

**Ohlone Community College District  
Resolution No. 16/08-09  
Deaf History Month**

WHEREAS, Approximately one in ten Americans is either born deaf or has acquired some forms of hearing loss due to accident, illness, noise, heredity, or aging; and

WHEREAS, Although the term “deaf community” implies uniformity, it actually consists of diverse individuals with varying communication modes and backgrounds, both deaf and hearing, who share common characteristics of hearing loss and/or deaf culture; and

WHEREAS, The deaf community has been long unrecognized and misunderstood by most Americans; and

WHEREAS, The month of March 13 – April 15 contains these important dates in American History:

- March 13: The victory of the Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University located in Washington, D.C. when the first deaf person was selected to become president of this 124-year-old institution in 1988;
- April 8: Charter signed in 1864 by the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, authorizing the Board of Directors of the Columbia Institution (now Gallaudet University) to grant college degrees to deaf students;
- April 15: Establishment in 1817 of the first permanent school for deaf students in the Western Hemisphere, now known as the American School for the Deaf, located in Hartford, Connecticut;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohlone College Board of Trustees hereby honors and recognizes March 13 – April 15 as Deaf History Month, and calls upon public officials, educators, and the Ohlone Community College District to celebrate with programs and activities to highlight and honor the many contributions of the deaf community to American Society.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

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Gari Browning, Ph.D., President/Superintendent  
Ohlone Community College District  
County of Alameda, State of California

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Bill McMillin, Chair, Board of Trustees  
Ohlone Community College District  
County of Alameda, State of California