

President of Cerritos College, Jose Fierro Statement on DACA

Dear Colleagues,

September 5 will be a pivotal time for the President of the United States to take action on the program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The President's decision will impact many undocumented students across America, including here on campus. I want to reaffirm that our campus is committed to ensuring a safe and productive learning environment for all students, in support of our [Board Policy on Nondiscrimination](#). We are dedicated to our shared values of diversity, inclusion, and zero-tolerance for discrimination.

Many of you may remember the Board of Trustees took action on December 7, 2016, adopting two resolutions, one in support of our students ([Resolution No. #16-1207D](#) – page 41) and one declaring Cerritos College a Safe Campus ([Resolution No. #16-1207E](#) – page 42). We want our students to thrive, learn and be productive members of society, and we will provide as many resources as we can. Each person's situation is unique and we want to do everything in our power to support our students.

There are a few key points I want to clarify and share with you that I believe will help our students in this critical moment:

1. [The Chancellor's Office has developed a helpful website related to DACA/undocumented students](#)
2. DACA does not impact the status of students who receive financial aid.
 - a. Recipients of the California Dream Act and/or AB 540 are recipients of state funding.
 - b. DACA provides individuals with a temporary legal status for gainful employment without fear of deportation. If you or students have questions related to AB 540, please visit our webpage: www.cerritos.edu/AB540.
3. The campus community is here to help our students, including the many AB 540 Taskforce members who continue to facilitate our safe learning environment. If you need assistance, please contact Counseling faculty members Lynn Wang (lwang@cerritos.edu) or Rosa Carillo (rcarillo@cerritos.edu).

Lastly, student consent laws prohibit the release of records unless authorized by a student or required by a judicial warrant. The College will continue to monitor the situation regarding DACA and will update the campus community.

Jose

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