



California Institute of Integral Studies

September 8, 2017

Dear CIIS Community,

We join our voices with leaders of colleges and universities across the country in expressing our deep concern and dismay at this week's decision by the Trump administration to rescind the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. We affirm our support for the 800,000 innocent young people whose lives will likely be upended as a result of this decision.

<https://www.pomona.edu/news/2016/11/21-college-university-presidents-call-us-uphold-and-continue-daca>)

The DACA program has provided critical benefits to a group of students, with a positive impact on schools, colleges, and communities. DACA beneficiaries are an important part of many campuses and often exemplify the very best of the American dream; through education and hard work, they find personal and family advancement, contribute to society, and add to the rich diversity of our country.

We affirm our commitment to our core values of inclusion, access, and diversity. Every student is welcome at CIIS, regardless of country of origin, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. We believe that the DACA program should remain in place and that those covered by it should maintain their protected status. We urge Congress to act quickly to find a more permanent legislative solution that honors the promises our government made to this vulnerable population. These young people entered the program in good faith and, for many, this land is the only home they know.

Be assured that CIIS will not – indeed cannot – disclose a student's citizenship status to a third party without that student's written permission or unless otherwise obligated by law. The Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the privacy of information in students' records. For more information go to: <http://familypolicy.ed.gov/content/ferpa-general-guidance-students>

If any student, staff, or faculty member, regardless of immigration status, feels unsafe on our campuses or is approached by an immigration agent, we advise you to immediately contact Student Affairs or the Provost's Office for assistance.

We are all disturbed by this decision and its likely impact on young lives. If you are in need of emotional support or wish to further process your feelings, our Wellness Center can provide services to you.

Throughout our history, we have stood as a community committed to honest inquiry, integral thinking, the free exchange of ideas, and inclusion and support of every member. Perhaps more than ever before, these principles need to be clearly affirmed and practiced today.

We invite you to contact your elected representatives to urge them to act in a way that protects our young people and affirms our values of freedom, opportunity, inclusion, and our country's rich history of immigration and diversity.

Best wishes,

President Judie Wexler and the President's Cabinet