

# NEW JERSEY SENIOR PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

February 6, 2017

The federal executive order issued January 27, 2017 aiming to protect the United States from foreign terrorists entering our country has serious and deleterious implications for our students and for our institutions, and we respectfully request the administration to reconsider its action.

The order bars entry to refugees from anywhere in the world for 120 days, and from Syria indefinitely. It blocks any visitors for 90 days from seven designated countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. While we support the need to protect our citizens and our country, the executive order's chilling effect on higher education and research concerns us greatly.

International students and scholars – including those from the seven countries specifically targeted by the executive order – contribute significantly to the study, discovery, and sense of community at our institutions and at colleges and universities across the United States. The enforcement of the executive order is stranding students and scholars already approved to be at our institutions, and it threatens to continue to disrupt education and research.

The safety and security of our students are our highest priorities. We advise our international students and scholars from any affected nation to defer traveling outside the United States until the Departments of State and Homeland Security issues more comprehensive guidelines. We also pledge to help our international students who are scheduled to begin their studies here in the 2017-2018 academic year in their efforts to secure the visas they will need, which may be made difficult as the executive order freezes the issuance of new visas for 90 days.

Our institutions are among the proud colleges and universities throughout New Jersey that enroll over 21,000 international students, the 14th-highest total in the United States. We attract these students because of the high quality of our education and the open and welcoming nature of our campuses. We will work closely with our federal representatives to ensure that United States continues to welcome the best students and scholars from around the world.



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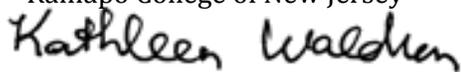
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