



Dear Campus Community,

I'm so thrilled to share with you two important rulings that the Supreme Court of the United States issued this week. Like so many of you, I have been anxiously awaiting these outcomes, as they help solidify important steps forward in equity and human rights.

- On Monday, in a 6-3 decision, SCOTUS ruled that protections based on sex under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act extend to sexual orientation and gender identity. This landmark decision has implications in education, housing and healthcare, and reflects the work of LGBTQ+ leaders and allies who have fought for decades to affirm the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer employees. That this ruling happened during Pride month – celebrated annually in June to honor the June 28-July 3, 1969 Stonewall riots – makes the victory even sweeter.
- Just this morning, in a 5-4 decision, SCOTUS ruled that the federal administration cannot carry out plans to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has allowed nearly 700,000 young people, known as “Dreamers,” to avoid deportation and remain in the U.S. The alternative – a decision to allow the rescinding of DACA – would have impacted so many CSUSM students, faculty and staff as well as members of our extended community. The [DREAMer Resource Office](#) will host two virtual forums on Monday, June 22 in which DACA experts will provide updates and information on DACA application renewal and other implications from the ruling. A link and more information to participate in these events, along with other ongoing resources, will be sent in a follow-up message shortly.

For DACA, we must encourage Congress to build on this decision by passing comprehensive immigration reform not only for our Dreamers, but for the millions of other undocumented individuals in our country. For our LGBTQ+ community, we know that one court decision alone is not enough – equality in some areas does not yet mean equality in all areas. Although this week's decisions are extremely important victories, we know the work is not finished. We only need to look around the world and our own campus today to see that there is more work to be done.

Tomorrow, June 19, is [Juneteenth](#), a day that has taken on even greater significance this year. While the day celebrates the emancipation of enslaved people, its significance reaches well beyond remembrance on June 19 – it must include our engagement as we continue our work to dismantle anti-Black racism.

I want to thank the many students, faculty and staff who are on the frontlines, working to support a more equitable and just world for all, free of discrimination, bias, bigotry, hate, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism and racism. You are setting the example for all of us, and I join you in making a commitment that we at CSUSM are going to continue this journey together.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt
President

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