



# California Community Colleges Undocumented Student Week of Action

## *Advocacy Talking Points*

### **Ask to Congressional Member:**

Take immediate and permanent action to codify elements of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and provide a path of citizenship for this population.

### **Talking Points:**

- The anti-immigrant climate encouraged by the Trump administration has intensified the fear and uncertainty for undocumented students in this country. All Californians, regardless of immigration status, deserve a chance at obtaining a higher education.
- The proposed cancellation of the DACA program has put the educational future of thousands of undocumented students at California Community Colleges in jeopardy.
- Current DACA recipients should not be held hostage waiting for Congress to enact an agenda that seeks to radically change how immigration policy is conducted in this country.
- This week, California's community colleges are focused on advocacy and activities to support and build awareness of undocumented students throughout the state.

### **Background**

- A strong majority of DACA recipients speak English and must:
  - Have been brought into the United States as a child.
  - Have committed no felonies or serious misdemeanors.
  - Be enrolled in school, working or serving in the armed forces.

### **Undocumented Young People and their Education**

- Tell a story of a DACA student at your campus working toward their educational goals and what it means to them.
- 92% of DACA recipients point to the program as helping them obtain their educational goals.

## **Undocumented Young People and the Economy**

- Supporting and advocating for undocumented students is essential for a prosperous and equitable California. A study by the University of California, San Diego found that the income of those participating in the program increased by 45 percent, which also increased tax revenues and economic growth at the local, state, and federal level.
- Undocumented immigrants pay local, state and federal taxes and contribute to Social Security. However, they are ineligible for federal benefits such as Pell grants, work study, Medicaid, food stamps, and cash assistance.
- The CATO Institute found that without DACA the U.S. economy could shrink by \$215 billion over the next 10 years. The same study found that the federal government could lose \$60 billion in foregone income taxes if DACA is rescinded.
- The Kauffman Foundation found that immigrants are more likely to create opportunities by starting their own businesses than native-born Americans.