

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
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September 28, 2017

**To:** CEOs  
**From:** Eloy Ortiz Oakley  
**Subject:** DACA Advocacy Week, October 16 – 20  
 Local Action Needed

Dear Colleagues,

In response to President Trump's recent decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, my office has been working with the Community College League of California (League), the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC), and the Student Senate of California Community Colleges (SSCCC) to encourage local advocacy in support of DACA and the over 200,000 young people in California impacted by the decision to rescind the program. The educational future of thousands of our students is in doubt and thus I am pleased to join with our organizational partners in announcing the week of October 16–20 as *DACA Advocacy Week* and to encourage community colleges to take the following actions to express support for DACA:

- ✓ 1. **Pass a Resolution in Support of DACA.** Last week, the Board of Governors approved a resolution, [available here](#), expressing steadfast support for DACA recipients and other undocumented students in the California Community College system, and calling on Congress to take immediate and permanent action to preserve the DACA program and further work toward comprehensive immigration reform. I want to thank the many local governing boards across the state that have passed [resolutions](#) in support of DACA. I encourage those who have not to consider similar action. A model resolution can be found by [clicking here](#).
- ✓ 2. **Congressional Advocacy Meeting.** During the week of October 16-20, the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to recess for members to be home in their districts. I am calling on all community colleges to set a district meeting with congressional representatives or field staff to express support for the continuation of the provisions of DACA and ask for a permanent legislative solution. This meeting should emphasize the broad support for the DACA program, and represent a wide coalition of supporters, including students, families, faculty and employees, college administrators, influential statewide organizations, and local community college district trustees. The attached *DACA Congressional Visit Instructions* has been designed to help guide your meeting planning. The *DACA Advocacy Week Talking Points* will help frame your conversation with your representative. After your meeting please return the attached *DACA Advocacy Meeting Report Form* to Vice Chancellor Laura Metune at [lmetulan@cccoco.edu](mailto:lmetulan@cccoco.edu). This information will be used to facilitate and support additional system advocacy efforts.
- ✓ 3. **Support Student and Staff Advocacy.** In addition to the meetings that I hope your college will be scheduling during DACA Advocacy Week, the SSCCC will be coordinating phone banks and gathering postcards to demonstrate student support for DACA. My office and the League will be supporting these efforts and raising awareness of these activities over the coming months. In

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order to facilitate their actions and help make our student voices heard, I ask that when possible, you also support them in their efforts.

DACA Advocacy Week provides an opportunity to join a statewide community college effort to defend this vital program. I encourage college leaders at all levels to collaborate with like-minded groups for purposes of assembling advocacy teams and scheduling meetings with congressional representatives during this week in October. Only by joining together – students, faculty, staff and college leadership – will we make it clear to our congressional representatives the need for a permanent solution for DACA participants which includes a path for citizenship for our students.

Additional resources will continue to be made available on the [Chancellor's Office website](#). During this time of uncertainty, I urge all community colleges to stand strong in support of our students, which begins with a legislative remedy for those protected by DACA.

If you have any questions, please contact Vice Chancellor of Governmental Relations, Laura Metune, at (916) 323-5951 or [lmetulan@cccco.edu](mailto:lmetulan@cccco.edu).

Sincerely,



Eloy Ortiz Oakley  
Chancellor



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### DACA Advocacy Week Talking Points

