

## **Academic Freedom Philosophy Statement Draft—Workgroup—November 26, 2018**

The Contra Costa Community College District values academic freedom, the freedom of faculty and students to pursue knowledge without constraint and to explore the life of the mind and express observations in an open, responsible, and respectful academic environment. Only in such a free environment can imagination thrive and intellectual skills develop.

Institutions of higher learning exist to seek the truth and to serve the common good, not to further the interests of either the individual or the college as a whole. Academic freedom must be guarded as a basic right of all citizens in a free society. The freedom to think, to read, to speak, and to question is necessary to the development of an informed citizenry.

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### **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Academic freedom in teaching is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student in learning. Academic freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom, in all its forms, carries with it both rights and responsibilities.

1. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter that has no relation to their subject.
2. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of those results.
3. College teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak, write, or post on social media as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others,

and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

4. Membership in the academic community imposes on faculty, students, and administrators an obligation to respect the dignity of others, to acknowledge their rights to express differing opinions, and to foster and defend intellectual honesty and expression on and off campus.