



RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

Office of the President

June 6, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep pride and an unwavering commitment to educational equity that I write this letter in strong support of Riverside City College's application for designation as a California Black-Serving Institution (BSI).

At Riverside City College, our mission is grounded in the belief that all students—regardless of background, circumstance, or identity—deserve to thrive. This commitment is especially vital when it comes to serving Black and African American students, whose dreams, talents, and aspirations are foundational to the future of our institution, our region, and our democracy.

Through the BSI application, we are not simply applying for a designation—we are reaffirming who we are and who we strive to become. As a student-ready college, RCC continues to build and expand pathways that are culturally responsive, community-rooted, and equity-driven. Our strategic plan—grounded in our B.E.S.T. framework (Build, Engage, Serve, Treasure)—intentionally places Black student success at the core of our priorities, recognizing that servingness requires more than representation: it demands action, accountability, and belonging.

We have built strong and enduring programs like Umoja, fostered mentoring relationships through partnerships with organizations like A2MEND, and invested in mental health and academic support structures that honor the lived experiences of our students. At the same time, we recognize the importance of building institutional capacity—not relying on individual champions alone—to create systems of care, excellence, and transformative education.

The designation as a Black-Serving Institution will further our efforts to institutionalize practices that affirm the excellence of Black students, staff, and faculty. It is both a recognition of the work already in motion and a catalyst for what is yet to come.

In closing, I urge you to see in Riverside City College not just our readiness, but our resolute commitment—to rise to the responsibility, to elevate equity through every facet of our college, and to stand as a model for what it means to truly serve.

In Community,

Claire Oliveros, Ph.D.
President, Riverside City College