

San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education

Position Paper: Institutional Support in Higher Education for Undocumented and Mixed Status Students and Families

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This position paper by the San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio (SD Concilio) on Higher Education is a demand for anti-racist, social justice policies and practices by our local colleges and universities. Specifically, we urge our local institutions to implement policies and practices to ensure a safe, supportive environment for undocumented and mixed status students on every local campus.

U.S. President-Elect Donald Trump, an admitted white supremacist and convicted felon, has promised to conduct both mass and targeted deportation against all undocumented residents of the U.S. This includes DACA and other undocumented students that attend San Diego colleges and universities, as well as the students' families. As educators committed to a secure, equitable learning environment, we cannot allow this.

Although the damage to undocumented students and mixed status families from threats of deportation is self-evident, we acknowledge the description by University of California faculty in a letter to UC President Michael Drake:

Deportation causes significant harm, as the research of renowned UC scholars has shown. The threat of deportation is a major source of stress, fear, and worry. The experience of detention and deportation involves a sudden removal from one's home, school, and family; incarceration without due process; and forced migration to a place where students may no longer have family, a home, work connections, or even the facility to speak the language. When students' family members are deported, students are deprived of their family member's care and support. Students whose family members are deported often face major financial and mental health setbacks, threatening their ability to complete their education (2025).

The SD Concilio demands that every California Community College, CSU, and UC in San Diego County implement the following policies and practices:

- Develop and disseminate a strong message of support for undocumented and mixed status students from the institution's highest administrative leader. This message should include specific steps that each campus community member should take to ensure the highest degree of noncooperation with federal entities allowed by state law. The message should be posted on the top administrator's webpage and disseminated to all members of the campus community.
- A campus should **not** share student data with ICE or any entity, including family or financial data from the FAFSA, under any circumstances.

- Each campus should follow state law and guidelines regarding noncooperation with ICE and/or other federal entities. This includes SB 54, a 2017 California state law that prevents state and local law enforcement agencies from using their resources on behalf of federal immigration enforcement agencies, and AB21, 2017 legislation that requires California state and community colleges, and requests UC universities to establish various policies and procedures on their campuses to foster a campus environment that is safe and welcoming for all members of our community, regardless of immigration status. This also includes recent guidelines disseminated by California Attorney General Rob Bonta ([Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's Colleges and Universities](#)).
- Each campus should provide mandatory training for all faculty and staff regarding the state laws referenced above and the campus' specific policies and practices regarding contact with federal agencies. In particular, campus administrators should have substantive dialogue with all the different departments that might manage information about students' or families' immigration status, such as information technology, admissions, registrar, and financial aid. The training should make explicit that there are consequences for faculty and/or staff that violate these state laws and campus policies and practices.
- Representatives from ICE and/or any other federal agency should not be allowed to contact students on campus without a judicial warrant. Campuses should follow California's guidelines disseminated by the CA Attorney General to protect students.
- Each campus should institutionalize its support for undocumented student centers and their services. Such centers cannot work effectively without sufficient, consistent resources and supportive collaboration from faculty and staff. This includes providing sufficient resources to enable undocumented student centers to be fully staffed, including the services of a full-time director/coordinator to manage the day-to-day operations, train and supervise employees, organize events and retention programs, and manage the budget. The staff should also include a full-time counselor for undocumented and mixed status students. The centers should also be resourced to provide emergency funds to undocumented students in crisis.
- Campuses should allocate sufficient resources to provide "Know Your Rights" workshops and literature for students.
- Each campus should attempt to provide sponsorship for undocumented faculty and staff to ensure their continued contribution to the institution.

- Every campus should take all steps necessary to discourage and/or punish vigilante actions by any member of the campus community, including reports by faculty, staff, and/or students to ICE that allege undocumented status for any member of the campus community.
- Create or reinvigorate an active campus task force to effectively implement these recommendations. Include the voices and concerns of those who are directly impacted.
- For additional institutional reflection and action, consult the “10 Practices to Safeguard Undocumented Student Data in Higher Education” developed and disseminated by the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.

Our SD Concilio requests a response from each local, public institution of higher education that outlines in detail its response to these demands. The pending actions by President-Elect Trump represent an unprecedented level of racialization of and racism targeting California students. We call on our local institutional leaders to rise to the occasion in keeping with the solemn trust and responsibility that has been placed on them as protectors of the academic development, safety, and welfare of students in institutions of higher education. Likewise, we expect our elected state officials to hold our local institutions accountable.

Sinceramente,

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