



Chief Student Services Officers Association

Zav Dadabhoy, President
Ulises Velasco, Treasurer

Lataria Hall, President Elect
Sylvia Dorsey-Robinson, Executive Manager

240 N. 12th Avenue; Suite 109 #150; Hanford, CA 93230
www.calcsso.org

July 13, 2020

International Students and the ICE Decision to Limit FI Students Studying in a fully online college

The Trump administration's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced that international students cannot remain in the country to continue their studies if they're taking only online courses in the fall semester. This was a unilateral reversal of an exception that was made for the Spring and Summer 2020 semesters when COVID-19 forced colleges and universities to transition to online classes. There were no reasons provided to justify this decision.

We, the Chief Student Services Officers Association of California Community Colleges contend that this is a serious foreign policy miscalculation, and we call upon our representatives in congress to take action immediately to correct this arbitrary decision that has no economic, health care, or security justifications. We believe that this arbitrary decision was made to pressure colleges and universities to reopen their on-campus classrooms for face to face instruction this fall, despite concerns for the health and safety of students, instructors, and college communities.

International students pay full tuition, generating added revenues for colleges. They also spend heavily on housing and other goods, which benefits our local communities. International students contributed more than \$40 billion to the U.S. economy in the 2018-2019 academic year by spending occurring in the higher education, accommodation, dining, retail, transportation, telecommunications and health insurance sectors. In fact, international student programs create and support over 400,000 jobs in the country (NAFSA Research, 2019.) It is incorrect to assume that taxpayer funds are used to support international students.

The economic value of international students in the US is just one component of this issue. Beyond that, our international student programs create real educational and career benefits for our students and local communities. They contribute to America's scientific and technical research and bring international perspectives into US classrooms, helping prepare American undergraduates for global careers, with longer-term business relationships and commercial benefits. A majority of Fortune 500 companies' leaders are former international students—a testament to the ability of the international student program to attract generational talent and expertise that contributes to keeping the US as a great country. In today's global economy, this type of international knowledge

Ensuring Opportunities for Success for Every Student



Chief Student Services Officers Association

Zav Dadabhoy, President
Ulises Velasco, Treasurer

Lataria Hall, President Elect
Sylvia Dorsey-Robinson, Executive Manager

240 N. 12th Avenue; Suite 109 #150; Hanford, CA 93230
www.calcsso.org

is critical and important. We must be more resolved than ever to open our doors wider and embrace the global knowledge our international student community has to offer. As a nation, we must create opportunities for global understanding, goodwill and relationships.

The CSSO Association condemns the Trump administration's decision to limit student visas for international students. It will have severe consequences for our F1 students, for international relations programs, and will compromise the ideals of student completion and progression because of some ill-conceived, short-term political gain. We urge our colleagues in California Community Colleges to continue to support and guide our international students during the challenges of the COVID pandemic and to mitigate the effects of this foreign policy decision. We value all of our students and cannot stand by quietly when any one of them is unfairly targeted.

For further information:

Dr Zav Dadabhoy
President, Chief Student Services Officers Association
Vice President for Student Affairs, Bakersfield College
zav.dadabhoy@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Ensuring Opportunities for Success for Every Student