



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE**

***NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION***

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ON THE  
FIGHT FOR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Student Alliance is composed of the higher education institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education, which are: University of Nevada, Reno, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada State College, College of Southern Nevada, Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada College, Great Basin College and the Desert Research Institute; AND

**WHEREAS**, the status of undocumented students and their access to higher education is inconsistent from various states and regions reflecting the development of policies and legislation that limits the access to affordable higher education; AND

**WHEREAS**, members of the Nevada Student Alliance strongly believe education is associated with fairness or justice in the provision to uphold education as a fundamental right, not a privilege; AND

**WHEREAS**, educational equity for undocumented students enrolled at the Nevada System of Higher Education ensures that access and attainment of resources are the same for documented students; AND

**WHEREAS**, the use of the word “illegal” in terms of a student’s citizenship status shall be deemed as a degrading label that limits the educational environment and pushes the higher education system back; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Homeland Security established the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) allowing undocumented students who entered the country before their 16th birthday to receive a two-year work permit and an exemption from deportation, allowing students to focus on their higher education rather than focusing their attention on fear; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act or the DREAM Act provides undergraduate undocumented students with a path to citizenship while they are obtaining a degree in higher education; AND

**WHEREAS**, since undocumented students do not have access to social security numbers, they are unable to file for financial aid from the federal government as public institutions similar to NSHE cannot offer aid to students nor can students obtain student loans;


**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the undergraduates enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher education:


- Urges elected officials of the U.S. Congress, the President, members of the Nevada State Legislature, the NSHE Board of Regents and the university faculty to support and affirm efforts related to increasing the amount of opportunities for undocumented students choosing to study at any NSHE institution; AND
- Affirms support for the importance of the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the DREAM Act by recognizing the need for immigration reform for the undocumented students enrolled in institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education; AND
- Urges members of the Nevada Student Alliance to propose and develop a scholarship resource for undocumented students to enhance the accessibility of affordable higher education; AND
- Urges members of the higher education faculty to recognize undocumented students that meet the residency criteria and high school graduation qualifications to be granted in-state tuition; AND
- Urges members of Nevada Student Alliance to partner with community and state-wide partners to organize ways to educate, recruit, empower and assist prospective and current undocumented students in a path towards higher education degree attainment; AND
- Urges all individuals within the Nevada System of Higher Education to refrain from partisan platforms and the usage of the word “illegal” when acknowledging undocumented students and to adopt practices that promote a safe educational environment for all students.


**ADOPTED** by the Nevada Student Alliance on this 9<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2017.

Attest:



  
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Desiree DeCosta, NSA Chair

  
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Carlos Fernandez, NSA Vice-Chair

  
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David Turner II, NSA Secretary