

# Message to the University Community

Office of the President  
September 6, 2017

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Last evening on campus a group of our students gathered on the Quad for a vigil. These were students whose reactions ranged from concern to outrage about the decision announced in Washington on Tuesday to end DACA. Among them were students both worried and scared, not necessarily for themselves, but for friends, relatives, members of the community, and for children too young to be eligible for DACA. A series of students took the microphone to express their thoughts, emotions and support for one another. Each took a candle, which struggled to stay lit in the evening winds, in its own way a metaphorical expression of their experiences that day.

DACA or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program provides undocumented immigrants brought to this country as children the opportunity to work, have a driver's license and attend college for renewable two-year periods. Effective immediately no new DACA applications will be accepted and no renewals will be processed after six months. This decision can affect nearly 800,000 individuals across the United States. Certainly some of these are our own students, their family members and loved ones.

To each of our DACA students, please know we support you. We will proudly honor our founders' vision of a university that welcomes and values all students. We are here to provide friendship, support, counseling and assistance to you. Among many areas that will help you, contact Birkam Health's Counseling Center (591-5968) or KCAD's Counseling Center (616-451-2787 ext. 1136), the Center for Latin@ Studies (591-2470), the Office of Multicultural Student Services (591-2617), and the Diversity and Inclusion Office (591-3946).

I will actively engage with Congressional leaders to develop and pass new legislation that protects opportunity for our students and their academic aspirations, and for those who follow in their paths. For our faculty and staff, please reach out, encourage, help and support our students. Thank you for being a University community that truly cares for all students.

David L. Eisler  
President, Ferris State University