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From: Campus Announcements <Announce-C@LISTSERV.MTSAC.EDU> on behalf of Garcia, Martha <martha.garcia@mtsac.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 5:17 PM
To: Announce-C@LISTSERV.MTSAC.EDU
Subject: [ANNOUNCE] We Reaffirm Our Commitment to Support and Protect Undocumented Students!

Dear Mt. SAC Family,

I hope you and your loved ones are well. On Tuesday, the Department of Homeland Security under President Trump's administration announced that colleges will no longer be off limits for immigration enforcement operations. As our country transitions in leadership, undocumented students in particular may be feeling concern and uncertainty. I want to assure you that supporting equity and justice for ALL students is a priority for the Board of Trustees and me. Mt. SAC is steadfast in its commitment to providing an educational environment where every student -- regardless of their immigration status, race, religion, sexual identity, and more -- can feel a true sense of belonging, thrive, and succeed.

Mt. SAC has a responsibility to help all students persist in their educational journeys. Supporting students in reaching their academic goals impacts students as well as their families, their communities, their workplaces, and so much more. Student success benefits us all.

Mt. SAC policies, procedures and practices are designed to protect the rights of our students and to fully support them in their academic pursuits. California law guarantees protection against discrimination and harassment for all members of our college community. Additionally, Senate Bill 54 and AB 21 provide critical protections ensuring that our students can pursue their education without intimidation or undue risk. We firmly oppose any efforts to diminish these protections. Mt. SAC does not and will not participate in federal immigration enforcement unless legally required. Any personally identifiable information related to immigration status will only be shared if mandated by a judicial order.

Mt. SAC pledges to maintain its full support of undocumented students by:

- Maintaining the DREAM Program as a safe and supportive resource
- Providing secure and confidential spaces for counseling, legal advice, academic support, support services, and places to study
- Helping students apply for admission and financial aid through the California Dream Act
- Protecting student privacy and upholding their rights
- Collaborating with community resources and agencies to provide legal assistance and medical assistance related to DACA and other concerns
- Providing ongoing professional development to faculty and staff to ensure culturally competent assistance and support, particularly related to campus safety and private student data

ON CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Mt. SAC offers dozens of free [Student Services](#) to support our students
- In particular, the DREAM Program (www.mtsac.edu/dream) for undocumented students and allies can provide additional support and guidance

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Information on [California's sanctuary status](#) and its impact on our community
- California Attorney General's [legal analysis and guidance for higher education](#) institutions, in complying with California law related to immigration enforcement activities
- California Student Aid Commission Guidance on [Undocumented Students Data Privacy](#)

Mt. SAC is committed to providing a more just and equitable society. By supporting undocumented students, we honor our educational mission and take meaningful steps toward building a brighter future for all.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring Mt. SAC remains a place of inclusion, support, and opportunity for all students. You are the heart of this institution, and I am honored to serve alongside you.

Sincerely,



Martha Garcia, Ed.D.

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(she/her/ella)

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