



COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

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ENGAGING FAITHFULLY ON DACA



SINCE THE RESCISSION of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program on Sept. 5, 2017, CCCU institutions have taken a variety of steps to inform their communities and support their students. We collected stories from our institutions, who gave permission to share these examples. We encourage you to consider which types of additional events and actions might be appropriate for your context.

MEET WITH STUDENTS

Calvin College's president met with impacted students, including DACA students or other students who expressed concern. Life Pacific University appointed a Diversity Coordinator and encouraged impacted students to speak with her or the campus chaplain. The university's president also met with DACA students and students whose family members hold DACA status.

"I want to hear their stories, pray, and work together to provide as much support as possible."

*Jim J. Adams, President,
Life Pacific University*

HOLD A PRAYER MEETING

University of Northwestern – St. Paul held a prayer gathering to “weep with those who weep” in solidarity with those in the UNW community and their families who were affected by the rescission of DACA. Their goal was “not to politicize but to humanize and gain understanding of the impact of the DACA program being rescinded,” as well as to “pray, lament, and worship the only One who can heal hearts that are broken and turn those that lack empathy.”

PUBLICIZE CURRENT RESOURCES

Trevecca Nazarene University provided a resource guide for DACA students that directs them to people who can help, whether in relation to finances, DACA, counseling, or tutoring. Life Pacific University created a public webpage about the university's response to DACA's rescission that points students to the new Diversity Coordinator, who can speak with them confidentially, and to the counseling center for free, confidential counseling. Many campuses sent out emails to students in the immediate aftermath of DACA, but further emails may be helpful as the debate surrounding DACA continues. Azusa Pacific University is including resources for DACA students in their monthly diversity newsletter.

"We want to let those who are affected know that they are seen and loved."

*University of Northwestern -
St. Paul event invitation*



Photo by Kayla McLean, courtesy of Calvin College *Chimes*

EMPOWER AND ENCOURAGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP

DACA's rescission potentially impacts a wide range of student groups, such as student government, diversity, multicultural, social justice, and political groups. Messiah College's student-led Multicultural Council held a correspondence campaign to lawmakers. Messiah's student body president and executive cabinet crafted and sent a campus-wide email about DACA communicating care and support. Messiah's student-led Human Rights Awareness group hosted a town hall featuring an immigration specialist, a faculty member, and a

DACA recipient. A student at John Brown University is coordinating with a variety of student groups to write letters to Arkansas' congressional delegation and educate the campus community. Calvin College's student organization Christians for Justice Leadership held a "Lament Into Action" event that included a time of learning about DACA, a space for lament, and information about possible actions students could take. Calvin College's Republican and Democrat student organizations worked with the political science department to host a student and faculty debate on the topic, "Is DACA constitutional?"

HOST A CLINIC OR WORKSHOP

Azusa Pacific University hosted a "Know Your Rights" workshop for students. Trevecca Nazarene University held a free clinic led by an immigration attorney. While the window to re-apply for DACA closed on Oct. 5, students who are current DACA recipients will have their status continue until its expiration. Thus, questions are likely to continue over the next couple of years. Your students may still benefit from clinics or workshop in the months and years ahead.



Photo by Garrett Serstad, courtesy of Calvin College *Chimes*

CREATE A TASK FORCE OR WORKING GROUP

Azusa Pacific University and Trevecca Nazarene University formed task forces to coordinate specific actions after DACA's rescission. This can be a good way to ensure a continued, organized response to this ongoing issue.

"There are no foreigners in the kingdom of God."

*Dan Boone,
President, Trevecca
Nazarene University*

ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF YOUR COMMUNITY

As part of the Evangelical Immigration Table, the CCCU has been participating in talks surrounding immigration in Washington, D.C. Many members of Congress are supportive of a permanent legislative solution to the plight of DACA recipients. However, other members are highly skeptical or even opposed. Regardless of where you stand on specific provisions (a path to citizenship, border security, etc.), we encourage you to speak with your congressional delegation so they continue to make finding a legislative solution before March 5, 2018, a top priority. Both students and administration can perform this advocacy work. We are happy to work with you on how to advocate with your members of Congress most effectively.