

## [Summary of recommended Actions and University services for immigrant/DACA students](#)

In late January, [the Pitt Human Rights Working Group](#) issued an open letter to University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Patrick Gallagher calling for more visible public statements and action on behalf of immigrant rights and the DACA program. The letter and the Chancellor's response was published in the [Feb. 9 2018 issue of \*University Times\*](#).

Because we would like this open letter to advance protections and expand public awareness and engagement around the rights of vulnerable members of our University and larger communities, we provide a summary of the actions recommended by the Human Rights Working Group. We hope others will help publicize this issue and work to promote these actions at Pitt and other university campuses. In addition, we provide a list of campus resources provided in Chancellor Gallagher's response to our open letter.

**\*\*Pitt also provides a link to an online form where people can send a letter to our elected officials to weigh in on the DACA decision. Anyone should be able to send a letter from this site: <http://with.pitt.edu/daca>**

### **Recommendations from the Human Rights Working Group**

The University of Pittsburgh should offer support in the following ways:

- Publicly condemn the dismantling of DACA and failure to pass a clean Dream Act.
- Pressure Congress to create a long-term solution in the form of legislation to protect "Dreamers," and inform members of the University community about how they too can contact their Representative or Senator in Congress to demand action.
- Announce timely legal and counseling support for students, employees and their families who are DACA recipients or undocumented immigrants.
- Educate University of Pittsburgh students and employees on the situation more generally, and offer "Know Your Rights" information sessions.
- Educate campus police, university faculty and staff regarding the circumstances and legality of withholding student information from immigration officials and prohibiting such officials from entering university buildings.
- Promote a safe and supportive campus community for all students, regardless of immigration status, and investigate reports of harassment thoroughly and efficiently.
- Work with student organizations to facilitate the creation of an anonymous support group for DACA recipients and undocumented members of the University of Pittsburgh.
- Create a scholarship fund to provide financial aid to DACA students who lose their work permits.

### **Chancellor's Response**

Chancellor Gallagher responded by asserting his commitment to the values highlighted in the open letter and identifying a number of resources for DACA and immigrant students;

Beyond seeking decisive Congressional action on DACA, we have supported affected Pitt students in several, specific ways:

- Our [University Center for International Studies](#) provides direct, personalized support to DACA students and refers them to our Immigration Law Clinic when applicable.
- Our [Immigration Law Clinic](#) receives referrals from local immigrant community organizations to represent immigrant youth and their families. These efforts include Pitt Law faculty members and students meeting individually with young immigrants and their families to provide free legal counseling.
- This fall, our [Office of Community and Governmental Relations](#) assisted the Student Government Board in coordinating a student-led letter writing campaign in support of DACA recipients.
- We continue to protect the personal information of all students — including DACA students — to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- Our [Office of Admissions and Financial Aid](#) can provide grant support to students who face extenuating financial challenges in filing the application renewal fee for DACA status according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services procedures. To learn more, students can contact our Associate Director of Financial Aid for Client Services and Special Programs Janet R. McLaughlin at [janetmcl@pitt.edu](mailto:janetmcl@pitt.edu) or (412) 624-9146.
- Our [Office of the Dean of Students](#) is available for support and consultation navigating various specific circumstances a student may face. Students can contact [deanofstudents@pitt.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@pitt.edu) or (412) 648-1006 to be connected with a resource.
- Our [University Counseling Center](#) is a confidential place to talk with a trained health care professional about any concern. Students can dial (412) 648-7930 to speak with a staff member.
- Our [Student Government Board](#) offers students the opportunity for a free 20-minute legal consultation. Undocumented or DACA students who need immigration legal advice will be referred to local immigration attorneys. Appointments can be scheduled on Thursdays between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, students can dial (412) 648-7970.
- Pitt also provides a link to an online form where people can send a letter to our elected officials to weigh in on the DACA decision. Anyone should be able to send a letter from this site: <http://with.pitt.edu/daca>

The link to the full letter and the Chancellor's response is here;  
<http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=47606>