

**MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Mendocino-Lake Community College District approving the establishment of Mendocino College as a safe place for students through policy that prevents college employees, including security staff, from acting on behalf of federal agents to enforce immigration laws in order to protect the safety and security of our students, their families, and our communities.

RESOLUTION 12-16-02

WHEREAS, Our City and County, just like many major cities and counties in the United States, is the home and workplace of many immigrant communities, including those with official and unofficial U.S. residency status; and

WHEREAS, Numerous cities from Alaska to Florida, New York to California including the City of Los Angeles are on record as sanctuary cities; and

WHEREAS, The state of California, in 2001 through Assembly Bill 540 and the addition of section 68130.5 to the California Education Code, authorized California institutions of higher education to exempt non-resident tuition fees for undocumented or U.S. Citizen/Permanent Residents who met specific requirements; and

WHEREAS, The state of California, in 2011 through Assembly Bills 130 and 131; amending California Education Code 68130.7 and adding section 66021.7, allowed students who met Assembly Bill 540 criteria to apply for state and non-state funded financial aid; and

WHEREAS, The Chancellor's Office and the Board of Governors have reiterated their unwavering commitment to the values spelled out in the vision statement of our System's Strategic Plan:

- "All people have the opportunity to reach their full educational potential."
- "The Colleges embrace diversity in all its forms."
- "All people have the right to access quality higher education"; and

WHEREAS, The Chancellor's Office has said that it stands with the undocumented and immigrant members of the California Community College community, and reaffirms the following principles:

- The California Community Colleges are open to all students who meet the minimum requirements for admission, regardless of immigration status.
- The Chancellor's Office will not release any personally identifiable student information, including any data related to immigration status, without a judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by law.

- The Chancellor’s Office will not cooperate with any federal effort to create a registry of individuals based on any protected characteristics such as religion, national origin, race, or sexual orientation.
- The Chancellor’s Office will continue to advocate for educational opportunities for all students in the community college system, regardless of immigration status, at the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, The Mendocino Lake Community College District and Board embrace the diversity of our students and cultural assets in “practices which value diverse student voices and experiences” and “create safe learning environments” for our students as stated in our Strategic Goals; and

WHEREAS, In the last few months, federal, state and local government officials throughout the country have proposed or passed laws and ordinances that propose impairing the rights of both undocumented and documented immigrants by cutting off opportunities for jobs, government benefits, housing, and imposing fines on companies employing undocumented and documented immigrants, thereby increasing tensions in immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Statements by political leaders of potential raids by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office (ICE) have caused immigrant communities to fear attending colleges and leaving their homes, even for needed medical services; and

WHEREAS, ICE activities in and around the college, our centers, and our early education centers would create a severe disruption to the learning environment and educational setting for students; and

WHEREAS, The expressed intent of rescinding a number of President Obama’s executive orders, including the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) provisions, has triggered untold consternation among an estimated 750,000 DACA-protected youth and countless more that did not apply for such protection out of fear; and

WHEREAS, many undocumented and documented immigrants have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country including one of the first American casualties in the Iraq war—a Hispanic immigrant who arrived undocumented to Los Angeles at the age of 14, Lance Cpl. Jose Antonio Gutierrez—who attended community college and served in the Marines and was granted U.S citizenship posthumously; and

WHEREAS, a large number of cities, colleges and universities are declaring themselves “sanctuaries”, and the Community College League of California has declared their commitment to protect all students and members of their communities regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The Mendocino College faculty senate supports declaring Mendocino-Lake Community College District educational sites as a “Sanctuary Campus” that provides support

and protection for our students and their family members to reassure and protect undocumented and documented immigrants from the prospect of deportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, TO THE EXTENT LEGALLY POSSIBLE:

1. That all people have the opportunity to attend public community college and to access higher education, including undocumented students, and that we will advocate for educational opportunities for all students, without regard for their immigration status.
2. That all college administrators, faculty, and staff will be appropriately and adequately prepared to establish policy that prevents college employees, including security staff, from acting on behalf of federal agents to enforce immigration laws in order to protect the safety and security of our students, their families, and our communities.
3. That college staff limit cooperation with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials, legally withhold undocumented students' or immigrant information and any records that identify the immigration status of their students from immigration officials without a court-order or subpoena, prevent immigration officials from entering campus to detain or arrest people without a warrant, and support efforts to expand financial aid for undocumented students.