



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

June 18, 2020

Dear LACCD Colleagues:

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and healthy.

This week, rulings from the nation's highest court have scored two victories for civil and human rights in this country, and offer a silver lining amongst the darkest days of this nation's recent past. On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act also prohibits discrimination in the workplace and protects gay, lesbian and transgender employees from being disciplined, fired or turned down for a job based on their sexual orientation. At LACCD, we reaffirm our commitment to support LGBTQIA+ students and employees to provide a safe and inspiring learning environment—free from discrimination and harassment—and guaranteeing equal access to educational programs, services, activities and jobs.

And today, another major decision from the Supreme Court rejected the Trump Administration's bid to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a program that provides temporarily relief to over 700,000 individuals in the United States. DACA students and employees can now pursue the opportunity to live free from the fear of deportation and, perhaps ultimately, to be given the permanent residency solution they deserve. Today's Court decision is an important step towards that ultimate goal.

In California alone, 220,000 individuals benefit from the DACA program, and approximately 61,000 undocumented students attend the state's 115 community colleges. LACCD enrolls more than 10,000 Dreamers, the largest number of undocumented students in the state—even greater than the University of California and California State University systems combined. Our Dream Resource Centers at each of the District's nine colleges will continue to provide key services and resources, including financial aid and counseling, and a strong referral network with our community partners for legal assistance and mental health services.

The victories of this week are worth celebrating, but we must not forget that we have much work to do to redress long-standing racial inequities, and make structural and permanent change to root out the ill effects of racism and bias from our society, our classrooms, our workplace and our criminal justice system. Tomorrow is Juneteenth, which commemorates June 19, 1865, the day when the last slaves in Texas and the defeated Confederate South were finally freed. Let us use this day to reaffirm our support for and to stand in solidarity with our Black/African American students and employees.

As an organization founded on educational excellence, opportunity and access, and dedicated to the principles of equity and justice, the [Los Angeles Community College District](#) will lead by example. To assist, we are developing a Framework for Social Justice and Racial Equity that directs specific action steps aimed at setting a culturally responsive tone and allows us to build organizational capacity and resilience, and moves forward towards a more socially and racially just academic community.

LACCD commits to vociferously advocating, and to working with our local, state and federal representatives to fight for and protect the rights of our LGTBQIA+, our undocumented/DACA, and our Black/African American students and employees.

We are all empowered as educators. Let's use this power and influence to build upon the Court's decisions and the renewed calls for social justice to forever make lasting, positive, systemic change.

LACCD Proud.

In Solidarity We Stand,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that starts at the top left, goes down and around to the right, then loops back up and around to the left, ending with a short horizontal stroke pointing to the right.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Los Angeles Community College District