

October 7, 2022

Dear LACCD Students, Staff and Faculty:

The recent decision by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) leaves the program in perilous territory. This court action leaves the future of the DACA program, which allows nearly 600,000 Dreamers to legally work and attend college in the United States, uncertain.

To clarify the decision, undocumented and DACA students can enroll and stay enrolled in our colleges and universities. The decision of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals does not change our mission to welcome and serve all students.

However, the Los Angeles Community College District family does carry the burden, alongside our students, families, and our community members, of this decision. Many of our community college families are directly impacted, and we will use our national platform and voice to stand with and advocate for our students. Awareness is one step, action is another.

LACCD has a dedicated history of advocating for the rights of our undocumented community. Our longstanding advocacy shows a fierce defense of supporting our DACA and undocumented students. We will always stand with our students and with the most vulnerable populations—our support remains unwavering.

The impact of an uncertain climate has been significant. Since the pandemic, the California community colleges have experienced a 32% enrollment drop of AB 540 students. At LACCD, where our nine colleges educate more undocumented students than anywhere in the state and country, we have lost 27% of our AB 540 students over the past few years.

Please join me in reinforcing the message that our LACCD students and employees are safe here. We will use all available resources to serve and protect the more than 10,000 undocumented students enrolled at LACCD, including support for our college Dream Resource Centers that provide extensive resources, a safe space and educational tools for all students.

Forward, together, undaunted.

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

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

All three California higher education systems urge DACA students, faculty and staff to make a free appointment with a legal services provider as soon as possible to renew their DACA application:

- California Community Colleges Higher Education Legal Services: [FindYourAlly.com](https://www.findyourally.com)
- University of California Immigrant Legal Services Center: [ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu](https://ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu)
- California State University Legal Support Services: [calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students/Pages/legal-support-services.aspx](https://calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students/Pages/legal-support-services.aspx)