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Arizona Board of Regents addresses issues of DACA students in letter to President-elect Donald Trump

(Phoenix, Ariz.) – The Arizona Board of Regents approved a [letter](#) to President-elect Donald Trump regarding the board’s concern for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, those previously brought to the country unlawfully as children and currently provided lawfully present status through executive action.

“Students who were brought to our country when they were children in most cases lacked the capacity to violate our immigration laws and they desire to better themselves through the opportunities that higher education provides,” Regent Jay Heiler said. “While the board remains committed to complying with all state and federal laws while protecting the civil and legal rights of all students, we respectfully ask President-elect Trump and his administration to work with Congress to design and provide relief for these students within the overall approach to immigration enforcement and reform.”

The Arizona Board of Regents’ letter joins a growing chorus of support for DACA students. Arizona’s three university presidents – Arizona State University President Michael Crow, Northern Arizona University President Rita Cheng and University of Arizona President Ann Weaver Hart - [joined a group of more than 500 of their colleagues from around the country](#), calling for the continuation of DACA. ABOR President Eileen Klein has called for inclusion and certainty for [DACA students](#) who wish to study and work as recognized Americans, and President Crow issued a [letter](#) to the ASU community reaffirming support of DACA students.

According to a Maricopa County Superior Court decision last year, a DACA recipient who presents an Employment Authorization Document and who meets Arizona law residency requirements is eligible for resident tuition. ABOR interprets its policies in accordance with this ruling, allowing DACA students with an Employment Authorization Document who meet the statutory and policy requirements for residency to establish in-state residency for tuition purposes at our Arizona universities.

In addition, the board last year created a non-resident undergraduate tuition rate for graduates of [Arizona high schools](#) in advance of the Superior Court decision that facilitated access to higher education at a rate of 150 percent of the undergraduate tuition rate. Students who have received deferred action met the lawful presence requirement of the policy.

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