



# UC MERCED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF REGENT JOSIAH BEHARRY  
APRIL 19, 2025

## **Resolution Commending Regent Josiah Beharry for His Historic Leadership and Service as Student Regent**

Purpose: To honor Regent Josiah Beharry for his groundbreaking service as the first UC Student Regent from the Merced campus and the 50th UC Student Regent, recognizing his unwavering commitment to equity, representation, and student advocacy across the University of California.

- Whereas, Regent Josiah Beharry was appointed as the 2024–2025 Student Regent, marking a significant milestone as the first representative from UC Merced to hold this esteemed position;
- Whereas, As an undocumented student and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient, Regent Beharry has navigated and overcome numerous challenges, demonstrating resilience and dedication in his academic and leadership pursuits;
- Whereas, He graduated magna cum laude from UC Merced with a Bachelor's degree in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Humanities, focusing on liberatory pedagogy, decolonizing curriculum, and trauma-rooted healing;
- Whereas, Regent Beharry has been a compassionate peer leader and mentor, wholeheartedly supporting students from underrepresented communities and fostering an unwavering sense of belonging;
- Whereas, He has contributed significantly to the community by mentoring and aiding in developing the Gateway Scholars program at UC Merced's Bright Student Success Center, equipping high school students in Merced with the tools necessary for college readiness;
- Whereas, His advocacy extends to notable organizations such as the Central Valley Pride Center, the ACLU, UCLA Dream Summer, and APALA National, reflecting his commitment to social justice and equity;
- Whereas, He has been a staunch advocate for freedom of speech, expressing concerns about policies that may affect free expression and the scholarly work of students and faculty within the UC system;
- Whereas, Regent Beharry has actively supported initiatives aimed at diversifying the professoriate in STEM fields, including his involvement with the Cal Bridge program;
- Whereas, He has demonstrated exceptional accessibility and engagement by attending conferences, events, and student government meetings across the UC system to listen to and advocate for student concerns;
- Whereas, Regent Beharry has formed strong and respectful relationships with his fellow Regents, exemplifying the collaborative, innovative, and pioneering Bobcat spirit of UC Merced through his thoughtful engagement and shared governance;
- Whereas, His leadership embodies the core values of UC Merced and serves as an inspiration to students and alumni alike;
- Whereas, Regent Beharry's historic appointment and distinguished service have left a lasting legacy—not only by opening doors for future Bobcats to lead at the highest levels of UC governance, but also by proving that advocacy rooted in compassion, courage, and authenticity can shape the future of higher education;

Be it resolved, That the UC Merced Alumni Association commends Regent Josiah Beharry for his historic and exemplary service as the 50th UC Student Regent and the first from UC Merced, recognizing his unwavering commitment to student advocacy, equity, and representation;

Be it resolved, That the UC Merced Alumni Association expresses profound gratitude for Regent Beharry's dedication to fostering inclusivity and empowerment within the University of California community;

Be it resolved, That the UC Merced Alumni Association shall transmit this resolution to the UC Merced Chancellor, UC Office of the President, UC Board of Regents, and any other persons or organizations deemed appropriate by the UC Merced Alumni Association President