



Official Statement regarding Governor Brown (D-CA) signing AB 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Association for Ethnic Studies

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RICHMOND – September 15, 2016 The National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) applauds the historic signature of California Governor Jerry Brown, who on yesterday signed a bill sponsored by State Assemblyman Luis A. Alejo (D-Salinas). Ravi K. Perry, President of NAES, notes that “by signing this bill, Governor Brown...ensures California will be the first state in the country to affirm the value of ethnic studies education in secondary schools.” The bill, AB 2016, establishes a model ethnic studies curriculum for use in California’s public and charter high schools.

NAES first supported this legislation over the course of several years as leaders in California sought to implement a similar version of AB 2016 a year ago. We will continue to advocate for other states to follow California’s lead. We believe that every student should have equal opportunity and equal outcome in preparing for a global marketplace, workplace, and economy. AB 2016 helps to ensure that will happen in California. We now urge every other state to do the same.

This legislation directs the California Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) and the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop and adopt an ethnic studies curriculum. This curriculum will be developed with participation from faculty of ethnic studies programs at California universities and public school teachers who have a background in teaching ethnic studies. AB 2016 directs the IQC to draft and submit a model curriculum to the SBE by June 30, 2019 and the SBE to adopt a model curriculum by Nov. 30, 2019.

“With this new legislation by 2019, one of the nation’s most populous and diverse states will be making one of its best contributions to date. As students graduate with ethnic studies education and matriculate around the world, what they learned in California will serve to heal divides, correct misconceptions, build community, and establish trust. We at NAES simply can’t wait,” says Perry.

NAES is very excited about this final outcome and is so grateful to all of the students, faculty, legislative leaders, and organizations leaders whose on the ground presence in California made this a reality.

The mission of the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) is to encourage activities and scholarship in the field of Ethnic Studies. In promoting social justice and equality, NAES serves as a forum for promoting Ethnic Studies research and scholarship, curriculum design, conferences, and assistance to Ethnic Studies programs to develop civic minded and culturally informed communities and people.

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