



September 6, 2017

Dear UWest students and community members,

Yesterday, national news reported President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, in place for the past five years. Implementation of this decision has been delayed until March 5, 2018, giving the U.S. Congress six months to act towards a fair and more permanent legislative resolution. Roughly 800,000 young people in the U.S. currently benefit from the DACA program, a full quarter of them residing in the State of California, including students at UWest. These young people, by virtue of their humanity and their innumerable skills, talents, and contributions, are vibrant and valuable members of American society.

In the wake of the DACA rescindment, I want to reassure all UWest students, faculty, and staff of our university's affirming and inclusive principles. I am proud to be a member of this learning community, where we encourage, embrace, support, and celebrate one of the most diverse communities in American higher education, a community constantly striving to strengthen our **character**, practice **compassion**, and build **community** from the wonderful diversity of each and every community member.

Please know that UWest is here to support our students of all races, nationalities, ethnicities, religions, genders and gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities. This inclusiveness extends, of course, also to those students who currently do not enjoy the privilege of documented status in the U.S. Please know that we take very seriously the protection of your privacy and of your well-being as a fully included member of our community.

UWest acknowledges that the DACA announcement is very difficult and frightening for DACA students, their families, friends, and allies. I want to make sure that everyone is aware of some resources UWest provides for any student who feels anxious, depressed, or overwhelmed by these current events and events like them. Please follow this link to learn about confidential counseling services provided through the campus Wellness Center as well as our volunteer chaplain <http://www.uwest.edu/current-students/student-resources/wellness-center/>. Also, please feel free to reach out to me, our deans, Chief Academic Officer, and members of our faculty and staff if you have any questions. We may not have all the answers, but we will work to get them for you.

I also invite you to remain current on information and resources such as those provided by

- the Coalition for Humane Immigration Reform (CHIRLA): <http://www.chirla.org/>,
- the ACLU: <https://www.aclu.org/news/aclu-statement-termination-daca>,
- the Immigrant Legal Resource Center: <http://remezcla.com/lists/culture/irli-daca-recipients-rights/?rfb>, and

- NAFSA: http://www.nafsa.org/Resource_Library_Assets/Regulatory_Information/DACA_Resource_Page_For_International_Student_Advisers_and_Education_Abroad_Advisers/

The university will continue to update you with useful resources and information on a regular basis.

Thank you for your trust in UWest. Let us continue to support and celebrate the gifts we share, and let us hope that others will learn to embrace the diversity that makes our lives so rich.

Sincerely,

Steve Morgan

Stephen Morgan
President