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**EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS
NORTH AREA
NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**



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Area Representatives:
Christine E. Lee, Area 1
Yelba Castellon, Area 1
Brandon Floyd, Area 2
Vacant, Area 2
Sabrina Brown, Area 3
David Tool, Area 3

At Large Representatives:
Brett Shears
Jon Tieuel

Community Interest Positions:
Brenda Robinson
Vacant, USC
Vacant, Business

**FOR THE ADOPTION OF MAKING ETHNIC STUDIES A GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT FOR ALL LAUSD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*At a meeting of the **Empowerment Congress North Area Development Council (NANDC)** held on Thursday, 6 November 2014, a resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 yes 0 no 0 abstention to support the adoption of Ethnic Studies as a graduation requirement for all LAUSD high school students.*

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is comprised of over 90% students of color, and serves the sons and daughters of board members, stakeholders and the community of **NANDC**;

Whereas, the Los Angeles Unified School District currently has several A-G approved Ethnic Studies Courses including Latin American Studies, African-American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies and American Intercultural Heritage;

Whereas, LAUSD offers Ethnic Studies Courses at only 19 out of 94 of its senior high schools, and only 691 out of a total of 152,507 high school students in LAUSD currently have access to and are taking Ethnic Studies Courses;

Whereas, research shows that Ethnic Studies curriculum can help close the achievement gap, reduce dropout rates, and increase graduation rates;

Whereas, **NANDC** believes that Ethnic Studies introduces students to a more accurate, complex, and engaging understanding of U.S. history than is found in traditional textbooks and curricula;

Whereas, studies have shown that a well-developed and well-thought out ethnic studies curriculum has positive academic outcomes for all students;

Whereas, Ethnic Studies validates the shared experiences, culture and heritage of all students, especially for young Black and Latino students, and can help close the achievement gap and mitigate the school-to-prison pipeline;

Be it resolved that **NANDC** calls on the Los Angeles Unified School District to modify its existing graduation requirements to include a 5 credit, semester length, A-G approved Ethnic Studies course as a graduation requirement for all high school students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED that by a vote of 9 yes 0 no 0 abstention,

members of **NANDC** support all efforts to include a multicultural education to all students that validate student shared experiences, history, culture and heritage.

Signed,

Empower Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council

Proposed Amendment by At-large Representative Brett Shears:

Expand the requirement to include a *cultural studies* component that will incorporate the study of perspectives from various identity-based groups ranging from communities based on gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or other identities.