March 16, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for the positive comments you have made on several occasions about “Dreamers,” a group of outstanding young people you recently referred to as “incredible kids.” We agree with you. Brought as children to our country and since granted temporary permission to stay and obtain work permits, they contribute to our great nation every day. We are ready to work with you to ensure that they can continue to do so.

University of North Carolina President Margaret Spellings, a former secretary of education under President George W. Bush, echoed your views in a recent op-ed in The Washington Post, saying:

“These young people...have grown up American—studying and learning in our public schools, celebrating our national holidays, becoming a part of our communities. They’ve made a lifetime of friends and memories here. This is the only home most of them can remember. These are our children, raised in our cities and towns and taught in our public schools. They share our hopes and dreams for a better America. Their faith in this country is a blessing, if we have the grace to accept it.”

Similarly, The Wall Street Journal editorial board wrote that repealing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which enables them to work and study here, “would harm innocent men and women.” The Journal stated, and we concur, that providing Dreamers a reprieve from deportation while Congress works to codify the policy would convey a “message of inclusion and largeness of presidential spirit.”

At present, more than 750,000 individuals are registered under the program, many of whom are enrolled in college. These young people consider themselves Americans, just like their classmates and friends, and in most ways they are. To qualify, applicants must pass a rigorous, multi-faceted test. They must have arrived in the U.S. before reaching age 16, resided here continuously since 2012, be enrolled in or completed high school, not been convicted of a crime, and not present a threat to national security or public safety.

These bright and talented young people are working, are studying at colleges and universities, or have enlisted in the armed services. Because they now have work permits, they are making immediate contributions to our society and our economy. They are paying taxes, receiving driver’s licenses, and buying cars and first homes, all of which generates revenue for federal, state, and local governments. They are ineligible for federal means-tested welfare benefits, Pell Grants, and federal student loans, as
well as health care tax subsidies.

According to a recent study by the CATO Institute, deporting the approximately 750,000 people registered in the program would cost over $60 billion in lost tax revenue and result in a $280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade.

Unfortunately, many of these young people now live in fear that the program will be rolled back or revoked. In order to lift this cloud of fear, we ask that you commit to allowing these productive and high-achieving individuals to continue to work and study while your administration and Congress arrive at a permanent solution. The higher education community is eager to work with you to find a path forward.

