

Statement from the University Senate

We wish to express public support for members of the university community and their families who have DACA[1] status, are undocumented, or are members of other vulnerable groups who have been affected by negative rhetoric and executive actions during the presidential campaign, transition period, and early days of the new administration. What was often dismissed during the campaign as electioneering rhetoric has now been reflected in executive action, and further executive or legislative efforts of the same nature may be made. We the undersigned emphasize that we take seriously and affirm the University's Mission Statement, which describes its students as having "the potential for high achievement, diligence in the pursuit of their education, and high aspirations for using their education," without regard to their citizenship status, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

We reaffirm the Mission Statement's characterization of the University as "inexorably committed to the maintenance of a learning community that is deeply and broadly reflective of the diverse population of New Jersey... in a climate characterized by tolerance and openness in the exploration of ideas," and as an active participant "beyond the campus community, partnering and collaborating at the local, state, national and international levels to make positive contributions to addressing issues of importance to society."

We applaud the strong stance that President Susan Cole has taken as a signatory of multiple documents in recent months (e.g., [2], [3]) and publicizing the specific support and resources available at MSU (e.g., [4], [5].) In particular, we commend the designation and advertisement of an administrative office with the responsibility for counseling immigrant and DACA students on their educational situations ([4]); continued, regular publicity of resources such as these for new and returning students is essential. By her actions and statements, she affirms the university's commitment to DACA students and other vulnerable members of our community in light of the divisive national discourse we see today. We encourage the university administration to assert that Montclair State University is a campus publicly committed to the following policies:

1. Unless a warrant or truly exigent circumstances exist, declining cooperation with Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or other immigration-enforcement officials in detention or enforcement actions;
2. Unless a valid warrant or truly exigent circumstances exist, prohibiting the campus police force to act on behalf of federal agents to enforce immigration laws;
3. Using best legal efforts and data security practices to protect any and all records that identify members of the University community based on immigration status, ethnic/cultural

identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, gender identity, or participation in social/political activism. Providing university staff with education and support about their rights and responsibilities in this regard;

4. Continuing publicity for the administrative office with the responsibility for counseling DACA students on their educational situations (International Services), and ensuring that office is sufficiently supported to perform this role effectively, and
5. Making public, through press releases and/or news articles on the institution's website, any immigration enforcement actions conducted on this campus or against its community, consistent with the law and respect for the privacy of affected individuals.

We urge that the university publicize these additional policies through media that will most effectively reach the student body and the larger university community, including but not limited to the university website, local news media, and institutional social media.

[1] See <https://www.dhs.gov/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals> for information on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. DACA allows certain undocumented immigrants to the United States who entered the country before their 16th birthday and before June 2007 to receive a renewable two-year work permit and exemption from deportation.

[2] *Statement in Support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and our Undocumented Immigrant Students*, <https://www.pomona.edu/news/2016/11/21-college-university-presidents-call-us-uphold-and-continue-daca>

[3] <http://www.njascu.org/Joint-Statement-Immigrant-Students.pdf>

[4] <https://www.montclair.edu/news/article.php?ArticleID=17618>

[5] <https://www.montclair.edu/president/current-and-emerging-immigration-issues/>

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