

Communications Toolkit for Colleges and Universities — DACA Amicus Brief¹

October 4, 2019

The future of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)—and the futures of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers—will be argued at the Supreme Court of the United States on November 12, 2019. The Court could hand down a ruling as soon as February 2020, which will determine whether DACA recipients will lose the ability to live, study, and work in the United States. For more information about the DACA case, visit [SCOTUSBlog](#) and the National Immigration Law Center [summary](#) of the timeline and potential scenarios.

To leverage the voice of higher education institutions in this case and demonstrate the importance of DACA for students and campuses across the country, the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration coordinated an amicus brief signed by 165 higher education institutions in 32 states and Washington, D.C. You can read and download the *amicus* [here](#) on and after October 4, 2019, when the brief is filed.

To support the colleges and universities that signed onto this *amicus* brief or otherwise support the *amicus* brief, the Presidents' Alliance, in collaboration with [FWD.us](#), created this communications toolkit for institutions that want to publicize their participation in the amicus brief.² **The official rollout of the public communications surrounding the DACA Amicus Briefs is Tuesday, October 8. The Presidents' Alliance and FWD.us ask that institutions NOT share non-embargoed materials with press or social media before this date.** On October 8, there will be a nationwide communications rollout of all the amicus briefs filed in support of DACA.

Please feel free to use, adapt, and distribute the below resources; and use the hyperlinks on the next page to navigate the toolkit.

¹ For questions regarding this toolkit, please contact jose@presidentsalliance.org. The Presidents' Alliance thanks [FWD.us](#) for their extensive support in creation of this toolkit.

² This toolkit is meant for both higher education institutions who signed onto the amicus brief and those who simply want to publicize the existence and importance of the brief.

I. Sample Campus Message

This is a sample campus message that institutions can send to their campuses, including publicizing the amicus brief (including whether the institution signed on), a backgrounder on the litigation, and what students and campus can do in support DACA students and advocacy efforts.

II. Template Press Statement

This is a template press statement that institutions can send out to reporters and media announcing their participation in the brief.

III. Social Media Toolkit

This social media toolkit provides sample tweets and social media posts that institutions, students, and campuses can use to highlight the amicus brief and ongoing litigation.

IV. Op-Ed Toolkit

This op-ed toolkit provides resources to help institutions and educational leaders draft op-eds, best practices, and how to best use op-eds to influence the national narrative.

I. Sample Campus Message

Subject: [INSTITUTION NAME] Joins Amicus Brief in Support of DACA

Email Text:

Dear [Members of _____ Community/ Students//Faculty/Staff]:

A few days ago, [INSTITUTION NAME], together with 165 colleges and universities, joined an *amicus* brief in support of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in the case before the [Supreme Court](#). You can view and download the brief at this link: bit.ly/DACAAmicus. Two years ago, on September 5, 2017, the administration rescinded DACA, an initiative that provides work permits and protection from deportation for upwards of 700,000 undocumented students, often known as “Dreamers.” Oral arguments on this rescission will be held at the Supreme Court on November 12th.

[Our institution] joined this “friend of the court” brief to demonstrate our unwavering support for our DACA and immigrant students. DACA students bring a tremendous amount of diversity to campuses across the nation, especially ours. Our nation and institution have invested in the success of these students and the continued existence of DACA is essential to ensure the career and life success of these immigrant youth. The triumph of DACA students is our triumph, whether expanding our nation’s tax base, ensuring a robust alumni class, or injecting new perspectives and diversity into our campuses—our institution stands behind DACA students and Dreamers.

Additional Information: Support Services

You may wish to include a section in your campus message that encourages those who have less than one year left of their DACA to submit their renewal application immediately and highlights your institution’s support services for DACA recipients, undocumented students, and alumni in the campus community. Here are some examples of resources that you can share:

- [USCIS’ policies and instructions for DACA renewal](#)
- [United We Dream webpage on DACA renewals and financial resources](#)
- [Informed Immigrant webpage on obtaining legal assistance](#)
- Institutional resources for DACA renewals and/or legal assistance
- Student support services, including counseling, emergency funding, peer mentoring, career support, or an undocumented student resource center
- Identify the contact person(s) for undocumented students on campus

Thank you for your support.

