

Resolution in Support of The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”)

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges is the nation’s largest post-secondary education system in the country and is committed to serving all residents, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors is unwavering in its support and promotion of programs, initiatives and policies designed to instill values associated with community and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, California is home to hundreds of thousands of people who are participating in the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that provides eligible immigrant youth who came to the United States for protection from deportation and work authorization if they meet stringent conditions; and

WHEREAS, California’s diversity is a great source of innovation and industry, making California one of the largest economies in the world and an economic engine for the United States; and

WHEREAS, over the past nine months, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office has reassured students and colleges that our campuses will remain safe, welcoming places for students of all backgrounds to learn; informed them that no changes have been made with regard to admissions or financial aid; informed students that financial aid for certain undocumented students is protected by state law; and called on then President-elect Donald J. Trump to preserve DACA; and

WHEREAS, On Sept. 5, 2017, President Donald J. Trump’s administration announced plans to eliminate the DACA program after a six-month pause to allow Congress to address the issue; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2017, Cuesta College denounced President Trump’s plans and described Cuesta as an inclusive institution and DACA recipients as “in school, and working hard. They are our friends, our classmates, our co-workers and neighbors. They are Cuesta College students;” and

WHEREAS, the Academic Senate is proud of Cuesta College’s commitment to inclusiveness and creating a welcoming and supportive classroom and campus environment; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Senate recognizes the value and importance of Dreamers as an integral part of the college; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Cuesta College Academic Senate supports the DACA Program and DACA recipients and their educational pursuits; and

RESOLVED that the Cuesta College Academic Senate supports keeping the campus open, safe, and welcoming to all students who meet the minimum requirements for admission, regardless of immigration status, and will continue to provide services for DACA students, including counseling, referral to legal services, instructional support, places to study, assistance in applying to the college and for financial aid through the California Dream Act, and other appropriate support; and

RESOLVED that the Cuesta College Academic Senate calls on Congress to immediately and permanently preserve the DACA program and further work toward comprehensive immigration reform, so that all of our students can realize their full potential and continue to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the state of California.