



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

150 West State Street, Trenton NJ 08608

Phone (609) 989-1100

QuickTakes!

WPU is a “William Paterson Safe” Campus for Immigrants Regardless of Immigration Status

March 5, 2017

The President of William Paterson University of New Jersey on March 2, 2017, issued the following statement regarding the status of immigrants on the WPU campus.

To the William Paterson University Community:

As we await a new Executive Order from the President of the United States regarding immigration practices and policies, I wish to state the University’s position. William Paterson University is a “William Paterson Safe” campus that provides a safe place for all students, faculty and staff regardless of immigration status. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the University protects personal information of all members of our community.

I want to thank the members of the WPU Committee to Support Undocumented Students and Workers and all the co-signers – 98 faculty and 17 student organizations for dialoguing on these important topics and for delineating recommendations to best serve our community in a letter to me on February 27th. I have offered to meet with representatives of these groups to continue the discussion and I could not be prouder of the leadership shown by our SGA President Esaul Helena and the SGA Executive team as well as the faculty leaders who organized the WPU Committee to Support Undocumented Students and Workers.

The administration and the Board of Trustees are in agreement with the need to provide additional services to our community and to define positions about a safe campus enacted by the University. As you know, I issued two letters on this subject on January 30th and November 18th to our community about these issues. In addition, I joined seven other New Jersey presidents of public institutions of higher education to issue a public statement on Privacy and immigration Rights of Undocumented Students and joined more than 600 fellow university presidents in signing a Statement in Support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and our Undocumented Immigrant Students. All of these documents are accessible from the WPU home page.

After reviewing the letter presented by the WPU Committee to Support Undocumented Students and Workers, I now will reiterate and clarify the measures William Paterson University has in place today.

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*Stockton University
Thomas Edison State University
William Paterson University*

- We reaffirm the mission and core values of William Paterson University. As an institution, we place high value on the open and respectful exchange of ideas among faculty and students and for ensuring the safety and security of our campus. We value academic freedom and free speech and believe in the exchange of ideas across borders.
- We will continue to protect student confidentiality and will not share private information with external parties unless we are required to do so by law or under a court order. WPU adheres to the Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) which protects student privacy.
- Admission Applications at WPU and most institutions in the United States as well as the Common Application ask whether or not an applicant is a citizen. This information is not shared unless required to do so under the law.
- William Paterson's support for undocumented students also includes extending in-state tuition rates to them, which the University has done for many years even before the New Jersey Dream Act became law. We will continue to do so.
- The WPU Campus Police, faculty and staff do not, and will not, inquire about or record the immigration status of students unless required by law or a court order.
- As a public institution, William Paterson University's public spaces are open to the general population. However, residential dormitories are subject to University rules that protect privacy and enhance security by limiting access of non-students. The University is committed to providing privacy protection to the fullest extent under the law.
- The University has established a website on immigration which is accessible from the University homepage. In addition to providing information about campus resources for foreign students and undocumented students, the website provides information about external resources for individuals who might seek additional advice, legal assistance and other support.
- The Office of International Students and Scholars, located in Raubinger 207B, provides information to students and faculty who are on visas attending WPU. The Director, Ms. Cinzia Richardson, is available for consultation. Students on visas who are unable to travel abroad and might be in need of housing accommodations should contact the Office of Residence Life, which will accommodate special requests.
- Students who have questions or concerns about immigration status may contact the Student Government Association Attorney Mr. Gerald R. Brennan for advice. He is on campus in the Student Commons Room 315 on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. His email address is SGA-Brennang@wpunj.edu.

William Paterson University's approach to these issues aligns with the actions of the New Jersey Legislature which, two weeks ago, passed resolutions affirming that college campuses

should “continue to serve as a safe zone and resource center for students and their families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination.”

We will continue to monitor the situation carefully and again, thank concerned faculty, staff and student groups for their support.

Kathleen Waldron
President
William Paterson University