[NAME]

[TITLE]

II. Template Press Statement

NOTE: We ask that your institution issue a statement October 8, 2019 or later as we ask that institutions embargo information about the amicus brief until this date.

[LOGO]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[DATE]

Contact: **[CONTACT]**, **[EMAIL]**

[University] Signs Amicus Brief in Support of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients as DACA Heads to the Supreme Court

[CITY, STATE] – [UNIVERSITY LEADER] issued the following statement today on the filing of an amicus brief in **[CASE NAME]**, urging the Supreme Court to stand in support of DACA recipients:

On October 4, 2019 our **[UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE]** joined over 164 colleges and universities from across the country in signing an *amicus brief* supporting the roughly 700,000 young immigrants who came to the United States as children and who hold Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). This “friend of the court” brief was coordinated by the [Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration](#).

READ THE BRIEF HERE — bit.ly/DACAamicus

DACA recipients are American in every way; they built their lives here and contribute to our campuses, communities and our country’s economy every day. **[OUR UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE]** is proud to support DACA recipients, and we believe it is vital that we protect this vulnerable population when their futures are in question.

[Optional - customized statement regarding the number of Dreamers at your institution and the importance of DACA for your institution and students]

DACA provided work authorization and protection from deportation to nearly 700,000 young people, enabling them to better support themselves and their families financially, build their careers and access higher education. If this vital program is rescinded, DACA recipients will lose their ability to work and study legally, will be forced from their jobs, and will be subject to immediate deportation. The Supreme Court should agree with what federal courts across the country have made clear: the administration's decision to terminate DACA was unlawful and has caused irreparable damage to Dreamers and their families and loved ones.

[ADD INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT DACA/DACA RECIPIENTS MEAN TO YOUR UNIVERSITY]

Background:

Since 2012, DACA has been extraordinarily successful, offering temporary protection from deportation and the ability to work legally to more than 700,000 young immigrants who came to the United States as children. The program has benefited these Dreamers, including our students, their families, their communities, and our economy tremendously.

On September 5, 2017, the administration announced that they were terminating the DACA program, jeopardizing the futures of hundreds of thousands of young people. In the past two years, multiple courts have kept renewals ongoing for current DACA recipients, but Dreamers have still been forced to live court case to court case, uncertain about their futures and in fear of being separated from their families and the lives they have built over decades in the United States.

The future of DACA—and the futures of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers—will be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on November 12, 2019. The Court could hand down a ruling as soon as February 2020 determining if Dreamers will lose the ability to live, study, and work in the United States.

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III. Social Media Toolkit

NOTE: We ask that your institution only share the below social media posts October 8, 2019 and later as information about the amicus brief is embargoed until this date.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on November 12, 2019 and could decide on the fate of the DACA program between January and June of 2020, determining if Dreamers will lose the ability to live, study, and work in the United States. America's community of dedicated educators and academics is an important voice supporting Dreamers, who study in universities across the country and use their degrees—and the work permits afforded them through the DACA program—to contribute to every sector of our economy.

For years, the administration has been crystal clear that it will take every action possible to terminate DACA. Over the last two years, an extended legal battle has kept DACA renewals open but now the future of DACA—and the future of DACA recipients—will be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. During the Supreme Court review process, people can submit friend-of-the-court (*amicus*) briefs expressing their support for Dreamers. Everyone from university presidents and teachers to medical professionals and legal experts to hundreds of CEOs and national security officials have signed on to briefs urging the Supreme Court to uphold the lower court rulings that have left DACA in place.

An overwhelming majority of Americans support Dreamers. The Supreme Court has a chance to hear from everyone supporting DACA people through the briefs. Help use the power of your platform to urge the Supreme Court to stop the administration from illegally terminating this vital program.

