

Hello Hawks,

On behalf of and in community with our Washington Community & Technical College members, I want to share our system's statement in support of our students and their families regarding the October 5, 2022, decision that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is unlawful, by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"The court also ruled that current DACA enrollees could renew their status and sent the case back to a lower court to consider a regulation enacted by the Biden administration to strengthen the DACA program against legal challenges."

"DACA was introduced as an executive order in 2012 to protect eligible immigrants who came to the United States as children to work legally and continue their studies without the debilitating fear of deportation. Today, nearly 600,000 people are active in the DACA program, including many of Washington's community and technical college students.

Students in the DACA program are part of the fabric of our college communities. They are students, classmates, friends, neighbors, family members, coworkers, and members of our local communities. Dreamers elevate our culture and our economy and create a brighter future for Washington."

Please know that CBC remains committed to supporting our undocumented students and their families, regardless of whether they have DACA status. CBC's diversity, equity, and inclusion values ensure that we continue to center those who are most impacted when policies and procedures become barriers that impact educational success. Even with these protections in an indeterminate state, we continue to be steadfast in our commitment to supporting our students and will work to ensure that students are able to continue their education.

We are committed to our DEI values as foundations to access and success in higher education which is also in line with our State Board's goal to "lead with racial equity." We will continue to do everything we can to help and protect our students, families, colleagues, neighbors, and friends.

In solidarity,

Dr. Rebekah Woods