



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

150 West State Street, Trenton NJ 08608

Phone (609) 989-1100



Update on DACA

January 23, 2018

The federal government shutdown ended on Monday, January 22, 2018, with a short-term, bipartisan Senate deal to extend federal funding through February 8 and a commitment by the Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to bring an immigration bill regarding DACA to the Senate floor within that same time period.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) President Dr. Mildred Garcia penned the following opinion piece on DACA. She urged lawmakers to deal with DACA – an issue on which most members of Congress and more than 80 percent of the American public – actually agree.

The propensity to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory has become an unfortunate feature of contemporary American politics. Nowhere is this tendency more apparent than in the political debate about the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. This month, however, Congress and President Trump have an opportunity to reverse that pattern – to fix DACA, once and for all, and to move on to other pressing challenges. We urge that they do so.

Nearly 800,000 individuals across America now have temporary protection from deportation through DACA. Ninety-seven percent of these “Dreamers,” as they are aptly known, are either in school or employed. One-fifth are enrolled in college. Another third are in high school and considering their options for postsecondary education and training. Five percent of DACA students have already completed their bachelor’s degree.

Brought to this country as children, Dreamers are not culpable for their undocumented status. They have grown up and attended school in America as the only home many of them have known. The vast majority have little connection to where their parents came from. Rather than make them continue to live in fear and uncertainty, we have a moral obligation to enable them to continue to pursue the American Dream. That moral obligation happens to coincide with our national self-interest: These are young people who love this country and are hopeful to contribute to it as eagerly as anyone else.

www.njascu.org

The College of New Jersey
Kean University
Montclair State University

New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rowan University

Stockton University
Thomas Edison State University
William Paterson University