Greenfield Community College  
Resolution on the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously declared that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal” since they violate “the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment” of the Constitution of the United States. The Court further stated in its decision that “in the field of public education, the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place.” The decision reversed the long-standing “separate but equal” doctrine that had governed public education, including community colleges.

Fifty years later, while federal courts and public opinion consistently favor desegregation, many states are still struggling with how to remove the vestiges of segregation in education. Some schools are still operating under court orders requiring desegregation, and problems such as inequitable school funding have caused what is for all intents and purposes segregation. We are troubled by the apparent trend to re-segregation in the nation’s schools.

Greenfield Community College is fully committed to the community college values of open access and opportunity for all. We fully understand the value of an educational environment that embraces all forms of diversity and inclusiveness. On the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, we, the faculty, staff, students, Foundation and Board of Trustees of Greenfield Community College, pledge our unwavering commitment to providing equal access to higher education. We further pledge to support efforts on behalf of our local communities to ensure learning equity for all students through institutional, political, personal and civic engagement.