**Modesto Junior College
Academic Senate**

**Columbia College
Academic Senate**

Joint Resolution With the Academic Senates of Columbia College and Modesto Junior College in Support of Adopting Canvas as the Course Management System for YCCD

Proposed by:	The Distance Education Committees of Modesto Junior College and Columbia College.
Whereas	The California Community College Online Education Initiative (OEI) has created, for the first time, a system-wide consortium of online leaders and experts to implement standards and improve the experience and quality of online courses for students; and
Whereas,	Students and faculty have complained about Blackboard being difficult because Blackboard's idiosyncrasies require current online instruction training to focus disproportionately on technology; and
Whereas,	Largely because of its intuitive interface, Canvas has been selected, after an exhaustingly thorough, intensive review process that included students, faculty, staff, and other experts throughout the state, as the recommended Course Management System (CMS) for California Community Colleges by the OEI; and
Whereas,	Faculty at MJC ran their own pilot with Canvas in 2012 and generally preferred Canvas to Blackboard. Students overwhelmingly preferred it to Blackboard (survey: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B74O-F2hVSP2REtGWWNOWXNrSUk/view?usp=sharing); and
Whereas,	Canvas has a "History of strong completion and success rate for students" (https://ccconlineed.instructure.com/courses/90/pages/selection); and
Whereas,	"Faculty user adoption rate at colleges [using Canvas] is significantly higher than other systems" (https://ccconlineed.instructure.com/courses/90/pages/selection); and

Whereas,   Professional development opportunities will be provided to Canvas adopters at no cost to the college; and

Whereas,   OEI and Canvas will help manage the migration process from Blackboard to Canvas; and

Whereas,   Colleges that have adopted Canvas report significantly fewer support calls and less need for faculty CMS training; and

Whereas,   Community colleges throughout California are moving to Canvas; and

Whereas,   the contract with Canvas will allow all courses to have Canvas shells, as well as clubs, departments, and other college organizations; and

Whereas,   Blackboard costs approximately $120,000 per year. Canvas will be free at least through the 2018-2019 school year, saving the District approximately $240,000.

Whereas,   After 2019, the "OEI is optimistic that this level of support [i.e. free] will continue." Even if Canvas is not free, the cost is expected not to exceed $20,000 per year; and

Whereas,   The next OEI Canvas conversion cohort begins January 2016. The current contract with Blackboard will expire in the summer of 2017, which makes spring 2016 a perfect time to join the Canvas cohort for the 18 month conversion cycle;

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the Academic Senates at Modesto Junior College and Columbia College support joining the Spring 2016 cohort of California Community Colleges that will be transitioning, over an 18 month period, to Canvas; and

Therefore: Be it further resolved, that in accordance with the ASCCC and the recommendation from the OEI, associated savings from the transition to Canvas stay within the DE program for projects such as providing Canvas training and compensated CMS transitional support, ensuring that all DE courses meet OEI standards such as Section 508 accessibility, and enhancing the DE programs at both colleges in order to help YCCD students succeed.