- On September 5, 2017, President Trump announced that his administration would terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, pending a six-month delay to allow Congress to take action. This decision goes against the values and ideals of the California Community Colleges, a system that is committed to serving all communities and all students, regardless of immigration status.
- DACA began in June of 2012, to address the uncertain status of thousands of young people brought to this country as children by granting permission to stay in the United States and obtain work permits. To qualify for DACA, applicants must pass a rigorous test, including the requirement to have arrived in the United States before reaching age 16, resided here continuously since 2012, be enrolled in or completed high school, not been convicted of a crime, and not present a threat to national security or public safety.
- Today, about 800,000 young people have DACA status, and California is home to 223,000 DACA recipients. These young people are now working, studying at college, or enlisting in the armed services. With access to work permits, they are making immediate contributions to our society and economy.
- Over the past nine months, the California Community Colleges have worked to reassure students that our campuses will remain safe, welcoming places for students of all backgrounds to learn. Unfortunately, the Administration's announcement means that many of these young people now live in fear and uncertainty about their status in this country.
- Guidance from the Department of Homeland Security does not clarify if students can travel outside the United States for study abroad programs, international conferences or for family emergencies. Uncertainty regarding work permits after March 5 means many of our DACA students are struggling to plan for college costs past the spring 2018 semester.
- The California Community Colleges will continue to stand with DACA participants, fight alongside them to keep the program alive, provide them with educational opportunities and protect and support all current and future students who rely on the program.
- We request that Congress immediately and permanently preserve the DACA program and further work toward comprehensive immigration reform, so that all of our students can realize their full potential and continue to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the state of California.



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### California Community Colleges DACA Advocacy Week

#### *Congressional Lobby Visit Checklist*

1. ***Request the meeting.*** The House of Representatives is scheduled to recess, and members should be in their districts, between October 16 and 20. To find your representative, go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and enter your college zip code in the upper right corner. Be sure to consider the map of your Representative's district as it may not cover all of your centers, and think about contacting other Members as well who may be touched by your college.
2. ***Assemble meeting participants.*** The delegation should include representatives from college leadership, faculty/staff, students, and community partners. The ideal number of participants is fewer than six.
3. ***Host a pre-meeting or conference call.*** Participants should discuss the focus of the meetings, coordinate the presentation, and to get to know one another.
4. ***Develop a "leave behind" document.*** A personalized DACA [support letter](#) or locally approved [resolution](#) can provide local information/data about undocumented and DACA recipients at your college and in the member's community, as well as summarize your request for action.
5. ***Support day-of activities.*** On the day of the event, help coordinate and direct the visit by coordinating your delegation's presentation and taking notes during the meeting.
6. ***Report back to DACA Advocacy Week organizers.*** Please use the DACA Advocacy Meeting Report to let our coalition know the outcome of your meeting. The Chancellor's Office, in coordination with the Community College League of California, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, and Student Senate of the California Community Colleges, will use this information to conduct additional outreach.
7. ***Follow-up and thank your representative.*** After the meeting be sure to send a thank you note to your representative for their time and, if appropriate, for their support of DACA.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact:

Laura Metune, Vice Chancellor of Governmental Relations  
California Community Colleges Chancellors Office  
(916) 323-5951 or [lmetulan@cccco.edu](mailto:lmetulan@cccco.edu)

Ryan McElhinney, Legislative Advocate  
Community College League of California  
(916) 245-5039 or [ryan@ccleague.org](mailto:ryan@ccleague.org)

Cynthia Castillo, Legislative Assistant  
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges  
(916) 447-8555 or [ccastillo@facc.org](mailto:ccastillo@facc.org)

**California Community Colleges  
DACA Advocacy Week**

***Advocacy Meeting Report Form***

Please fill out this form to let us know how your visits went. We will use this information to support our ongoing advocacy efforts on DACA. Please submit this form via email to: [lmehune@cccco.edu](mailto:lmehune@cccco.edu) and [ccastillo@faccc.org](mailto:ccastillo@faccc.org).

1. College name:
2. List of meeting attendees:
3. Which Representative did you meet with?
4. Who in the office did you meet? (member or staff)
5. Please include contact information for any staff members with whom you met.
6. Does the member support permanent action to preserve the DACA program?
7. Does the member support working toward comprehensive immigration reform?
8. Did anything else come out of your lobby visit that would be good to know when approaching this office about DACA related issues?
9. Did anything else come out of your lobby visit that would be good to know when approaching this office about higher education issues?