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## DACA, Immigrant Students and Community Colleges

Presentation to the AACCC  
Commission on Diversity,  
Inclusion, and Equity  
November 16, 2017

# A refresher: What is DACA and who does it affect?

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- Since 2012, has provided 2-year work permit & temporary protection from deportation for undocumented youth
- Currently **~690,000** DACA recipients
- Enables students to participate in **work-study** and internships, **travel abroad**, and plan for the future



*Photo credit: Flickr user Antonio R. Villaraigrosa*





# What's happening at the federal policy level?

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- September 5, 2017: President Trump rescinds DACA
- October 5, 2017: Last day for DACA recipients to apply for renewals
- Now: Approximately **122** DACA recipients are **losing their status every day**
- After March 5, 2018, roughly **983** people per day will lose DACA status



*Data sources: Center for American Progress; CNN; US Citizenship and Immigration Services.*

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# Implications for community colleges

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- Student DACA recipients losing the ability to participate in **travel** and **employment** opportunities
- Students may lose access to **state financial aid** if state “tuition equity” legislation is tied to DACA status
- Additional impact on student **mental health** and well-being



# What are the fixes?

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- Congress is considering **multiple bills** to address the issue: DREAM, RACC, SUCCEED...
- Big Q: Will the path to citizenship be wide and inclusive, or narrow and steep?
- Keep in mind: **DACA recipients are only a subset** of the Dreamer population



Photo credit: Flickr user Justin Valas

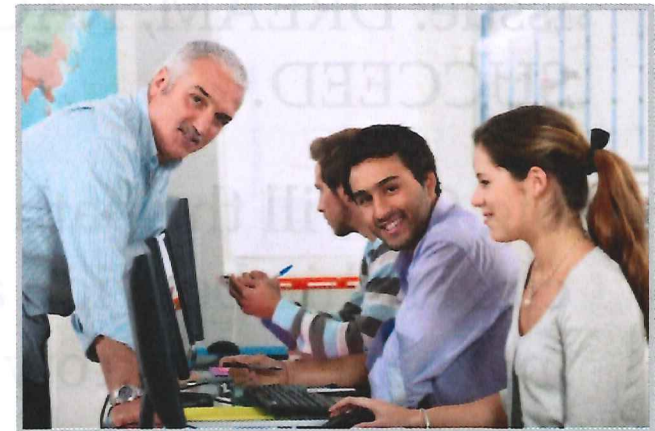




# Implications for community colleges if Dreamer legislation passes

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- **Surge** in individuals eager to earn higher education credentials
- Increased demand for **on-ramps to higher ed** for those without secondary credentials (e.g. Integrated Education and Training programs a la I-BEST)
- **Higher stakes** in ensuring student persistence and degree completion



# Implications if Dreamer legislation does not pass

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- Economic and morale impacts on current students
- Potential effects on CC staff and faculty
- Potential effect on future student enrollment pipeline



# Making the Economic Case: Dreamers in Your Community

**Opportunity knocks:** How immigrant Dreamers can meet local businesses' skill needs

A FACT SHEET

Young immigrants known as Dreamers can play an important role in responding to the talent needs of local businesses, especially for in-demand middle-skill positions. Policymakers and advocates should take action to ensure that Dreamers are able to access the education and training opportunities necessary to allow them to make their highest and best contributions to their communities.

#### WHAT ARE MIDDLE-SKILL JOBS?

Middle-skill jobs require more than a high school diploma, but not a four-year degree. These jobs comprise a majority – 53 percent – of the U.S. labor market, and projections indicate that demand will remain strong in the future.

Businesses in every state have strong demand for middle-skill workers. National Skills Coalition (NSC) has published state-by-state fact sheets illustrating the current and future role of middle-skill jobs in each state's economy.

Middle-skill jobs are found in every sector of the economy, including:

- Healthcare jobs, such as laboratory technicians and phlebotomists
- Information technology jobs, such as computer network support specialists
- Manufacturing jobs, such as machinists, certified production technicians and computer numerical control (CNC) operators
- The operational, distribution and logistics jobs, such as supply chain specialists and cargo and freight agents

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#### A middle-skill gap



#### HOW DO WORKERS BECOME QUALIFIED FOR MIDDLE-SKILL JOBS?

There is a wide variety of pathways to obtaining middle-skill credentials. People can earn such credentials via community college certificate or two-year degree programs. Or they can attain credentials via apprenticeship or career and technical education (CTE) programs. The training is provided by state resources or industry groups, or through nonprofit or other private training providers, in

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- US businesses face a **middle-skill gap**
- Community colleges play an important role in preparing people for middle-skill jobs
- Dreamers are an important part of the **middle-skill solution**

Also see *handout* for links to resources from Migration Policy Institute, New American Economy, Center for American Progress, and more.



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# Beyond Dreamers: Other recent developments

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## Federal policy changes:

- Temporary Protected Status
- Visa renewal processes *more scrutiny*
- Naturalization backlogs *7-10 months*
- Enforcement priorities *no priorities*

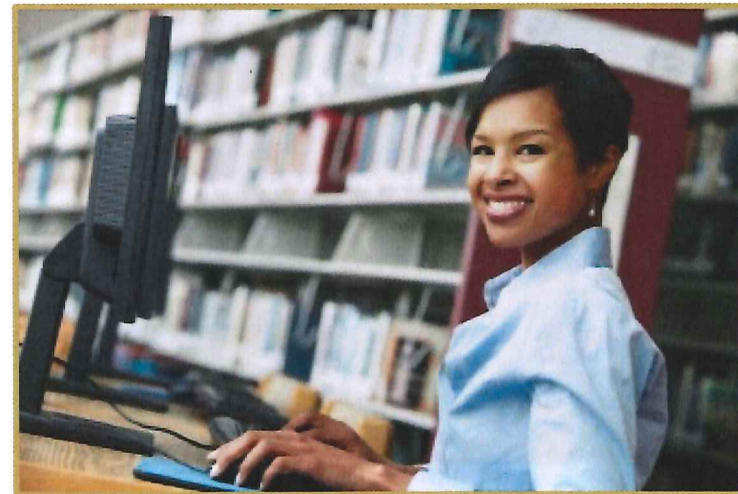


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# What do these changes mean for community colleges?

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- **Less predictability** and stability for immigrant students, staff, and faculty
- Potential for impact on **employees**
- Increased “friction” and cost of doing business for individuals, institutions, and businesses



# Contact us

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