Use the suggested social media content below to spread the message that the education community supports DACA recipients and that Dreamers deserve permanent protections now.

Suggested Hashtags: #HigherEd #DACA #SCOTUS #HomeisHere

Twitter/Facebook

1) #SCOTUS will hear arguments on the #DACA cases on Nov. 12 & will make a decision in 2020. @PresImmAlliance & hundreds of universities & colleges around the country support #Dreamers. Read their amicus brief calling for permanent protections. #HigherEd bit.ly/DACAAmicus

2) Since its inception in 2012, #DACA has been a huge success, not just for #Dreamers, but for our schools, our classrooms, and our next generation of students. #HigherEd stands with Dreamers! Read their message to #SCOTUS ahead of oral arguments in November: bit.ly/DACAamicus

3) #DACA has been tremendously successful, offering temporary protection from deportation & the ability to work legally to more than 700,000 young people. The #HigherEd community stands with #Dreamers, read their “friend of the court” brief here: bit.ly/DACAamicus

Facebook Only Posts

4) Because of the incredible efforts of advocates across the country, Dreamers can still renew their DACA protections—but the future of #DACA remains uncertain. Ahead of the #SCOTUS November convening on the DACA program, 165 colleges and universities from across the country came together for a “friends of the court” brief. Read it here and support #Dreamers today: bit.ly/DACAamicus

5) Three months ago #SCOTUS decided to hear cases on the #DACA program. Oral arguments will begin on Nov 12, and in 2020 the #SCOTUS will hand down a ruling, determining the future of roughly 700,000 Dreamers. The #HigherEd community supports #Dreamers. Share this post if you agree!

6) Time is critical for #DACA recipients. The administration is continuing to work to end this program, despite DACA being lawful & constitutional. Find out if your alma mater signed the #HigherEd amicus brief for the upcoming #SCOTUS convening in November: bit.ly/DACAamicus

7) #DACA has been crucial for 700,000 immigrant youth across the U.S.. A recent survey estimates that 96% of DACA recipients are either employed or in school. Of those employed, 54% have better jobs with better pay thanks to DACA.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2018/08/15/454731/amid-legal-political-uncertainty-daca-remains-important-ever/>

8) According to a @amprog & @CAPimmigration survey, 93% of Dreamers who are able to access higher education said that, because of DACA, “[they] pursued educational opportunities that [they] previously could not.” Learn more:
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2018/08/15/454731/amid-legal-political-uncertainty-daca-remains-important-ever/>

IV. Op-Ed Toolkit³

NOTE: We ask that any op-eds on the amicus brief be published October 8, 2019 or later as information about the amicus brief is embargoed until this date.

Thank you for supporting immigrants in their pursuit of higher education. Here you will find an op-ed toolkit that you and your colleagues can use to elevate your institution's support of DACA and Dreamers in the press. Your willingness to author an op-ed in support of DACA recipients as the Supreme Court gears up to hear arguments on the future of the program is absolutely crucial in this time of uncertainty for Dreamers.

The future of DACA—and the futures of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers—will be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on November 12, 2019. The Court could hand down a ruling as soon as February 2020 determining if Dreamers will lose the ability to live, study and work in the United States. The community of dedicated American educators and academics is an important voice to support Dreamers, who study in universities across the country and use their degrees— and the work permits afforded to them through the DACA program—to contribute to every sector of our economy.

This op-ed toolkit, developed by FWD.us in partnership with the Presidents' Alliance, can be used by presidents and chancellors, faculty, staff, or students to elevate this critical dialogue around the importance of DACA. **Below** you will find examples of op-eds from other leaders in America's higher education systems in support of Dreamers and passing a permanent legislative solution to protect them from deportation.

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³ Please reach out to Leezia Dhalla (Press Director, FWD.us) with any questions: Leezia@fwd.us.

