June 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Today, we commemorate a historic moment when the United States Supreme Court voted 5 to 4 to uphold the DACA program for millions of our bright students - that we have the honor to support. Over the last 3 years, our students have lived in fear and terror behind the threats of being deported to a country many have never known. These students can move forward – not with fear, but with hope and courage towards achieving their college degree and becoming part of the American Dream.

The Chief Student Services Officers Association is united in support of our DACA students and we remain committed to ensuring success for our students. Our work remains committed to advancing social justice and student equity among our diverse student body. We will continue to support the California Community College Chancellor’s Office in their work advocating for all students, including Dreamers, which has been done in collaboration with the many equity minded professionals in our system. As an association, we will continue to advocate on behalf of Dreamers and work alongside the Chancellor’s Office to ensure that they are able to achieve their academic and career goals.

In the days and weeks ahead, we commit to:

- Provide guidelines on utilizing the Federal CARES Act funding to support the educational pursuits of undocumented students.
- Provide guidelines on the development of town halls to provide legal and mental health support for students.
- Create a platform to share ideas to support DACAmented Students, Undocumented Students and Students who are from mixed immigration status families.
- Provide best practices on the development of consistent messages to students and the community and create healing opportunities.

As an association, we honor and celebrate our Dreamers. While the path ahead will continue to remain uneasy, this decision provides a victory for our students and our system. We embrace our responsibility to promote educational opportunities for all students. This decision ensures that Dreamers will continue to remain an important part of our diverse and vibrant learning communities.

With deepest regards,

Dr. Cynthia Olivo
President

Ensuring Opportunities for Success for Every Student