

February 23, 2017

Dear Students,

Since the presidential election, we have experienced a heightened level of uncertainty about possible immigration policy changes, travel bans, and other actions that could unjustly target segments of our student population based on religious or cultural affiliation, gender identification or gender expression, and countries of origin. I am writing to you to share two points.

First, the RCCD has had a long-standing commitment to valuing diversity, promoting equity and inclusion, and supporting our students, faculty, and staff. In these uncertain times, we must remain resolute in our resolve to protect these values. We must also endeavor daily to reassure our students that we promote a culture of care for them, and we must strive to ensure our colleges are safe, welcoming places for ALL our students.

Second, on Tuesday evening the Board of Trustees adopted **Resolution Number 38-16/17** by which they formally affirmed their commitment to our students, summarized as follows:

- Our colleges will remain **safe and welcoming** spaces for all students, regardless of their religion, national origin, gender identity, gender expression, or immigration status;
- We will **vigorously advocate** at every level of government **to protect our students** and our District's values;
- We affirm that **all students will have an opportunity to receive an education** regardless of immigration status or other protected status;
- We will **continue to advocate** at the local, state, and federal level for the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals** program and for DACA students;
- We will steadfastly **protect student records** under FERPA and will not release student information related to immigration status without a judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by process of law;
- We **will not enter into any agreement** with federal, state or local law enforcement agencies regarding immigration matters;
- We will **not cooperate with any efforts to create a registry** of individuals based on any protected characteristics, such as religion, national origin, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

To view the full resolution, visit the RCCD website or click on the following link:

<http://www.rccd.edu/administration/strategiccomm/news/Pages/DACA.aspx>

Sincerely,

Michael L. Burke

Michael L. Burke, Ph.D.
Chancellor