

Mt. San Antonio College Support for Undocumented Students

Message from President Bill Scroggins

In concert with the mission of Mt. San Antonio College to support all students in achieving their full educational potential ... by providing an engaging and supportive teaching and learning environment for students of diverse origins, experiences, needs, abilities and goals, the College reaffirms its full support for undocumented students enrolled at the College, including potential students and their families. In my position as the leader of Mt. San Antonio College, I take my role of carrying out the dictates of government seriously but by tempering that duty with the very real needs of students and the community served by our college. It is my intent to fully uphold student protections that are both federally and state based to assure that our students' rights, privacy and confidentiality are respected and upheld.

We are fully committed to assuring that all individuals feel welcome, accepted, and supported in seeking a college education at Mt. San Antonio College through the establishment of the college as a safe haven for students. Our college policies, procedures and practices are designed to protect the rights of our students and to fully support them in their educational pursuits by providing support, free from suspicion and supported by rights of privacy and freedom from disparaging or discriminatory treatment or threats of any kind.

The College pledges to continue to maintain its full support of undocumented students by:

- Maintaining and expanding the Dream Center, including providing sufficient human and fiscal resources to provide a full range of support services
- Providing safe haven for Dream students on campus, including protected, secure and confidential places to receive counseling, legal advice, instructional support, support services, and places to study
- Providing assistance in applying to the college and in applying for financial aid through the California Dream Act
- Providing protection of students' privacy and ensuring that these rights are upheld across the campus
- Collaborating with community resources and agencies to provide legal assistance and medical assistance related to DACA, and legal concerns such as removal proceedings, California Dream Act, and AB 540
- Providing ongoing professional development to college faculty and staff to raise their awareness and develop skills and strategies to provide informed and culturally competent assistance and support
- Hosting ongoing conversations and open forums to enable students to express their concerns as well as to receive information, assistance, access and referral to services
- Organizing community-based forums and workshops for students, parents and community members to understand their rights, respond to questions and concerns and to receive assistance with specific applications and immigration-related concerns

Additionally, the College commits to:

- Not releasing any personally identifiable student information, including any data related to immigration status, without a judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by law
- Not divulging information related to student workers' immigration status
- Not cooperating with any federal effort to create a registry of individuals based on any protected characteristics such as religion, national origin, race, or sexual orientation
- Not permitting the college Public Safety department to detain, question or arrest any individual solely on the basis of (suspected) undocumented immigration status nor to use resources to enforce immigration law and to volunteer immigration information
- Protecting student privacy through not passively sharing information in a way that could information could be revealed to third parties, without there being intent to disclose, such as social security numbers ("SSN"), or lack thereof, residency information, including residency in other countries, high school and elementary schools attended in other countries, and other information that may bear on the student's ability to obtain services, including in-state tuition
- Clarifying and modifying college policies to restrict employees from obtaining, divulging, and reporting information unless it is required and necessary to provide specific services to students such as financial aid
- Clarifying and modifying college policies and procedures regarding employees access to information that can be construed to make assumptions or conclusions regarding a student's immigration, residency, or other legal status
- Clarifying and modifying college policies and procedures regarding the limitation in the collection of, sharing and reporting of student information such as Social Security Numbers
- Supporting state and federal legislative actions and legal issues that serve to address issues of concern related to federal immigration policies and procedures, including release of information, investigations, arrests, deportations, presence of ICE on campus, support for health care, access to legal services
- Protecting students' identities and personal information from governmental intrusion without authorization unless an approved legal request or subpoena is provided
- Protecting students from threats by requiring ICE officials to first meet with college authorities prior to arriving on campus in official capacities to investigate or for the purposes of detaining any individuals
- Refraining from creating an environment that may cause fear or concern to undocumented individuals by not including certain agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in activities such as career fairs and discussions or debates
- Advocating for the application and enrollment of noncredit students without the requirements for students to have and submit Social Security Numbers
- Undertaking efforts to raise funds to assist Dream students with funds for books, school supplies, transportation, food, and other necessities
- Collaborating across the campus and the community to develop an educational manifesto outlining the economic, social and political advantages that immigrants contribute to the United States
- Working closely with federal officials to develop policies and procedures enabling undocumented immigrants to legalize their status and to access a path to citizenship