



## **Associated Student Senate of Fullerton College Resolution**

### **Resolution in Support of Recommended Actions from Geography Department and OIRE Report Titled “Environmentally Disadvantaged: Understanding Fullerton College Students' Geographies Of Access To Fresh Foods, Green Spaces, And Clean Environments”**

**Author: Kennedy DeVries and Sheree Brewster**

#### **Date passed:**

**Whereas**, the Fullerton College Geography Department and Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE) released a report entitled “Environmentally Disadvantaged: Understanding Fullerton College Students' Geographies of Access To Fresh Foods, Green Spaces, and Clean Environments.” This report was part of an anti-racism research project conducted from Fall 2020 - Spring 2022 that “map[ped] student populations in relation to state and nationally defined geographies of environmental disadvantage” [1]. This was in order to determine populations of students that have low access to “fresh foods, green spaces, and clean environments” [1].

**Whereas**, the conclusions of “Environmentally Disadvantaged” specifies that not only were thousands of Fullerton College students found to be environmentally disadvantaged, but certain populations—such as Black, Latinx, and first-generation students—were disproportionately affected to the point of being among the most affected groups.

**Whereas**, the research team specifies Fullerton College’s role in these inequalities by explaining that “educational institutions are uniquely positioned to help bridge geographies of disadvantage with an institutional design that carves equitable sustainability in physical structures, operations, and planning” [1]. The report argues that Fullerton College has the capacity and obligation to aid students disadvantaged and unequally affected by geography and the areas in which they reside.

**Whereas**, the Geography Department and OIRE formed recommendations to implement small changes that may diminish the effects of the environmental disadvantages on student populations. These recommendations are made to be enacted by Fullerton College, promoting the assertion that educational institutions can and should endeavor to help students to persevere through geographical inequities.

**Whereas,** the first recommendation made is regarding the creation of a mobile compatible interactive map with which students can navigate physical spaces on the Fullerton College campus, as well as find Fullerton College student services. This map would also include information on the hours and purpose of marked resources, and it may also be used as an “educational tool...[to] help students locate culturally/ecologically important trees or art” [1]. Students currently use any PDF map of Fullerton College they can find online to locate areas on campus, or they use the faded maps located by buildings. Both of these commonly used navigation tools lack any indicators of information apart from numbers and building titles, thus omitting information about where one may find the Academic Support Center, Transfer Center, Veterans Resource Center, etc.

**Whereas,** the second recommendation made is regarding maps for students of public transportation and bike routes to Fullerton College. According to the report, students in disadvantaged communities would benefit from “explicit and mobile compatible maps with bus and bike routes to campus and associated travel times” [1]. These maps can also have the capacity to promote the OCTA Bus Pass program, ensuring students know that they can get to campus for free through the bus system.

**Whereas,** the third recommendation made is regarding “geographically targeted ‘care mail’” [1]. Many students do not apply for financial aid because they believe they do not qualify, not because they are ignorant of the program’s existence. As a result, the report concludes that students would benefit from “care mail packages” to students in disadvantaged areas that notify them of their eligibility for financial aid, as well as campus support.

**Whereas,** the fourth recommendation made is regarding green spaces on the Fullerton College Campus. These spaces would provide students from disadvantaged communities a “refuge from extreme heat,” while also serving as a botanical educational opportunity and a way to increase student time spent in green spaces [1].

**Therefore, be it resolved,** The Associated Students encourage Fullerton College to create and implement of a mobile compatible interactive map of the Fullerton College campus, as recommended by this report. We believe this tool is integral to students having equitable access to campus resources and programs.

**Resolved,** the Associated Students also hope that Fullerton College will stand behind the creation and implementation of a new map for public transportation and bike routes to Fullerton College, as this program will also ensure equitable access for students to the campus and the resources that it has. We also feel this program will effectively promote the OCTA Bus Pass Program, ensuring that those who need information regarding “free rides” will actually receive it.

**Resolved,** The Associated Students of Fullerton College support the implementation of a program to distribute “geographically targeted ‘care mail.’” We agree that the creation of such a

service would not only give Fullerton College a way to connect with geographically disadvantaged students, but also share with them programs and services from which they could benefit. At a college that offers many courses online, it has become increasingly difficult to reach students and notify them of the aid, services, and organizations in which they can participate. This small action would have a significant positive impact with the Fullerton College students who may need it the most.

**Resolved,** The Associated Students of Fullerton College stand behind this report's assertion that Fullerton College needs more green spaces in which students can work, study, and take breaks from stressors. We feel the addition of shaded areas on campus would greatly benefit all students. Additionally, in a time when sitting indoors with other still makes some uncomfortable, the ability for students to study and work outside would be greatly beneficial.

**Finally, resolved,** The Associated Students of Fullerton College endorses all recommendations made by the Geography Department and OIRE's report, "Environmentally Disadvantaged." We encourage the college to take direct action in implementing mobile compatible interactive maps; maps that review transportation routes to and from Fullerton College; geographically-targeted "care mail"; and more green spaces across the campus. We firmly believe these changes would not only aid in the success of all students, but also help to alleviate some stressors and inequities facing geographically disadvantaged students.

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[1] "Environmentally Disadvantaged" Report from OIRE and the Geography Department:  
<https://bit.ly/37FOU09>