

December 5, 2016

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President-elect of the United States of America
Trump Tower
735 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear President-elect Trump:

I write on behalf of the more than 400 member institutions of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to offer our congratulations on your election to the presidency of the United States of America. We believe that, with a supportive Congress, your Administration will have a historic opportunity to address the nation's most pressing higher education challenge—the financing of public institutions in America. We stand ready to work with you and your designees to restore affordability, broaden access, and ensure that the next generation of Americans will have the skills they need to compete and succeed in the global economy.

Collectively, we seek your support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program on grounds of basic equity and longstanding American values. As you are aware, DACA provides an opportunity for children who were unknowingly brought to this country by others and have now become part of our nation's fabric. In this regard, many young people with DACA status are attending state colleges and universities across this country. Our schools are educating all students, including many with DACA status. We believe the economic renewal and national revitalization you have placed at the center of your policy agenda will require a reinvigorated public higher education system that is as broadly affordable and as inclusive as possible. Only through such a robust and accessible infrastructure for all of our people can America compete on the global stage.

Regrettably, based on little more than uncertainty, many DACA students are alarmed about their continued status. They are understandably concerned that, having stepped forward in good faith, they or their families may be subject to selective enforcement because they supplied their contact information and disclosed their status. We recognize that much of the anxiety about the future of DACA is based on speculation and misinformation. However, we appreciate your most recent comments that immigration enforcement should focus on undocumented immigrants who have committed serious crimes, and would welcome any additional reassurance you or members of your transition team may offer young people who were brought here as children by others. For the vast majority of DACA students, the United States is literally the only home they know.

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We believe that continuation of DACA under your administration would be the equitable and economically prudent policy. We look forward to working together with your Administration to advance the interests of the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Muriel A. Howard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Muriel A. Howard, Ph.D.
President