

## RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ACTION WEEK, THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER

## RESOLUTION NO. 08-19/20

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges comprise the nation's largest postsecondary education system with 115 colleges and 2.1 million students, and is committed to providing an open and welcoming environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's decision on September 5, 2017, to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, placed the safety, security, and educational future of thousands of undocumented students in doubt; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges have advocated to Congress and the Administration to preserve DACA and respect the contributions of undocumented immigrants, and on January 26, 2017, the Board of Governors passed a resolution expressing its support for DACA and firm commitment to serving all students who can benefit from a postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges stand united as a system where all students can learn, grow, and feel supported and safe; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2017, the California Community Colleges Chancellor issued a Statement of Values and Commitment to Undocumented Students confirming that the Chancellor's Office will not release any personally identifiable student information without a judicial warrant, including data related to immigration status; will not cooperate with any federal effort to create a registry of individuals based on protected characteristics such as religion, race, immigration status, or sexual orientation; and will urge local governing bodies to do the same; and

WHEREAS, numerous community colleges reflecting the diversity of California have adopted policies and procedures consistent with protecting immigrant students, and created partnerships with community organizations to help our undocumented students access legal assistance and other services in local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor's Office, in partnership with the Community College League of California, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, the Student Senate of California Community Colleges, and other organizations, supported DACA Advocacy Week, on October 16-20, 2017, and provided tools such as Congressional contact lists, sample talking points, resolutions, and communications to mobilize the system in support of DACA; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 DACA Advocacy Week efforts resulted in local meetings with Congressional leaders, more than 700 letters and postcards sent from students to members of Congress, and a number of colleges conducted week-long activities to raise awareness of campus-based support for undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Chancellor's Office expanded the existing partnership to include Immigrants Rising and other organizations, and sponsored Undocumented Student Week of Action, October 15–19, to inform undocumented students about all available services on campus and in local communities and empower them to access those services, and support students and allies in advocating to Congress to act quickly and establish a permanent solution for undocumented young people; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District is the seventh oldest and fifth largest community college district in the California Community College System with three accredited colleges of Moreno Valley College, Norco College and Riverside City College; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees passed resolution number 38-16/17 in support of student access and protection; and

WHEREAS, the Moreno Valley, Norco and Riverside City colleges participated in the 2019 Undocumented Student Week of Action by engaging in a week-long program of activities in support of undocumented students, and on October 15, 2019, the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees passed a resolution reaffirming its commitment to support all students throughout our district, including undocumented students, which was part of the week-long program of activities and information disseminated systemwide; and

WHEREAS, despite advocacy efforts by the California Community Colleges and many other individuals and organizations in California and across the nation, the preservation of DACA and the adoption of an effective solution for undocumented students remains elusive, which places continued economic and emotional weight on students, their families, communities, and the state; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Riverside Community College District declare October 14-18, 2019 and every third week of October thereafter, as "Undocumented Student Action Week" to work in partnership with other organizations and encourage the California Community Colleges to engage in activities supporting undocumented students; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Riverside Community College District supports efforts by our colleges—Moreno Valley, Norco, and Riverside City—to identify and share best practices for assisting undocumented students, disseminate information to the students about how to access funding for immigration defense proceedings and referral to legal service providers, and reinforce state policies that protect student rights and privacy; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Riverside Community College District urges Congressional members to uphold California values and create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students, which will permit them to complete their education goals and achieve their highest potential.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019, at the regular meeting of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.

President of Board of Trustees

Riverside Community College District