

September 6, 2017

Dear Southern Community,

As you are aware, President Trump's administration has signaled an end to the existing policy shielding young undocumented immigrants from deportation, giving Congress six months to replace it with new legislation.

Justifiably, this development will cause alarm among Southern students who are currently shielded under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program or who have friends, family, or loved ones covered by the program. As a university community committed to social justice, it is incumbent on us to reach out to our friends and colleagues and offer the assurance that we are standing by them at an emotional, stressful time.

Our Undocumented Student Support Team has compiled a variety of resources available on campus, online and in the community providing support, guidance and information at https://www.southernct.edu/undocumented-students/student_resources.html Those who have specific questions or would like to discuss their situation in a confidential environment should contact one of the support team members listed on the website. Counseling services are also available at: <https://www.southernct.edu/counseling-services/>

Please be aware that protocols are in place in the event that federal immigration enforcement officers should come to Southern seeking information or access to a student. Any such queries should be referred directly to my office.

More than 5,000 undocumented students currently study at colleges and universities in Connecticut. Most arrived here as minors, and this state is now their home. They are an integral part of our wider community and an important part of its future. We must make every effort to ensure that they are able to continue to pursue their personal and professional goals in a supportive, welcoming environment.

Sincerely,

Joe Bertolino
President