1.0 **Board Intent**

1.1 It is the intent of the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees to implement fully an equal opportunity program that adheres to the equal employment opportunity policies of the Los Rios Community College District and the guidelines of the Board of Governors of California Community Colleges, and complies fully with the acts of Congress, the laws of the State of California, and the rules, regulations, and guidelines pertaining thereto.

1.2 The Board of Trustees has the overall responsibility for insuring equal opportunity and equal employment opportunity in recruitment, assignment, promotion, retention, compensation, and staff development, and for improving the representation of underrepresented groups in all areas where unlawful discrimination, harassment, or exclusion has been shown. The Board of Trustees may delegate this responsibility to the Chancellor.

1.3 All employees involved in the implementation of equal opportunity programs shall assume responsibilities and duties as outlined in the Administrative Regulations.

1.4 The District and its Colleges in their human resource practices guarantee that staff members, applicants, and persons involved in employment relations with the District shall not be unlawfully discriminated against, harassed, or excluded from any benefits, activities, or programs on the grounds of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics, or due to the association with a person or group with one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics: ethnic group identification, race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy or childbirth-related condition, sexual orientation, sexual identity, religion or religious creed, age (over forty), national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, political affiliation or belief, military and veteran status, or marital status. Sexual harassment is a form of unlawful discrimination based on sex and is prohibited in the District/College programs and activities under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C., sections 1681 and following (Title IX). The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District’s Title IX Officers and Equity Officers can be located here. It is the responsibility of the Chancellor and the College to take remedial action in the event of unlawful discrimination, harassment of, and/or exclusion from full participation. Procedures are to be established for due process for all parties in the adjudication of accusations of discrimination or exclusion (see R-9111). It is the goal of this District to:

1.4.1 Provide members of underrepresented groups with models of their own race, ethnic, and cultural background and gender with whom they can identify and whom they can recognize as examples of occupational achievement at all levels and in all departments.

1.4.2 Guarantee to all candidates the same opportunity for employment,
advancement and change of assignment.

1.5 Where evidence of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or exclusion based on any of the statuses enumerated in this District Policy is found:

1.5.1 the District shall take appropriate steps to halt any unlawful discrimination, harassment, or exclusion and prevent its recurrence; and

1.5.2 the District shall take appropriate steps to remedy the effects of any unlawful discrimination, harassment, or exclusion.

1.6 It is the intent of this District Policy to direct the staff of this District to take action whenever and wherever an assessment of conditions indicates that underrepresented groups or persons with disabilities have been unlawfully discriminated against, harassed, or excluded from full participation in the benefits, activities, or programs of this District.

1.7 When there is an underrepresentation in a job class or classes in the District workforce, the District practices and Policies shall be studied to determine if there are factors contributing to the unbalance. Employment practices which constitute barriers to equal opportunity shall be identified and corrective action designed to eliminate the barriers shall be taken.

1.8 It is the policy of the District to ensure that an individual with a verifiable disability, visual or not, who needs a Service Animal may participate in and benefit from District and College services, programs, and activities and to allow the use of Service Animals on District/College property in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Act and all other relevant laws and regulations. The Chancellor shall develop Administrative Regulations regarding Service Animals.

1.9 The Chancellor shall assure the formation of a Staff Equity Committee at each College. A College may apply to the Chancellor or his designee for an exemption to this requirement based upon a satisfactory demonstration that the College is achieving the purpose of the Staff Equity Committee by alternative methods, has adopted the principles of staff equity into its existing committees, and has trained staff in equal opportunity, equity issues, and diversity.

2.0 Staff Equity

2.1 The Staff Equity Committee shall work with the Equity Officer and shall consist of staff trained in equal opportunity, equity issues, and diversity.

3.0 Internal Dissemination

3.1 All District employees shall be made aware of the District’s equal opportunity plan.
4.0 **External Dissemination**

4.1 Recruiting sources and applicants shall be notified that the District is an equal employment opportunity employer.

4.2 Community agencies, organizations, and educational institutions shall be notified of the District Policy in order to solicit their assistance in recruiting underrepresented groups (as defined in Title 5, § 59300), and disabled applicants.

5.0 **Staff Development**

5.1 The District Office and the Colleges will provide staff development opportunities as necessary to accomplish the District’s goals in accordance with collective bargaining agreements and District Policy.