS, Community colleges educate and train nearly half of all undergraduates in America, and more than 40 percent of those undergraduates are the first in their families to attend college; and,

WHEREAS, the Peralta Community College District provides a wide range of courses in academic and vocational education to more than 42,000 students at its four colleges: Merritt, Laney, College of Alameda and Berkeley City College; and,

WHEREAS, the Peralta Community College District serves a diverse student population and provides financial aid to assist students who have the ability to benefit from the post-secondary education opportunities that its colleges provide but who have limited resources and need funding to support completion of their education goals; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post baccalaureate students to promote access to post secondary education; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Pell Grant Program is by far the largest source of financial aid for community college students, many of whom would be unable to afford college without it and an essential resource for students to stay in school and complete their degrees; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to the Pell Grant Program currently under consideration by the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives in the Fiscal Year 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill would be harmful to the students of the Peralta Community College District; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed changes would have a severe and negative impact on community college students, such as limiting eligibility to only students that attend at least half-time, eliminating grants for students whose award size is determined to be less than ten percent of the minimum grant award, and limiting duration of Pell grant awards to 12 semesters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Peralta Community College District urges the U.S. Congress to reject the proposed changes to the Federal Pell Grant Program and to maintain the current Pell Grant Eligibility rules to ensure that the program can continue to help millions of Americans receive the critical financial aid they need to enroll in and complete college.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a unanimous vote of the Governing Board, unless the meeting minutes reflect otherwise, on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011.

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Wise Allen, Chancellor  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT