



NDSA-09-2122

A Resolution to Oppose the Banning of Critical Race Theory (CRT) in North Dakota Higher Education

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, college is a place to explore new ideas; and,

WHEREAS, a full, well-rounded education can not be realized when certain topics are banned from being discussed in the classroom; and,

WHEREAS, Critical Race Theory (CRT) has been a controversial topic and has been banned in several states in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, CRT was banned in North Dakota K-12 classrooms by the North Dakota legislature in November of 2021; and,

WHEREAS, doing this in a college setting would limit discussion and prohibit educational opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the status quo does not guarantee that CRT will be a part of classroom discourse nor that it will be taught as a focus in lessons, it simply allows for the possibility of CRT being discussed as opposed to shutting down the lesson or conversation; and,

WHEREAS, prohibiting the discussion of CRT in the classroom would be a violation of free speech and academic freedom; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA has a history of supporting students' free speech and opportunities for open discourse; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA also has a history of opposing policies that interfere with a thorough education; and,

WHEREAS, banning CRT could set a dangerous precedent for censoring language and topics of discussion in the classroom; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NDSA opposes and discourages the banning of CRT being discussed within NDUS institutions.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly,
Saturday, January 29th, 2022*