Memorandum in Support of UTSA DACA Clinics and DACA Student Resources

In light of the September 5, 2017 announcement by the Department of Justice regarding the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, many colleges and universities throughout the United States have taken immediate action to assert their support for the many students that are directly impacted by the DACA program and by the Justice Department’s policy shift. President Taylor Eighmy of the University of Texas at San Antonio\(^1\) and Chancellor McRaven of the University of Texas System\(^2\) released statements that affirmed both our institutional and system-wide support for DACA students and indicated that further action would be taken to provide direct assistance to all students that were and are unsure of how this policy change might impact their immigration status and educational opportunities.

On behalf of all Roadrunners, the Student Government Association would like to reassure all DACA students that they continue to be viewed as vital members of the UTSA community. The DACA program is a crucial resource for some of the most vulnerable members of our society, providing opportunities for education and employment for children and young adults that would otherwise have limited resources available towards those ends. We fully and unconditionally support the ability of all students to pursue their education in an environment that is free from fear and condemnation.

To this end, we would like to promote the efforts currently being undertaken by the students, staff and administration of the University of Texas at San Antonio. On Saturday, September 23, UTSA will be partnering with RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services) to offer Clinics on both the Main and Downtown Campuses. These clinics will provide direct assistance for students who are applying for renewal of DACA status, and will provide additional information regarding immigration policy. In addition, UTSA has identified the Student Ombudsperson Carol Gonzalez as the primary point of contact for any student questions related to residency or other student issues. The Student Government Association encourages all students to contact the Student Ombudsperson for any questions that they may have, and to attend this weekend’s clinics if they would like additional assistance in the application process. In addition, we would like to direct all students to review the resources found at the Dreamers Resource Center website: http://www.utsa.edu/dreamers/.

\(^1\) [http://www.utsa.edu/president/2017/09/story/Thoughts%20on%20DACA%20decision.html](http://www.utsa.edu/president/2017/09/story/Thoughts%20on%20DACA%20decision.html)

The Student Government Association is committed to ensuring that the University of Texas at San Antonio continues to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for all students, regardless of immigration status, citizenship status, or country of origin. We believe that the Roadrunner family is made immeasurably stronger by the contributions of our diverse student body, and we hope that all students can always find a home, and a family, at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

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The University of Texas at San Antonio