

September 5, 2017

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty,

This morning the Trump Administration announced its intent to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in six months. The six-month “grace” period before the termination appears to be intended to allow Congress sufficient time to enact legislation to extend the DACA program or to reshape it in some fashion.

Last March, the Board of Trustees of the Rancho Santiago Community College District voted unanimously to pass a resolution in support of the DACA program and DACA students (please refer to the attached resolution). The District and its two colleges, Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College, reaffirm the commitment expressed in that resolution to support and protect our DACA students to the extent possible. Specifically, the District will not: (1) allow Federal immigration officials on campus; (2) act on behalf of Federal agencies to enforce immigration laws or aid in deportation; (3) share student records containing immigration or citizenship status with immigration officials; (4) allow District police to detain, question, or arrest anyone on the basis of suspected undocumented immigration status or participate in any voluntary program of immigration enforcement; and (5) cooperate with any efforts to create a registry of individuals based on any protected characteristics such as religion, national origin, race, or sexual orientation.

Per a legal update from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (which is attached), the students currently enrolled in DACA will be allowed to continue working until their work permits expire. The DACA students whose work permits expire by March 5, 2018 will be allowed to apply for a two-year renewal of their work permits provided that they apply for renewal prior to October 5, 2017. Further, the action today by the Federal government does not affect state regulations, particularly the ability of AB 540 (the California Dream Act) students from attending a public community college in California, qualifying for an exemption from non-resident tuition fees, or applying for financial aid from the state.

The Rancho Santiago Community College District, Santa Ana College, and Santiago Canyon College remain deeply committed to each and every one of our students and to creating a safe and secure educational environment. Our message to students who may be DACA students or otherwise undocumented students is for them to *stay enrolled in school*. We intend to stand by their side and we will make every effort to lobby Congress to pass legislation to save DACA or to create a viable alternative.

Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Linda D. Rose, Ed.D.
President, Santa Ana College

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President, Santiago Canyon College

