



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

July 23, 2021

Dear LACCD Students, Staff and Faculty:

Last week, U.S. District Court for southern Texas Judge Anthony Hanen suspended a program that prevents the deportation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigrants. This new ruling blocks the federal government from approving new applications to the DACA program and only allows the program to continue for DACA renewals. The DACA program was created by former President Barack Obama in 2012 through executive order. This ruling challenges and halts that authority.

This note is intended to provide a level of assurance to our LACCD students that “you are safe here” and that we will use all available resources to amplify the interests of LACCD to serve and protect the over 10,000 undocumented students enrolled at our nine colleges.

The District remains profoundly committed to advocate aggressively on behalf of our undocumented students. We will call on the House and Senate Leadership to pass the American Dream and Promise Act and to take action now to enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship. The pathway to U.S. citizenship is long overdue for the over 11 million undocumented youth, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, farmworkers and other immigrants living in the U.S., many of whom are first-responders during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Over the past four and a half years, undocumented students and their families have understandably lived in a state of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. As a result, from fall 2017 to fall 2019, LACCD witnessed a total undocumented student enrollment decline of seventeen (17) percent. Each of the nine LACCD campuses has established a Dream Resource Center providing key services, including financial aid, counseling, and a strong referral network for legal assistance and mental health.

I am pleased to share that the Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges has partnered with Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles to assist undocumented students with paying the \$495 DACA application renewal fee. Students must register and participate in an immigration workshop in order to qualify for the fee waiver. For more information click here: https://laccd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lf-qrpzMoG9JfjyggKK_4cRfgqSEDL37g.

As this issue continues on to the U.S. Supreme Court, I am urging our students to stay focused on your educational goals. The fight for justice and democracy continues, and LACCD is all in.

Thank you for your attention to this important communication.

With my admiration and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Francisco C. Rodriguez'.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Los Angeles Community College District