Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017

Today the Department of Homeland Security issued a Memorandum on Rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program that grants work permits to undocumented immigrants who arrived in our country as children.

I am deeply troubled by this decision to repeal DACA, a policy that has provided temporary relief to approximately 800,000 young people nationwide. As a university community committed to diversity, inclusion and mutual respect, let me be clear that we will relentlessly advocate for DACA recipients and work with our California Congressional delegation – as well as other elected officials - to quickly find a pathway that will allow current and future undocumented students to complete their studies without fear for their futures.

Ultimately, it is my hope that this process will lead to a path to citizenship for DACA recipients. However, if Congress is unable to act, DACA recipients could face deportation as early as March 2018. I want to assure our DACA students we will be working as a campus community to identify ways to support them through degree completion if they face deportation.

Although no new DACA applications are being accepted now, DACA and work permits remain valid until expiration. Please be aware that DACA issuances and work permits expiring between now and March 5, 2018, must be submitted for renewal by October 5, 2017. If any employees have questions about renewing their work permit, please contact Lisa McLean, director or Labor & Employee Relations, at ext. 4411.

Last fall, one of the recommendations that came out of the AB 540 Action Plan was to identify, create and institutionalize an undocumented student resource office. I have just met with Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Lorena Checa, and AVP for Inclusive Excellence, Dr. Joe-Joe McManus, and we have identified an office for this purpose. While we undertake some necessary minor remodeling, I'm tasking these two with the next steps of identifying staffing needs for the office as well as the related costs. I look forward to sharing future updates with you as progress towards the opening of that space continues.

I'd also like to reiterate that University Police will not undertake joint efforts with federal immigration enforcement authorities to investigate, detain or arrest individuals for issues related to federal immigration law. If for any reason a student or member of our faculty or staff are stopped on campus by any official asking for information or documentation, immediately contact our University Police Department at 760-750-4567 or 911 from any campus phone. The University Police Department will act as a liaison with the on-site officials, and will coordinate with the CSU Office of General Counsel to provide guidance, references and resources as available.

Please take a moment to read Chancellor Timothy White's message to the CSU community on DACA at https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/Chancellor-White's-Message-to-CSU-Community-on-DACA.aspx

On Friday, VP Checa shared a message with a number of valuable resources and contacts. That message can be viewed online at: http://www.csusm.edu/undocumented/documents/daca.pdf

Our CSUSM Undocumented and AB 540 Student Support Services web portal, which can be found at http://www.csusm.edu/undocumented/, provides information about off-campus resources, including legal assistance.

At CSUSM, we know that our students graduate prepared to not only live better lives, but to contribute to our region in meaningful ways. Every member of our CSUSM family deserves the right to pursue their interests and find their passion. Together, let's send a clear message of support to our DACA students: *You are welcome here.*

Together, let's add our voices urging Congress to find a speedy solution.

Together, we are CSUSM.

Sincerely,
Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.
President