Overview: Framing Your Op-ed to Influence the Supreme Court

1. **DO tell the story of an impacted DACA recipient on your campus or in your community.** The most effective op-eds humanize impacted individuals by highlighting that DACA recipients have lived and studied here for decades, and are American in every way. Be sure to get their permission before sharing their story.
2. **DO remind people what multiple courts across the country have said:** The administration unlawfully terminated the DACA program. Courts across the country have clearly and repeatedly said that the Trump Administration's decision to terminate DACA was illegal.
3. **DO highlight that more than 160 leaders in higher education (from over 30 states) have signed onto an amicus brief for the November 12 oral arguments at the Supreme Court** supporting the roughly 700,000 young immigrants who came to the United States as children. More than 600 college and university presidents [joined the ACE letter this September 2019](#) urging Congress to pass bipartisan legislation providing permanent protections for Dreamers.
4. **DO illustrate how DACA recipients are part of the fabric of our country**, and how they are invested in the success and well-being of our campuses, communities and the economy. Turn focus back to the severe consequences of terminating the program, which will have devastating and lasting impacts on your institution and higher education, communities in every part of the country and across every sector of the American economy.
5. **DO uplift that DACA recipients should renew their protections as soon as possible.** They should visit renewmyDACA.com or informedimmigrant.com and talk with an attorney to consider their renewal options.

Examples: Op-eds in Support of Dreamers

Examples:

1. Colorado Springs Gazette // Jeff Wasden // [Dreamers deserve a path forward](#)
2. All On Georgia // Jessica Szilagyi // [Broken Immigration System Prevents Filling Job Openings](#)
3. Utah Policy // Steve Urquhart // [The courts are no place for 'Dreamers'](#)
4. San Francisco Chronicle// Timothy White // [Why would we want to exclude Dreamers from America](#)
5. News and Record// Jane Fernandes // [Guilford “Dreamer” Fights for Future](#)
6. Miami Herald // Eduardo Padron, Julio Frenk, Mark Rosenberg // [Let Dreamers Become the True Americans They Already Are](#)
7. The Hill//Kent Ingle//[Why are Trump and Congress Avoiding Comprehensive Immigration Reform?](#)
8. The Chronicle of Higher Education//Nancy Cantor and David Oxtoby//[Presidents Must be Loud and Clear in Support of Immigration](#)
9. The Chronicle of Higher Education//Patricia McGuire//[The Dream Act Remains a Distant Dream](#)
10. The Hill//Nancy Cantor and Alan Cramb//[Standing with Our Students](#)

State of Play: DACA and the SCOTUS Case

For the past seven years, DACA has been a tremendously successful initiative that has offered temporary protection from deportation and the ability to work legally to more than 700,000 young immigrants, benefiting these Dreamers, their families, their communities, and our colleges and universities.

On September 5, 2017, the Administration announced that the government was terminating DACA. In the months following, there were multiple lawsuits filed across the country that challenged the administration's actions to terminate the program.

For years, the administration has been clear that they are going to take every action possible to terminate DACA. The Court's decision allows those plans to move forward at a breakneck pace. This is wrong, and will hurt not only Dreamers and their families and communities, but will cause serious damage to our economy.

Since its inception in June 2012, DACA has been a huge success, not just for Dreamers, but for our entire country. No federal court has found DACA to be unconstitutional, and numerous decisions have struck down efforts to terminate this program. However, the Supreme Court will now hear arguments to overrule these lower court opinions, and as early as this spring, DACA could be gone.

Due to the uncertain trajectory of this case, we encourage DACA recipients to stay empowered and renew quickly if they are eligible. We also encourage Congress to act swiftly to provide vulnerable populations like Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders the permanent protections they deserve to end once and for all the political ping-ponging of their lives by the government.

