



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Octavio Gonzalez | 213-210-2500 x32 | ogonzalez@icgworldwide.com

The Los Angeles Community College District Supports DACA and Undocumented Students

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) released the following statement today:

The Trump Administration's unfortunate and untimely decision to withdraw legal protections for students benefiting from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program disproportionately affects students studying at LACCD colleges, and community colleges throughout the state of California and our nation. It is for this reason that the Los Angeles Community College District continues to take strong positions in support of our Dreamer students, and urges Congress to pass legislation that grants a permanent solution and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Former President Barack Obama created the DACA program in 2012 to provide temporary relief for young immigrants who were brought to this country as children. Since then, DACA recipients have come out of the shadows, earned college degrees, contributed to the nation's workforce, started businesses, purchased homes, paid taxes and excelled to become productive members of our society. But most importantly, the DACA program removed the fear of deportation that has unleashed these students' potential, bettering our communities in the process.

70% of all DACA recipients attend college. In California alone, 220,000 people benefit from the DACA program, and 61,000 undocumented students attend California's 114 community colleges. President Trump's administration's decision to end this vital program has injected uncertainty and has unsettled many Dreamer students and their families; but this decision is not defeating and it will not dissuade us from providing advocacy and support for this vital segment of our student body. Any threat to this vulnerable constituency is a threat to us all. It is for these reasons that LACCD continues to take strong positions to support our undocumented and Dreamer students.

The Board of Trustees has passed three LACCD Resolutions in the past 18 months to ensure that LACCD colleges remain open and accessible to all students who meet the admission requirements, regardless of their immigration status. In 2016, the Board of Trustees established the LACCD Student Rights Taskforce. As part of its work, the Taskforce successfully advocated to prevent the release of any personally identifiable student information, including data related to immigration status, to federal and state law enforcement agencies without a judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by law. This policy states that LACCD will not cooperate with any federal effort to create a registry of individuals based on any protected characteristics, such as religion, nation of origin, race, or sexual orientation. This year, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, the LACCD Board President, reconstituted, renamed and reconvened the DACA/Immigration Task Force. In addition, President Kamlager-Dove appointed Trustee Gabriel Buelna and Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez to co-chair the Task Force, which is charged with making recommendations to the full board on new policies, programs, and services for this population of students.

The LACCD Board of Trustees, Chancellor, and nine college presidents reaffirm their commitment to making all institutions of LACCD places where all students can enroll and achieve their educational goals. Our undocumented students are integral and valued members of our LACCD family. These are extraordinarily talented students who have made great sacrifices to better themselves and their families, their communities, and our country. We will continue to advocate fearlessly and unapologetically for the rights of all students, regardless of their immigration status.

LACCD will take a leadership role as it stands to defend, protect, and fight for 800,000 recipients of DACA nationally. The District will continue to send strong and unequivocal messages to the current Administration, and to our immigrant communities that Los Angeles Community College District supports our undocumented student community, and will do everything possible to protect and safeguard the integrity of our students.

###

About the Los Angeles Community College District

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation's largest community college district, serves one-quarter million students a year in more than 36 cities in Los Angeles County at its nine colleges. The District covers nearly 900 square miles and has educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969.

Members of the Board

Sydney Kamlager-Dove, President | Mike Fong, Vice President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. | Andra Hoffman | Ernest H. Moreno | Scott J. Svonkin | Steven F. Veres | Christopher Martinez, Student Trustee