

RESOLUTION NO. 22A
BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**RESOLUTION DECLARING OCTOBER 14 TO OCTOBER 18, 2024,
AS UNDCOUMENTED STUDENT ACTION WEEK
*CREATING BELONGING FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS***

WHEREAS, since its inception in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has allowed over 830,000 young people to remain in the United States, the only country many of them have ever known, with their families, and has been one of the most successful immigration initiatives in modern history; and

WHEREAS, the DACA program allows certain eligible noncitizens who arrived in the United States as children, to defer their removal and allow them an opportunity to access a renewable, two-year work permit; and

WHEREAS, many DACA recipients have become employers, homeowners, doctors and nurses who are working to ensure the health and safety of Americans, teachers who strive to give back to younger generations, and members of our military serving to protect our country; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a final ruling that preserves and fortifies the DACA policy by maintaining the existing threshold criteria for DACA, retains the existing process for DACA requestors to seek work authorization, and affirms the longstanding policy that DACA is not a form of lawful status but that DACA recipients, like other deferred action recipients, are considered "lawfully present" for certain purposes; and

WHEREAS, this final ruling became effective on October 31, 2022, a July 16, 2021, injunction from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas remains in effect, prohibiting the DHS from granting any initial DACA requests and related employment authorization under the final ruling and may undermine or end the program; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated there were over one million DACA-eligible individuals in 2023 and moving up their date of entry from 2007 (which has not changed since 2012) to 2016, could benefit an additional 399,000 individuals who would become eligible for DACA. A majority of undocumented students entering higher education are not eligible for DACA because they arrived in the United States after June 15, 2007. It is further estimated approximately two million DREAMers (immigrants who came to the United States as children, lived and attended school in the United States, and in many cases, identify as American) have a path to citizenship, but they must meet rigorous educational, financial, character and criminal thresholds; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges are the nation's largest postsecondary education system in the country with 116 colleges and over 2.1 million students, and are committed to providing an open and welcoming environment where all students can learn, grow, feel supported and safe; and

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges continue to advocate to Congress and the Administration to preserve DACA and respect the contributions of undocumented immigrants, their pursuit of their higher education goals, and provide them with a path to citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) Governing Board also passed Resolution No. 1-S on January 11, 2017, entitled, "Reaffirming Support of Contra Costa Community College District Students and Employees," which supported our undocumented immigrant students including DACA recipients; and

WHEREAS, the 4CD Governing Board revised and approved Resolution No. 1-S at its January 25, 2017, meeting, including the title, "Reaffirming Support of Contra Costa Community College District Students and Employees in Defense of Diversity and Inclusion in the Contra Costa Community College District;" and

WHEREAS, 4CD colleges have engaged in numerous activities, including the annual 4CD DREAMers Conference in support of undocumented students, and since 2019, the 4CD Governing Board has passed resolutions to reaffirm its commitment to support all students throughout 4CD, including undocumented students, which were and are part of the week-long program of activities and information disseminated systemwide; and

WHEREAS, despite ongoing advocacy efforts by 4CD, the California Community Colleges, and many other individuals and organizations in California and across the nation, the preservation of DACA and the adoption of an effective solution for undocumented students and a path to citizenship remains elusive, which places continued economic and emotional weight on students, their families, communities, and the state; and

WHEREAS, 4CD colleges have created Dreamer Resource Centers or Undocumented Student Programs on their campuses. These centers provide a safe space for undocumented students to access resources, legal assistance, and academic support; and

WHEREAS, 4CD has adopted policies to ensure that colleges do not release personally identifiable information related to immigration status unless required by judicial order. This commitment helps protect the privacy and safety of undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, our colleges have shown strong support for Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540) (and amendments); and the California Dream Act, which allow eligible undocumented students to pay in-state tuition and apply for state financial aid. This Resolution emphasizes the importance of making higher education accessible to all students, regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, community colleges have actively advocated for policy changes at the state and federal levels to support undocumented students. This includes lobbying for the continuation and expansion of AB 540 and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and other protective measures; and

WHEREAS, 4CD has created and promoted scholarships specifically for undocumented students. These financial aids are crucial in helping students cover tuition and other educational expenses; and

WHEREAS, 4CD colleges host "Know Your Rights" clinics and other events to educate undocumented students about their legal rights and available resources. These events are often part of broader efforts during Undocumented Student Action Week.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 4CD declares October 14-18, 2024, as "Undocumented Student Action Week" to work in partnership with other organizations and encourages the California Community Colleges to engage in activities supporting undocumented students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 4CD supports the Brentwood Center, Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College and the San Ramon Campus, to identify and share best practices for assisting undocumented students, disseminate information to the students about how to access funding for immigration defense proceedings and referral to legal service providers, and reinforce state policies that protect student rights and privacy; and

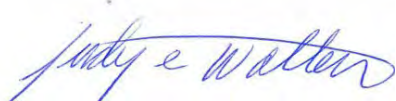
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 4CD urges Congressional members to uphold California human values by creating a bipartisan legislative solution that provides a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students, which will permit them to complete their educational goals and achieve their highest potential to benefit our nation.

Approved:



Rebecca Barrett, President
4CD Governing Board

Attested to:



Dr. Judy E. Walters, Secretary
4CD Governing Board