



## BOD 2024-2025

# Resolution in Support of Undocumented Students Amid Federal Immigration Policy Changes

**WHEREAS**, California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA) serves a diverse and robust student body, with nearly 65.6% of students identifying as Hispanic/Latinx,<sup>1</sup> and the University prides itself on values of diversity, inclusiveness, equity, and social justice that celebrate the contributions of all students, regardless of background; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State University (CSU) system enrolls roughly 10,000 undocumented students across its 22 campuses,<sup>2</sup> the largest number in any U.S. university system, and Cal State LA is home to many undocumented and mixed-status students who enrich our campus community but also confront unique and arduous challenges due to their immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, undocumented and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students continue to face uncertainty as federal policies shift. While the Biden Administration codified DACA via a 2022 rule,<sup>3</sup> the program's future remains unresolved in the courts, with current DACA recipients still eligible to renew status, but new applications on hold, leaving many students in limbo and confusion about their long-term ability to live, study, and work,<sup>4</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, Cal State LA continues to enroll a growing number of undocumented students from local high schools, the majority of whom do not have DACA status due to ongoing legal restrictions on new applications;

**WHEREAS**, recent federal immigration enforcement actions have heightened anxiety on college campuses: in January 2025, the Department of Homeland Security rescinded prior "protected areas" guidelines,<sup>5</sup> meaning immigration enforcement is no longer categorically restricted at sensitive locations like schools and universities; this policy change, combined with reports of increased ICE operations in Southern California, raises concerns about the potential presence of immigration agents on or near campuses, including Cal State LA; and

**WHEREAS**, misinformation and rumors have exacerbated fear in our community. For example, in February 2025, unverified social media posts alleged impending ICE raids at Cal State LA, which University officials confirmed were "unsubstantiated" and false, likely intended only to spread panic;<sup>6</sup> such incidents underscore the need for clear communication and trustable information so that undocumented students are not terrorized by false alarms; and

**WHEREAS**, undocumented students face unique vulnerabilities, including the constant fear of deportation or family separation, limited access to federal financial aid and healthcare, and the mental health toll of living under chronic uncertainty. These challenges can negatively impact students' academic performance and well-being, making it imperative that the University community provide robust, proactive support to ensure undocumented students feel safe and able to succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, Cal State LA has established strong support resources for undocumented and underserved students, exemplifying our commitment to student success: the Erika J. Glazer Family Dreamers Resource Center offers specialized guidance, advocacy, and programs (including UndocuALLY trainings and "Know Your Rights" workshops with weekly counseling sessions for undocumented students);<sup>7</sup> the Cross Cultural



Centers (such as the Chicana/o Latina/o Student Resource Center) and allied campus organizations foster an inclusive community and allyship across identities;<sup>8</sup> the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) provides academic and financial support to first-generation and historically underrepresented students; and Educational Participation in Communities (EPIC) engages students in community service learning, reflecting the ethos of empowerment and civic engagement that benefits Dreamers and all students; and

**WHEREAS,** University policies and California state law reinforce a “safe campus” stance for immigrant students: faculty and staff are not required to divulge any student’s immigration status or personal information to federal authorities, and Cal State LA has designated specific administrators (e.g. the Dean of Students and the President’s Office Chief of Staff) as liaisons to handle any inquiries or warrants from immigration officers. These protocols ensure that if immigration enforcement ever occurs on campus, it is managed through proper legal channels and students are not directly approached, thereby protecting student privacy and maintaining Cal State LA as a welcoming, sanctuary space for learning; and

**WHEREAS,** the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of Cal State LA, as the representative voice of over 20,000 students, is deeply committed to upholding the values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion on our campus. ASI affirms that our undocumented and DACA students are an integral part of the University community, and has pledged to ensure they are recognized, heard, and safe at Cal State LA. In light of the current climate of uncertainty and fear, it is incumbent upon ASI to take action that protects and empowers undocumented students so they can pursue their education without fear;

#### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

**RESOLVED,** that ASI will work closely with the Dreamers Resource Center to refer students to these services (which are provided by qualified attorneys and paralegals assigned to Cal State LA) and will explore establishing an emergency grant or fund to help cover incidental costs (such as DACA renewal fees or other urgent legal expenses) for students in financial need. In addition, ASI will maintain up-to-date information on legal aid referrals—including nonprofit organizations and hotlines—so that students have somewhere to turn immediately for help if they or their family members face an immigration crisis;

**RESOLVED,** that ASI will advocate to CSU leadership and government officials on behalf of undocumented students. We will draft and send official communications arguing:

1. The Cal State LA administration and CSU system leaders (including the CSU Chancellor and Board of Trustees) to strengthen and uphold “safe campus” policies—for example, to formally bar immigration enforcement on campus
2. Push to the fullest extent allowed by law to ensure campus police do not assist in federal immigration actions except as required by law, and to continue providing resources like the Dreamers Centers and legal services.
3. California state legislators and officials to continue expanding protections and opportunities for undocumented students (such as maintaining state financial aid like the CA Dream Act, securing state-funded legal aid, and supporting bills that enhance immigrant rights and higher education access).
4. Federal representatives (Congressional and Executive) to enact a permanent legislative solution e.g., pass a version of the Dream Act or similar immigration reform, that provides Dreamers and undocumented students a pathway to citizenship and protection from deportation. We will highlight the contributions of our students and the urgency of resolving their status. Furthermore, ASI will collaborate with the California State Student Association (CSSA) and other CSU campuses to amplify these advocacy efforts, including participation in statewide or national student advocacy days (such



as the CSU Hill Day in Washington, D.C., where student leaders champion immigrant student protections);

**RESOLVED**, that ASI urges campus administration to launch a campus-wide information campaign to combat misinformation and fear regarding immigration enforcement that clearly communicates:

1. Current policies and facts (for instance, clarifying that any law enforcement agent seeking to enforce immigration law on campus must check in with the designated campus officials, and that rumors of random ICE “raids” are not credible without official verification).
2. Steps for students to take if they encounter or hear about immigration enforcement near campus (e.g., direct agents to the Welcome Desk/Dean of Students as per University protocol, and immediately notify the Dreamers Center or Dean of Students so the situation can be handled appropriately).
3. Trusted resources for immigration updates (such as the University’s Immigration Issues website and official University statements, so students get information from reliable sources rather than social media rumors);

**RESOLVED**, that ASI will identify and build local and statewide partnerships with immigrant rights organizations, legal aid providers, and educational advocacy coalitions. In addition to collaborating on programming and resource delivery, ASI will invite non-ASI students to participate in advocacy opportunities such as the California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS), CSU Hill Day, and other statewide and national campaigns, ensuring undocumented and immigrant student perspectives are equitably represented in systemwide and legislative advocacy. ASI will also work with University leadership to institutionalize support for these external advocacy efforts, requesting the administration’s logistical and financial backing (such as travel assistance and staff support) to broaden student access to policy advocacy events;

**RESOLVED**, that ASI will push for expanded access to remote and hybrid learning options, recognizing that undocumented students may face transportation barriers, caretaking responsibilities, or anxiety related to leaving their homes amid immigration enforcement fears. ASI will engage the Academic Senate, the Provost’s Office, and senior campus leadership in conversations about formalizing more flexible learning modalities, including exploring ways to institutionalize remote or hybrid course offerings across departments;

**RESOLVED**, that ASI formally acknowledges the demands of the Students United to Reach Goals in Education (SURGE) at Cal State LA, including those articulated in open letters, organizing meetings, or student campaigns. ASI will work to amplify these student-led efforts, include them in decision-making spaces, and ensure that undocumented students are centered in any future resolutions, programming, or initiatives undertaken in their name. This commitment extends to engaging in regular dialogue with undocumented student representatives and organizations to align advocacy efforts with student-identified needs and demands;

**RESOLVED**, that ASI will identify and formally designate sanctuary spaces on campus that serve as safe, accessible, and staffed locations for students in case of ICE presence or immigration-related concerns. These spaces may include the University Library, University-Student Union, or Housing locations such as the South Village annex. ASI will work with University administration to publicize these locations and ensure staff at these spaces receive UndocuAlly and emergency protocol training.