Resolution in Support of the DREAM Act

WHEREAS, the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act was introduced in 2003 and re-introduced last year in the U.S. Congress;

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act would permit certain immigrant students who have grown up in the United States to apply for temporary legal status and eventually obtain permanent status and become eligible for citizenship if they attend college or serve in the United States military;

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act would eliminate a federal provision that penalizes states that provide in-state tuition without regard to immigration status;

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act would have a life-changing impact on students who qualify, dramatically increasing their future earnings and human capital while significantly reducing criminal justice and social services costs to taxpayers;

WHEREAS, the Dream Act recognizes that students who have graduated from a state high school should be able to pay in-state fees at public universities and colleges;

WHEREAS, California is one of ten states that provides in-state college and university fees to be paid by students who have been educated in a California high school for three years, graduated from a California school and met college admission standards;

WHEREAS, the Ohlone Community College Board of Trustees recognizes that the investment made in these students’ college education will be repaid through a stronger economy;

WHEREAS, denying these hard-working students the opportunity to enter the American work force sends all immigrant students a contradictory message about the importance of graduating from high school and results in a waste of human potential and of an investment the states have already made into their K-12 and college educations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohlone Community College District Board of Trustees feels that it is important for this district to continue encouraging students, regardless of immigration status, to strive to gain a higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohlone Community College District Board of Trustees encourages all California and U.S. Senators and Representatives to fully support legislation to enact the federal Dream Act in the coming legislative session.

Adopted by the Ohlone Community College District

Date: December 13, 2006