

**CSU, Chico Associated Students Resolution in Support of Juneteenth as an AS-Wide Recognized Holiday**  
**September 16th, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth broadly commemorates the end of slavery, legally, in the United States. It is a moment of liberation, and a reminder of the journey towards freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring "slaves within any State, or designated part of a State...in rebellion,...shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, nonetheless, in the Southwest, those enslaved were unaware of their freedom as they did not officially learn of their emancipation until June 19, 1865<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, a majority of Presidents were either racist, displayed racist attitudes, and tolerated or enacted racist policies<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, at least nine Presidents either bought or hired enslaved individuals<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX and declared profound news of slavery coming to an end: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the Connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, As of 2018, "45 States and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a 'special day of observance' in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States"<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3679](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3679)



3 <https://apnews.com/b0fe304f1fad44e19e5ff4490ad1110c>

4 <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/slavery-in-the-presidents-neighborhood-faq#:~:text=A%3A%20According%20to%20surviving%20documentation,Polk%2C%20and%20Zachary%20Taylor>

5 [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3679](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3679)

6 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-resolution/547/text>

**WHEREAS**, even though recognized by these states and districts as a “special day of observance”, “Juneteenth marks our country’s second independence day. Although it has long been celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.”<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, scholars<sup>8</sup> and activists<sup>9</sup> from the Black community including Opal Lee and Karlos Hill have already been engaged in the effort to make Juneteenth a state-recognized holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the erratic, state-sponsored, unjustified murders of Black people, including but not limited to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Stephon Clark; a resurgence of activism has introduced Juneteenth to the wider community; and<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Black Student Activist Marc Anthony Thompson was brutally killed, his body found in his burned-out car in a remote area about 28 miles northeast of Oroville. For years, CSU, Chico students have been seeking justice for Thompson and other peers who have experienced persecution and abuse due to their race.

**WHEREAS**, Twenty-three Associated Students’ have created statements regarding the importance of representing Black students and promote the implementation of antiracist actions by campus ASIs and student leaders; which includes implementing Juneteenth as a paid holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past year, the states of Texas, Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania recognize Juneteenth as a paid holiday<sup>11</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past year, Harvard University, Georgetown University, Columbia University, the University of Virginia, Towson University, Drake University, Loyola Marymount University have recently all recognized Juneteenth<sup>12</sup>; and



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7 <https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

8 <https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/6/19/17476482/juneteenth-holiday-emancipation-african-american-celebration-history>

9 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/style/opal-lee-juneteenth.html>

10 <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/20/us/juneteenth-official-holiday-nation/index.html>

11 <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/nation-world/juneteenth-us-states-official-holidays/507-aa8e98a6-8e01-4f39-b3b5-632d3bf8c83b>

12 <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/20/us/juneteenth-official-holiday-nation/index.htm>

**WHEREAS**, in June of 2020, bills to recognize Juneteenth as a paid holiday on the federal level were introduced in the United States House of Representatives<sup>13</sup> and Senate<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the state of California, and by extension, the CSU, currently does not celebrate Juneteenth as an official paid holiday<sup>15</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, acknowledging Juneteenth as a holiday CSU, Chico Associated Students ensures that the history of the Black Community is recognized and shared to sustain our advancement as a unified people; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday CSU, Chico Associated Students commemorates the history of the Black Community in the U.S. and honors the legacy of their ancestors and descendants; and

**WHEREAS**, acknowledging Juneteenth in the CSU, Chico Associated Students upholds Black History, Black Heritage, Black Culture, Black Freedom, and Black Lives Matter; and be it

**RESOLVED**, CSU, Chico Associated Students will revise their holiday schedule through the CSU, Chico Associated Students Board of Directors to make Juneteenth a recognized holiday; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, CSU, Chico Associated Students will revise their holiday schedule to make Juneteenth a paid holiday; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, CSU, Chico Associated Students will continue to recognize and support the efforts of Black activists and scholars on our campus who have spent their time and careers educating the public about Juneteenth and pushing for its status as an official holiday; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, CSU, Chico Associated Students hope this step can embolden campus to also make Juneteenth a recognized and paid holiday campus wide; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be distributed to our campus administration, faculty, staff, students, and student leaders at the California State Student Association to promote our actions and lead to the above resolve clause to occur on our campus and other Associated Students across the CSU system.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7232/text?r=1&s=1>



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14 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4019/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22juneteenth%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=1>

15 <https://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/pages/state-holidays.aspx>