Messaging Guidance: The Supreme Court

- **For the past seven years, DACA has been a tremendously successful program** that has offered temporary protection from deportation and the ability to work legally to more than 700,000 young immigrants, benefiting these Dreamers, their families, their communities, and our economy.
 - The average DACA recipient came to this country at the age of six and has lived here for more than two decades. DACA recipients went to American elementary and high schools, and many have gone to college.
 - DACA recipients are American, and they make America stronger—and DACA has been a transformative program for them. Ripping DACA protections away from Dreamers will deny them the ability to work and subject them to immediate deportation—and it's simply wrong.
- **The administration's efforts to terminate DACA and deport Dreamers are moving forward.** The Supreme Court will hear arguments on this case in November and could determine whether Dreamers lose the ability to live and work in the United States as early as Spring 2020.
- **Courts across the country have spoken, and they have clearly and repeatedly said that the Trump administration's decision to terminate DACA was illegal.** The Supreme Court's decision to grant cert on the Administration's efforts to terminate DACA is deeply disappointing and will force Dreamers to continue to live their lives in fear and uncertainty.
- **SCOTUS' decision has life-altering consequences for Dreamers, their families and their communities.** The stakes for the Supreme Court's decision are extremely high and will impact communities in every part of the country and across every sector of the American economy. Hundred of thousands of young lives are on the line.
- **Ripping Dreamers away from their families, communities and workplaces is immoral and wrong.** If the Supreme Court rules to end DACA, the decision will have devastating far-reaching consequences for the U.S. economy and for our country, creating a separation crisis that will tear apart American families, rip DACA recipients away from their jobs and strip Dreamers from the communities they call home.
- **Injunctions remain in place requiring DHS to process DACA renewal applications.** DACA recipients should consult a legal service provider and continue to get their renewals in.

- **Renew, renew, renew.** No matter the decision from SCOTUS, or what the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) says or does, eligible Dreamers should get their renewals in as soon as possible:
 - Learn more about new DACA developments at www.InformedImmigrant.com.
 - DACA recipients should visit www.RenewMyDACA.com for more information about submitting a renewal application.
 - Allies can donate to DACA renewal funds at www.GoFundMe.com/DACA.
- **Senate Leadership should bring Dream legislation swiftly to a vote (whether it is the bipartisan Senate Dream Act of 2019 or the American Dream and Promise Act that has already passed the House).** The Senate should vote on legislation that would provide Dreamers with a pathway to citizenship, and with the stability and peace of mind they desperately deserve. There is absolutely no reason to delay this vote.

General Talking Points: DACA Recipients and Dreamers

- **Dreamers should be afforded a permanent legislative solution that allows them to continue to live, work, and contribute to the only country most have ever known.** Dreamers are deeply ingrained in American communities. DACA recipients have lived here for decades and are American in every way.
- **Limiting access to higher education for Dreamers stunts the promising futures of a significant population of the United States,** further locking people out of opportunity and the chance to purchase homes, enter into professional careers of their choice, and continue contributing positively to their communities.
 - DACA recipients want to learn and engage in our communities just the same as American-born students do. DACA allows these young people to obtain work permits and contribute to their universities after graduation, further contributing to and uplifting the educational institutions that our country holds dear.
 - 98,000 Dreamers graduate high school annually in the United States. They should be able to access higher education, reach their full potential, and contribute to the communities and states in which they live. They are part of our nation.
- **Dreamers are a vital part of American colleges and universities, with [96% of DACA recipients either working or currently enrolled in school](#).**
 - Without DACA providing students the opportunities to pursue higher education—including the 32% of Dreamers with bachelor's degrees or higher—this community of young people would be unable to pour their hard-earned money, knowledge, and expertise into our colleges and universities.
 - [According to a CAP survey](#), 93% of Dreamers who are able to access higher education said that, because of DACA, “[they] pursued educational opportunities that [they] previously could not.”
 - [According to TheDream.US](#), 71% of their DACA scholars were employed; of those, one in five scholars (19%) held two or more jobs and nearly one third (29%) worked full time.
 - In an August 2019 survey by TheDream.US of over 1,800 of their Dreamer scholars, 84% indicated they intended to complete a master's, doctoral, or professional degree after college; 57% indicated that they were pursuing a degree that required occupational licensing.
- **The DACA program has provided financial stability to a significant population of Americans,** allowing them to participate in society in ways that are beneficial not only to Dreamers themselves, but also to our local economies and communities.

