

June 23, 2020

Dear Students,

This past Thursday, following months of anticipation and trepidation, we learned of the Supreme Court's ruling which declared the Trump administration's decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA ) policy is unlawful. It is with great joy that we acknowledge and celebrate the nearly 700,000 current and former students who have benefited and now may continue to benefit from DACA, which was announced by President Obama in 2012. The decision is the result of three years of hard work by advocates and educators from around the world, including many here at USC, who have helped provide for undocumented students the resources and support to achieve their educational dreams at USC.

Current DACA recipients and first-time applicants are encouraged to seek legal advice before submitting renewal or first-time applications. Free legal resources are available the [USC Gould Immigrant Legal Assistance Center](#), which provides confidential consultations, legal assistance, and referrals to students, staff members, contract employees, faculty and family members who may be at risk of deportation. The Immigrant Legal Assistance Center can help clients apply for immigration status and answer questions about their legal status and legal rights under the immigration laws. [Student Equity and Inclusion Programs](#) (SEIP) has also developed a resource page for DACA recipients and undocumented students, and is also available to connect students to SEIP Centers, programs and staff. Contact information for all SEIP staff is located on their website.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling also underscores our efforts to increase programming for various underserved student communities, including but not limited to First Generation Students, Former Foster Youth, Native American, and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) students. We will also be enhancing the current space already being used for centers for Asian Pacific American, Black, Latinx/Chicanx, Veteran, and LGBT students by opening spaces across two floors of the Student Union and Ronald Tutor Campus Center. It is our hope that these new spaces and programs will improve and facilitate dialogue, build community, and greatly enhance student well-being and success.

While we allow ourselves a brief moment to celebrate this victory, we must also acknowledge that there is much more work to be done, and we must continue the fight as a united Trojan community. I ask you in joining me as we rededicate ourselves to the University's shared values of fairness, inclusion, equality, diversity, opportunity and the dedication to a warm and accessible environment for all.

Thank you,



Winston B. Crisp

Vice President for Student Affairs