

THE COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS ACADEMIC SENATE
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DREAMERS



WHEREAS, The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an Executive Order signed by President Obama on June 15, 2012 that allowed the undocumented children in our community access to educational opportunity and resources, was rescinded on September 5, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Trump Administration has urged Congress to identify a replacement within six months before the Administration phases out DACA's protections, and the outcome will determine the legal status and fate of approximately 800,000 immigrants known as "Dreamers" who were brought to the United States as children and who are eligible - under the existing DACA program - to apply for temporary residency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Faculty throughout the country are concerned about the reported potential ending of the DACA program, which has allowed undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States before their 16th birthday prior to June 2007 to remain in the United States under specific conditions and to apply for renewal of this program every two years; and

WHEREAS, Significant numbers of DACA students have attended and continue to attend California community colleges; and

WHEREAS, DACA students are representative of the students on whom the future of the State of California depends, and their removal from California and the United States would be a devastating loss; and

WHEREAS, Our vision for California's community colleges is to provide access to a quality public higher education for all Californians, and as the largest public system of higher education in the U.S., we take great pride in being the pathway to opportunity for Californians of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, The College of the Canyons Board of Trustees in Resolution No. 2016/17-19 Commitment to Creating a Welcoming Campus Environment Where All Students Feel Valued, committed to "serve undocumented students under the provisions contained in AB 540" and the district "reaffirmed the college's ongoing efforts to create a welcoming environment for all students and remains unequivocally committed to serving all students who can benefit from the programs and services offered on its campus,"; and

WHEREAS, The College of the Canyons Academic Senate reaffirmed "its commitment to the values of inclusion, diversity, unity, open discussion, and success for all students", in their 2017 Resolution in Support of Students in Uncertain Political Times; and

Approved 10/12/17

WHEREAS, The College of the Canyons Academic Senate remains steadfast in our commitment to educational opportunity and will stand with “Dreamers” to protect quality public community colleges for all Californians;

RESOLVED, That the College of the Canyons Academic Senate affirm its support for students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status in the California community college system, the other segments of education in California, and across the nation and convey this affirmation to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the Board of Governors, and other interested stakeholders both in the State of California and nationally.

Be it so moved that the College of the Canyons Academic Senate call on the Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees to take formal and public steps to reaffirm their commitment to our undocumented students and their families in the face of the possible revocation of DACA. The College of the Canyons Academic Senate specifically requests that the Board of Trustees take the following steps:

1. Adopt the following Board Policies and/or Administrative Procedures:
 - a. The Santa Clarita Community College District Security Department should not detain, question, or arrest any individual solely on the basis of suspected or actual undocumented immigration status.
 - b. The District will not cooperate with any federal effort to create a registry of individuals based on any protected characteristics such as religion, national origin, race or sexual orientation unless required by law.
 - c. The District will not disclose confidential student records without a judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by law.
2. Host an online resource page with translations into Spanish and other languages on the Santa Clarita Community College District website and publicize the resource in local media outlets, including major newspapers and non-English language media.
3. Provide professional development that prepares faculty and staff to better serve DACA students.

RESOLVED, That the College of the Canyons Academic Senate hereby urge the Congress of the United States, and our State and local leaders - in keeping with the highest and best traditions of our pluralistic constitutional democracy - to acknowledge and accept the moral imperative of relieving these victims of circumstance from the fear of deportation, and to provide our nation’s “Dreamers” with continued relief from deportation and a path to permanent citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the College of the Canyons Academic Senate urge California’s Congressional members to uphold California values, and to fill the leadership void created by President Trump’s decision, and to codify protections contained within the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program that will permit thousands of California “Dreamers” to achieve their highest potential.

Approved 10/12/17