

Resolution of the De Anza College Academic Senate
To Support "The Democracy Commitment"
February 14, 2011

Whereas, "The Democracy Commitment" is a national initiative to provide a necessary platform for the "development and expansion of programs and projects aimed at engaging community college students in civic learning and democratic practice" (*The Democracy Commitment: An American Community College Initiative*, p. 2);

Whereas, "The Democratic Commitment" rightly asks of community colleges

- support for both curricular and extra-curricular programs that build civic skills among students, especially projects that support students in doing public work
- faculty and staff development in civic engagement, partnerships with local civic, non-profit and governmental agencies whose primary work is the social and economic development of local communities
- partnership in an annual meeting of faculty, staff, and administrators and partners
- development of joint regional and national programs with partner universities and national higher education associations (p. 2-3);

Whereas, Over 100 community college presidents and chancellors will likely sign the Commitment (p. 3);

Whereas, "The Democracy Commitment" encourages and supports the development of the civic capacity of our students and their communities (p. 3);

Whereas, De Anza College is committed to fostering its mission, which includes "challenging students of every background to develop their intellect, character and abilities; to realize their goals; and to be socially responsible leaders in their communities, the nation and the world" (Mission Statement, <http://www.deanza.edu/about/mission.html>);

Whereas, One of De Anza College's four Institutional Initiatives is Community and Civic Engagement, supported by the Institute of Community and Civic Engagement (ICCE) established in Fall 2006 (Educational Master Plan (EMP), 2010-2015, p. 11; <http://www.deanza.edu/emp/>);

Whereas, "[F]ocusing on community and civic engagement means De Anza endeavors to empower students to be agents of change in the social, economic and political realities of their lives, their communities and beyond, and to help students reach their potential as active participants in the civic, political, social and economic lives of their communities and the broader world, as well as benefit from the received wisdom and assets of those communities" (EMP, p. 11-12);

Resolved, That the De Anza Academic Senate support "The Democracy Commitment" and its advocacy by the De Anza Academic Senate Officers at the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Spring 2011 Plenary Session.