- DACA has allowed roughly 700,000 people the means to become financially independent, enabling them to pay school tuition, seek higher-paying jobs, and contribute more fully to our economies and communities.
- **Dreamers boost the U.S. economy forward, helping to grow the American tax base through their spending and by paying billions of dollars in federal, state and local taxes.** They contribute their talents, drive, and skills to the American workforce, making our economy stronger and strengthening our middle class through their economic contributions.
- **Dreamers are economic multipliers.** With DACA, Dreamers have been able to pursue educational opportunities, move into higher-skilled jobs and participate in the formal economy, improving their earnings. Dreamers' work permits have enabled them to work hard and purchase cars, homes and other goods and services that fuel our economy.
- **Dreamers have shown immeasurable courage and bravery as they advocate for the right to continue to contribute to the only country that most of them have ever known.** We will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with them, and the millions of their friends, family members, colleagues, and neighbors across the country who have made their voices heard in support of Dreamers.

Helpful Data

1. The Center for American Progress alongside other immigrant advocacy organizations released new data from their fifth annual survey of DACA recipients, detailing—for the first time—the deep fears and potential harms that recipients could face if they were to lose the work authorization and protection from deportation provided by DACA. The results also include dozens of data points on recipients' earnings, business ownership and hiring, education, political involvement, and economic contributions. [Read the results of the survey here.](#)
 - a. Thirty-two percent of respondents reported having a bachelor's degree or higher.
 - b. Among those who are currently in school, a robust 93 percent said that, because of DACA, “[they] pursued educational opportunities that [they] previously could not.”
 - c. After receiving DACA, 45 percent of respondents moved to a job that “better fits [their] education and training.”
2. A new nationwide poll released recently by the Global Strategy Group (GSG) reaffirmed that voters nationwide and across party lines are resoundingly in favor of protecting Dreamers. [Click here to see the full poll results](#), which notes: “Support for this proposal is strong and resilient, with voters continuing to support the proposal by an overwhelming margin even after they are exposed to a series of negative messages against the idea.”
3. Nearly [100,000](#) undocumented youth continue to graduate from U.S. high schools every year without the ability to apply for DACA protections, because they were too young to be eligible for DACA when the program was cancelled by the Administration. Without affordable access to higher education, these young people are forced to either pay out of pocket for their education or forgo their educational pursuits because of an untimely and unjust cancellation of an extremely vital program.
4. A [FWD.us report](#) found that nearly 700,000 individuals who are currently employed and contributing as a productive part of the American workforce would be stripped of their ability to work and could be fired over the course of the next two years as a result of the administration's repeal of DACA. This includes Dreamers who are both students and those working as educators in our school systems.
5. A study by the conservative-leaning American Action Forum (AAF) found that physically removing all Dreamers would cost between \$7 billion and \$21 billion and reduce U.S. GDP by 0.4 percent. ([Coalition For American Dream](#))

6. Studies by economists across the ideological spectrum have made it clear that if Congress fails to act, our economy could lose \$350 billion in growth and the federal government could lose \$90 billion in tax revenue. ([Coalition For American Dream](#))
7. [Seventy seven percent](#) of voters support creating a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers (Global Strategy Group, 2017). This support extends across party lines and all demographic groups. Moreover, support remains incredibly high, even in the face of negative attacks using opponents' arguments. ([Coalition For American Dream](#))
8. Dreamers and TPS holders contribute billions of dollars in GDP and tax revenue each year in every state across the country. Further, millions of American citizens—including an estimated 6 million U.S. citizen children—live in households that remain vulnerable to deportation unless legislation, like the Dream and Promise Act, is signed into law to protect them. ([Coalition For American Dream](#))
9. [DACA FAQ on InformedImmigrant.com](#)