

Resolution 22-09: In Support of DACA Students in the Aftermath of the 2022 Appeals Court Decision

Whereas, The Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, §53200) and is primarily relied upon for standards and policies regarding student success; and,

Whereas, The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to be unconstitutional¹, thereby leaving scores of would-be beneficiaries without the legal protections given to their predecessors, putting them at academic and financial risk; and,

Whereas, Such a decision will impact the college's undocumented population by placing additional anxiety, stress, fear, and concerns about their well-being and status in the United States, and will make it harder for undocumented folks that no longer qualify for DACA to earn a living, as they will face barriers to employment and academic success; and,

Whereas, Associated Students Resolutions 1 (2017)², 5 (2016)³, and 6 (2017)⁴ call for support for Mt. San Antonio College's undocumented population, Board Resolution 16-08 (2017) affirms support for our undocumented population and privacy of student records, the Chancellor's Office "remains committed to standing with DACA recipients and other undocumented immigrants and providing them with educational opportunities,"⁵ AB 540 (2001)⁶ supports undocumented students in higher education, and the California Student Aid Commission recently announced a Service Incentive Grant Program⁷ to support students financially with an award up to \$4,500 per academic year for community and/or volunteer service; therefore:

¹ <https://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/21/21-40680-CV0.pdf>

² https://www.mtsac.edu/studentlife/as/102417_Resolution_AS_in_Support_Immigrant_Communities.pdf

³ https://www.mtsac.edu/studentlife/as/040417_Resolution_Press_Release_for_DACA_Advocacy_Redacted.pdf

⁴ https://www.mtsac.edu/studentlife/as/040417_Resolution_Press_Release_for_DACA_Advocacy_Redacted.pdf

⁵ <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services/Special-population/Undocumented-Students>

⁶ <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/california-nonresident-tuition-exemption>

⁷ <https://www.csac.ca.gov/california-dream-act-service-incentive-grant-program>



ACADEMIC SENATE
<http://academicsenate.mtsac.edu>
(909) 594-5611 Ext. 5433

Resolved, The Academic Senate reaffirms its commitment, as a representative body of the Mt. SAC faculty, to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and safe learning environment for all students, regardless of their citizenship status; and,

Resolved, We encourage the Board of Trustees and the College to continue to support the work of the College's DREAM Program using financial, human and other resources to foster a safe environment for Mt. SAC's undocumented population; and,

Resolved, We urge the Board of Trustees and the College to research how to set aside or otherwise allocate District money to set-up local programs similar to the California Student Aid Commission's Service Incentive Grant so that undocumented students can benefit from financial aid awards without the need for the student to have work authorization or a Social Security number, creating opportunities for students to benefit from internships or volunteer hours on and off campus, thus increasing the likelihood of academic success and overall well-being.

Contact: Raul Madrid Jr., Mt. SAC Academic Senate Legislative Liaison

Approved by the Academic Senate December 1, 2022.