Sincerely,

Aaniiih Nakoda College
Adelphi University
Adler University
Agnes Scott College
Albion College
Albright College
Allegheny College
Alvernia University
Alverno College
American River College
Amherst College
Anna Maria College
Appalachian State University
Aquinas College
Arkansas Baptist College
Asbury University
Assumption College
Augustana College
Azusa Pacific University
Baldwin Wallace University
Barnard College
Barry University
Barton College
Bates College
Bay College
Becker College
Bellevue University
Benedictine University
Bennett College
Bennington College
Berea College
Bethel University
Big Bend Community College
Binghamton University
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bowie State University
Bowling Green State University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Buffalo State College
Cabrini University
Caldwell University
California Community College Chancellor's Office
California Institute of Technology
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University
California State University Maritime Academy
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, San Marcos
California State University, Stanislaus
Canisius College
Cape Cod Community College
Carleton College
Carlow University
Carnegie Mellon University
Carthage College
Case Western Reserve University
Central College
Central Community College
Central Michigan University
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Champlain College
Chapman University
Charleston Southern University
Charlotte Christian College and Theological Seminary
Chatfield College
Chestnut Hill College
Christian Brothers University
City University of New York
Claremont School of Theology
Clark University
Clarke University
Clatsop Community College
Cleveland State University
Coe College
Colby College
Colby-Sawyer College
Coleman University
College of Saint Benedict
College of Saint Elizabeth
College of Saint Mary
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Colorado Community College System
Colorado State University-Pueblo
Columbia University
Concordia University Texas
Corban University
Cornell University
Cosumnes River College
Crown College
Culver-Stockton College
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
De Anza College
Denison University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Dominican College
Dominican University
Donnelly College
Drew University
Drury University
Duke University
Dutchess Community College
Earlham College
East Carolina University
East Tennessee State University
Eastern Michigan University
Eastern Oregon University
Eastern University
Eastern Washington University
Eckerd College
Edgewood College
Elizabethtown College
Elon University
Emmanuel College
Emmanuel College, Boston
Emory University
Empire State College
Excelsior College
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Farmingdale State College
Fayetteville State University
Folsom Lake College
Fontbonne University
Foothill College
Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin University Switzerland
Frostburg State University
Fuller Theological Seminary
Furman University
Gannon University
Gateway Community and Technical College
George Fox University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Georgian Court University
Gettysburg College
Goddard College
Golden Gate University
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Goshen College
Goucher College
Governors State University
Graceland University
Grand View University
Greensboro College
Greenville College
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Guttman Community College
Gwynedd Mercy University
Hamilton College
Hamline University
Hampshire College
Hartwick College
Harvard University
Haverford College
Henderson Community College
Hendrix College
Heritage University
Hiram College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Holy Cross College
Holy Names University
Howard Community College
Humboldt State University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Immaculata University
Indiana University
Ithaca College
Jackson College
James Madison University
John Brown University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University
Juniata College
Kalamazoo College
Kansas State University
Kaplan University
Kishwaukee College
Klamath Community College
Knox College
La Roche College
La Sierra University
Lafayette College
LaGuardia Community College
Laguna College of Art and Design
Lake Forest College
Lane Community College
Lasell College
Lebanon Valley College
Lesley University
Lewis & Clark College
Lewis University
Lewis-Clark State College
Life Pacific College
Lindsey Wilson College
Lipscomb University
Logan University
Loras College
Los Rios Community College District
Lourdes University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Luther College
Lyndon State College
Macomb Community College
Madison College
Madonna University
Manchester Community College
Manchester University
Manhattan College
Maria College
Marian University of Wisconsin
Maricopa Community Colleges
Marietta College
Mars Hill University
Marshall University
Marquette University
Marylhurst University
Marymount University
Marywood University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Maysville Community and Technical College
McDaniel College
McKendree University
McPherson College
Medaille College
Metropolitan State University
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Mexican American Catholic College
MGH Institute of Health Professions
Miami University
Michigan School of Professional Psychology
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Middlebury College
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Mills College
Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Misericordia University
Mississippi College
Missouri Baptist University
Monmouth University
Montana State University Billings
Moorpark College
Mount Aloysius College
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Mary University
Mount Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles
Mount St. Joseph University
Muhlenberg College
Nazareth College
Nebraska Wesleyan University
New Jersey City University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York School of Interior Design
New York University
Newman University
Nicolet College
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
North Central College
North Greenville University
North Park University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Illinois University
Northwest Christian University
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwest University
Northwestern College
Northwestern University
Notre Dame College
Notre Dame de Namur University
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Nyack College
Oakton Community College
Oberlin College
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oklahoma Baptist University
Oregon State University
Our Lady of the Lake University
Oxnard College
Pace University
Pacific Oaks College
Peirce College
Penn State University
Pepperdine University
Peralta Community College District
Pfeiffer University
Point Loma Nazarene University
Pomona College
Portland State University
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Seton Hill University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Shenandoah University
Siena Heights University
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Smith College
Sonoma State University
Southern Methodist University
Southern Nazarene University
Southern New Hampshire University
Southern Vermont College
Southwestern University
Spring Hill College
St. Ambrose University
St. Catherine University
St. Cloud State University
St. Edward's University
St. Francis College
St. John's College
St. Joseph's College - New York
St. Lawrence University
St. Louis College of Pharmacy
St. Mary's University - San Antonio
St. Norbert College
Stanford University
State University of New York at Geneseo
State University of New York at Morrisville
State University of New York at New Paltz
State University of New York at Oneonta
State University of New York at Oswego
State University of New York at Plattsburgh
State University of New York at Potsdam
State University of New York College at Cortland
State University of New York College of Optometry
Stetson University
Stockton University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Susquehanna University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
The Boston Architectural College
The City College of New York
The College of Idaho
The College of New Jersey
The College of Saint Rose
The College of Wooster
The Community College of Rhode Island
The Evergreen State College
The New School
The Ohio State University
The State University of New York
The University of Arizona
The University of Missouri
The University of New Mexico
The University of Scranton
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Toledo
Tillamook Bay Community College
Towson University
Transylvania University
Trevecca Nazarene University
Trinity College
Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas
Trinity Washington University
Trocaire College
Tufts University
Tulane University
Tusculum College
UCLA
UNC Wilmington
Union Institute & University
University at Buffalo
University of Bridgeport
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Missouri
University of Central Oklahoma
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Colorado System
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Colorado, Denver
University of Dayton
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Evansville
University of Florida
University of Great Falls
University of Houston
University of Houston-Downtown
University of Houston-Victoria
University of Idaho
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Springfield
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Illinois System
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of La Verne
University of Mary Washington
University of Maryland University College
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Memphis
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota Crookston
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina Asheville
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Northwestern
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of Saint Mary
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina Beaufort
University of South Florida System
University of Southern California
University of St. Francis
University of St. Thomas
University of Tennessee
University of the District of Columbia
University of the Southwest
University of Utah
University of Washington
University of Washington Bothell
University of Washington Tacoma
University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin-Extension
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
University on Nebraska at Omaha
University System of Maryland
Ursinus College
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vanguard University
Vassar College
Ventura College
Ventura College
Ventura County Community College District
Villanova University
Virginia Community College System
Virginia Wesleyan College
Walsh University
Warner Pacific College
Wartburg College
Washington University in St. Louis
Weber State University
Webster University
Wellesley College
Wesley College
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
Western Carolina University
Western Michigan University
Western New England University
Western Oregon University
Western Washington University
Westmont College
Wheaton College
Whitman College
Whittier College
Whitworth University
Willamette University
William James College
William Paterson University
Williams College
Winona State University
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University