More than 70 U.S. Colleges and Universities Join in Supporting the Legal Challenge to the Administration’s Ending DACA

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More than 70 member institutions of the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration have signed onto an amicus brief filed yesterday supporting plaintiffs who are challenging the Trump Administration’s decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (“DACA”) program.

This “friend of the court” brief presents evidence of the vital role that the DACA program plays at the institutions and beyond, enabling thousands of previously undocumented students to successfully pursue a college degree while contributing significantly to their campuses, communities, and the nation. The brief also points to the serious harm that would be caused to American colleges and universities and to the nation more broadly if DACA were ended. Representing institutions of higher education, the law firm Jenner & Block prepared and filed the amicus brief for the case of Batalla Vidal v. Trump in the Second Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. The brief states that DACA students “form a key part of our campus life and as institutions we benefit greatly from the energy and academic excellence they bring.” And, that rescinding DACA not only harms the many remarkable young people, but “critically, it will also harm the country, which will be deprived of the many contributions Dreamers would otherwise be able to make.”

“This is our talent pool of the future,” said Rutgers-Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor, a founding member of the Presidents’ Alliance and co-chair of its steering committee. “Dreamers are a critical part of the diversity that will define the prosperity of our knowledge economy in the decades ahead, just as diversity has always given life and strength to our communities over centuries and embodied our country’s founding democratic principle of E pluribus unum—out of many, one. Every American needs Dreamers in our colleges and universities. They are our future innovators, entrepreneurs, civic leaders, and artists, just like the previous generations of immigrants who came to our shores from other places to contribute to our prosperity and the vibrancy of our democracy.”

The college and university signatories represent the broad coalition of institutions whose leaders are members of the Presidents’ Alliance. Located in communities spanning the political spectrum and ranging from urban centers to rural farm areas, collectively they teach and employ millions of people, and include large public universities, private research universities, small liberal arts colleges, and expansive community colleges.

About the President’s Alliance

The Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration brings together American college and university leaders dedicated to increasing public understanding of how immigration policies and practices impact our students, campuses and communities, and supporting policies that create a welcoming environment for immigrant, undocumented and international students on our campuses. The Presidents’ Alliance supports policies and practices that create a welcoming
environment for immigrant, undocumented and international students on U.S. campuses. Launched in December 2017, this non-partisan organization includes more than 300 college and university presidents and chancellors. The Presidents’ Alliance invites college and university presidents and chancellors who endorse the principles in the Alliance’s Founding Statement to join.

List of Presidents’ Alliance institutions joining the amicus brief

- Adler University
- Alamo Community College District
- American University
- Amherst College
- Arizona State University
- Augustana College
- Barnard College
- Bates College
- Bennington College
- Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on Behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno.
- Brandeis University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University
- California Institute of Integral Studies
- California State University System
- Carleton College
- Christian Brothers University
- Clark University
- Colby College
- DePauw University
- Drexel University
- Elon University
- Emerson College
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Frostburg State University
- Goucher College
- Guilford College
- Hamilton College
- Haverford College
- Kalamazoo College
- Lewis & Clark College
- Macalester College
- Manhattanville College
- Mills College
- Mount Holyoke College
- Pace University
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Pacific Oaks College
- Pomona College
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Roosevelt University
- Rutgers University - Camden
- Rutgers University - Newark
- Salisbury University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Saybrook University
- Seattle Pacific University
- Southeastern University
- St. Norbert College
- TCS Education System
- The College of Wooster
- The New School
- Towson University
- Trinity Washington University
- Truckee Meadows Community College
- Tufts University
- University of Baltimore
- University of Maryland Baltimore
- University of Maryland University College
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- University of New England
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Utah
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Wellesley College
- Wesleyan University
- Western Washington University
- Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
- Whitman College
- Whittier College
- Williams College