



DACA Advocacy Week Talking Points

- On September 5, 2017, President Trump announced that his administration would terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, pending a six-month delay to allow Congress to take action. This decision goes against the values and ideals of the California Community Colleges, a system that is committed to serving all communities and all students, regardless of immigration status.
- DACA began in June of 2012, to address the uncertain status of thousands of young people brought to this country as children by granting permission to stay in the United States and obtain work permits. To qualify for DACA, applicants must pass a rigorous test, including the requirement to have arrived in the United States before reaching age 16, resided here continuously since 2012, be enrolled in or completed high school, not been convicted of a crime, and not present a threat to national security or public safety.
- Today, about 800,000 young people have DACA status, and California is home to 223,000 DACA recipients. These young people are now working, studying at college, or enlisting in the armed services. With access to work permits, they are making immediate contributions to our society and economy.
- Over the past nine months, the California Community Colleges have worked to reassure students that our campuses will remain safe, welcoming places for students of all backgrounds to learn. Unfortunately, the Administration's announcement means that many of these young people now live in fear and uncertainty about their status in this country.
- Guidance from the Department of Homeland Security does not clarify if students can travel outside the United States for study abroad programs, international conferences or for family emergencies. Uncertainty regarding work permits after March 5 means many of our DACA students are struggling to plan for college costs past the spring 2018 semester.
- The California Community Colleges will continue to stand with DACA participants, fight alongside them to keep the program alive, provide them with educational opportunities and protect and support all current and future students who rely on the program.
- We request that Congress immediately and permanently preserve the DACA program and further work toward comprehensive immigration reform, so that all of our students can realize their full potential and continue to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the state of California.