



[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

99th SESSION
2023-2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE DREAM CENTER ESTABLISHMENT

IN THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

FEBRUARY, 2024

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR ZENTENO

A RESOLUTION

Dream Center

WHEREAS, DACA is an acronym for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which is a policy that is implemented to protect individuals also known as Dreamers who do not have an official legal status to citizenship. Undocumented individuals being those who reside in the United States without legal status and are not protected by a policy.

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges serves various student populations, including DACA and Undocumented Recipients where according to Immigrants Rising states, California Community Colleges serve a number of undocumented post-secondary students in our state estimating 50,000-70,000 with California being the highest serving state for these students.

WHEREAS, Dream Centers have proven to be successful in providing service to support undocumented students, as well as fostering an environment full of inclusivity, while addressing needs and concerns of students who are DACA or Undocumented affiliated.

WHEREAS, carrying out and executing a Dream Center aligns with values such as diversity, and inclusion, promoting equal access to education for all students regardless of their immigration status

WHEREAS, undocumented and DACA students come across multiple barriers such as financial difficulties, limited access to legal resources, and lack of awareness regarding available support services. The Dreamer's Project Report summarizes findings from an online survey conducted with 111 colleges and discussions at four regional meetings attended by 87 representatives from 50 campuses. Out of the surveyed colleges, 40 reported having no full-time staff dedicated to undocumented student services. Only 11 campuses had a full-time staff member specifically allocated to support this population. By November 2018, only 35 colleges had Dream Resource Centers, and 16 of them lacked dedicated support staff. This suggests that many primary contacts for undocumented students are providing informal support alongside other job responsibilities.

WHEREAS, Dream Centers will serve as a designated safe haven for undocumented and DACA students to collaborate and meet each other as well as a center where students can attend professional, academic, and career-oriented workshops. These workshops will support DACA and undocumented students' understanding of scholarships, grants, and other

opportunities they can apply to. According to an interview with Angela Chen with the New University newspaper, an official campus newspaper by the University of California Irvine, Chen states without her documentation, Chen was unable to study abroad, access campus career resources or apply to internships.

WHEREAS, with the goal of promoting educational success, retention, and persistence for students to continue their academic journey post-community college (4 years, certificate, etc).

WHEREAS, creating a Dream Center through-out California Community College's would benefit by receiving a mass amount of enrollment as DACA and undocumented students will feel they have resources to help them succeed in their academic endeavors. Studies show from Higher Ed Immigration Portal states in California there are 38,383 DACA-Eligible Students in higher education, and 14,000 undocumented Students Graduating High School Each Year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BCSGA supports the establishment of a Dream Center at Bakersfield College and throughout the California Community Colleges system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that California Community Colleges establish and implement Dream Centers throughout the California Community College system to enhance the support services available to undocumented students.



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