



# UC MERCED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS RESOLUTION  
APRIL 20, 2024

## SUMMARY:

With the recent interest around accessibility and on-campus employment for undocumented students within California's university systems due to the ambiguous status of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the University of California, Merced Alumni Association (UCMAA) puts forth this resolution in support of the undocumented student community. This resolution stands as the association's official position supporting efforts that seek to improve college accessibility and fully realize the synergies from classroom learning and extracurricular opportunities, including on-campus employment. UCMAA also calls for the federal government to support the aforementioned efforts and to re-establish DACA or the creation of a program with similar impact.

- Whereas, the UC system's official position is that it is "committed to ensuring all students, regardless of immigration status, can pursue and attain a world-class UC education;"
- Whereas, the UC system has implemented policies around privacy, law enforcement practices, record keeping, and medical access with the aim of protecting students regardless of immigration status;
- Whereas, there are approximately 4,000 undocumented students attending the University of California system;
- Whereas, Congress has failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform in the past several decades;
- Whereas, in 2011, the California legislature passed the California DREAM Act providing financial aid to undocumented students that was an expansion of AB 540, which exempted undocumented students from paying nonresident tuition if they have graduated from a California high school;
- Whereas, in 2012 President Obama issued an executive branch memorandum providing certain undocumented people who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 deferred action from deportation as well as access to work permits;
- Whereas, on September 8th, 2017 the University of California sued the Department of Homeland Security in order to overturn the Trump Administration's decision to end the DACA program;
- Whereas, in Fall 2017 UCMAA passed a resolution in support of immigration reform and DACA;
- Whereas, the 2020 Supreme Court decision on Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California did not find that the decision to end DACA was unconstitutional, and therefore leaves the future of DACA's existence in question considering volatile political trends;
- Whereas, in 2021, households led by undocumented individuals contributed \$30.8 billion in total taxes, including \$18.6 billion in federal income taxes and \$12.2 billion in state and local taxes;
- Whereas, receiving a postsecondary credential or attending some college increases one's earning potential, as college and university graduates earn higher incomes and experience lower unemployment rates;
- Whereas, several studies have indicated that increasing undocumented students' full inclusion into U.S. educational institutions would result in greater social mobility for families, support communities and provide long term economic contribution to the U.S.;
- Whereas, by higher education and careers, undocumented students are helping drive the future and economic competitiveness of the United States;
- Whereas, the University of California is presently expanding experiential learning opportunities for non-DACA and AB 540 undocumented students enrolled in state-supported degree programs; eligible students can receive fellowships when they enroll in credit-bearing experiential learning courses;

Be it resolved, that UCMAA reaffirms its support for comprehensive immigration reform;

Be it further resolved, that UCMAA reaffirms its support for the re-institution of the DACA program or the creation of a program that similarly supports university access and extracurricular opportunities for undocumented students;

Be it further resolved, that UCMAA categorically supports alignment with the University of California's stance on undocumented student education and access;

Be it finally resolved, that UCMAA supports undocumented students, alumni, and celebrates their excellence and contributions to UC Merced, the U.S. and the world.