WAYPOINT
Together Forward

Dr. Anthony E. Beebe
Superintendent/President
Santa Barbara City College

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

My father was born in the Philippine Islands. At age 12, he was brought to the U.S. by my grandfather. He didn't have any say or choice in the matter. Certainly, once my father grew up, he realized what a wonderful decision it was to immigrate to the U.S., fighting for this country in the U.S. Navy among many other things. Many of you have similar family stories. My point here is that we are a nation of immigrants, with some of us getting here sooner than others.

Undocumented youth, brought to this country under the age of 16 years, are among the most vulnerable populations we have in our society. They are individuals who deserve special discretion, grace, and protection, as their status here is not of their making. Recognizing this, the Department of Homeland Security implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This is a strict program for undocumented youth who are permitted in the U.S. while under good behavior, crime free among other criteria. Even permitted here under this special program, these undocumented students face tremendous barriers, but like so many of our parents and grandparents who came to this country before us, they exhibit exemplary perseverance, work ethic, community service, and scholarship. They contribute greatly to our economy and our nation as high achievers.

California community colleges operate under the charter of providing educational access to all individuals who are willing to learn. While the incessant stress of deportation hangs over all undocumented students, Santa Barbara City College does not screen nor discriminate against DACA and AB540 students. Like all of our students, these students can achieve great things if given a chance. They can only be successful if they feel safe and unthreatened. SBCC is proud to provide such a learning environment! We join in supporting Chancellor Eloy Oakley's request to President-elect Trump to Preserve Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Sincerely,