



**ALLAN  
HANCOCK  
COLLEGE**

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Statement from Superintendent/President Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D. on DACA Decision**

*Below is a statement Superintendent/President Kevin G. Walthers Ph.D. issued to Allan Hancock College students, faculty and staff on the DACA decision.*

Dear AHC Community and Friends,

As many of you know, earlier today the Trump administration announced a decision to end the Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, with an effective date in six months. In making this statement, the administration called on Congress to address an issue that has lingered for far too long. We are hopeful that men and women of good faith will rally to provide a safe space for our friends, neighbors and colleagues who came to the United States as children and have grasped onto the American spirit that values education and hard work. It seems, at least to me, antithetical to our nation's values to hold children responsible for decisions and actions made by their parents.

Allan Hancock College stands by its commitment to all students, and our values of inclusion, diversity, unity, open discussion and success. We remain dedicated to maintaining an environment of mutual respect where students feel empowered to achieve their goals, to go anywhere, without fear or anxiety. Hancock is comprised of diverse populations and we proudly recognize their contributions not only to our college and local community, but also to the entire Central Coast, our state and our nation.

Please know that the [resolution signed by the Allan Hancock College Board of Trustees](#) on February 15, 2017 remains intact. Take a moment to read it and please share with your students. You can also share with your students or colleagues that AHC faculty have joined with faculty from Cal Poly and Cuesta to create the [Central Coast Coalition for Undocumented Student Success](#). For more information on what we are already doing in relation to supporting our students, you can contact Juanita Tuan at [jtuan@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:jtuan@hancockcollege.edu) or visit Hancock's AB540/Dream Act [Announcements and Events](#) page.

It is extremely important that everyone – regardless of immigration status – feels safe, supported and valued at Hancock. Today, as we walk around our campus, engage with students and our colleagues and begin another week of studies, I encourage all of us to take just a moment to help extend that thought of reassurance and validity. Our [counselors are available](#) to assist with helping students understand how today's events will impact them individually.

In closing, let me share with you the statement that California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley issued this morning:

“Ending DACA is a heartless and senseless decision that goes against American ideals and basic human decency. Those who are affected by this decision were brought to this country as children and are pursuing an education and making contributions their communities. Some have served in the armed forces defending this country. In California, we don't put dreams – or Dreamers – on hold. The California Community Colleges remain committed to serving all students, regardless of immigration status and to providing safe and welcoming environments in

which to learn. We will do all within our power to assist students affected by this decision, and we will advocate tirelessly in Congress for a permanent resolution to this issue.”

There are additional resources available for undocumented students on the chancellor’s [website](#). As always, our faculty, staff and administrative team are ready to provide support for individual students, clubs or classes that want to address this critical issue.

Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/President

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