

Support for Those Impacted by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program

On 5 September 2017, the US Attorney General announced the discontinuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, forcing thousands of dedicated students, scholars and members of communities across the country to face uncertain futures. This decision especially concerns the faculty, staff and communities supporting undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral scholars, and colleagues across the country in the DACA program. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) and other associations across Higher Education have publicly urged keeping the DACA program intact (see references at the end).

At Clemson University, we should continue to embrace DACA participants as part of our community and within our professional circles across the country. In this *Open Forum* we express our gratitude for their tenacity, scholarship, and contributions past, present, and future and convey our strong support for the continuation of their status. The scholars in the DACA program strive towards their own education through professionalism, commitment to excellence, and contributions to society while directly and indirectly enriching the experiences of everyone around them. We confirm our fervent support for these individuals.

Members of the Faculty Senate, Commission on Latino Affairs, and the Clemson chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) will use our collective strengths to work together with advocacy units and colleagues across campus to get answers to questions raised by this action and other related issues as they unfold. In the meantime, as faculty we can refer faculty and staff concerned for others or impacted directly to Human Resources, University Police, or the Ethics/Safety Hotline through Clemson University online portals and can refer students to the CARE network.

As faculty in a “*High Seminary of Learning*”, we are committed to the Living Environment goal of enrolling a more diverse undergraduate and graduate student body as set forth in our ClemsonForward strategic plan. We will continue to tirelessly promote diversity and inclusion excellence as we maintain integrity, honor and respect. As scholars, educators and public servants, we know that cultivating a healthy environment that welcomes all scholars and does not allow discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran’s status, genetic information or protected activity is the best path forward to the brightest possible future for South Carolina and our country.

Sincerely,

Amy Lawton-Rauh
President, Faculty Senate 2017-2018

Jan R. Holmevik
Vice-President/President-Elect, Faculty Senate 2017-2018

Jennifer Ogle
Secretary, Faculty Senate 2017-2018

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Faculty Manual Consultant 2017-present
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O. Thompson Mefford
Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Derek Wilmott
Chair, Commission on Latino Affairs

Megan Che
President, Clemson Chapter of the AAUP

Susanna Ashton
Vice President, Clemson Chapter of the AAUP

References:

AAUP on DACA:

<https://www.aaup.org/news/aaup-denounces-decision-end-daca-program>

APLU on DACA:

5. September 2017:

<http://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/News/aplu-urges-swift-congressional-action-to-at-a-minimum-codify-daca-provisions-into-law>

2. September 2017:

<http://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/News/2017/09/02/aplu-urges-congress-to-take-swift-action-to-protect-daca-participants>

30. November 2016:

<http://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/blog/aplu-president-mcpherson-sends-letter-to-president-elect-trump-on-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca-program>

ClemsonForward citation:

<https://www.clemson.edu/forward/>

High Seminary of Learning citation:

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