

Toolkit for Colleges and Universities: DACA 12th Anniversary June 10-15, 2024

Introduction and Context

Twelve years ago, following persistent advocacy and brave storytelling from undocumented students across the country, President Obama announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program on June 15, 2012. Since then, more than [800,000 individuals](#) have relied on the work permits, deportation protections, and other opportunities afforded by DACA to pursue their career and educational goals, including many on your respective campuses. In the process, DACA recipients have demonstrated why expanding opportunities for immigrants is so important—both to their own lives and to the future of this country.

Despite these successes, [persistent legal challenges to the DACA program](#) have left the fate of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers in limbo. While current recipients have been able to retain their DACA status as the case makes its way through the court system, the long-term viability of the program is in jeopardy. Meanwhile, DACA recipients continue to enroll in and graduate from college; they enter the workforce, start businesses, and establish lives and families, all without knowing if they will soon lose access to the vital protections DACA affords.

Within this context, celebrating and advocating for programs like DACA is crucial.

We invite you to join the Presidents' Alliance in commemorating DACA's 12th anniversary and uplifting the contributions of Dreamers throughout the United States.

This toolkit includes materials to help guide your efforts during the upcoming DACA Week of Action, taking place from **June 10th-15th, 2024**. The packet includes:

- **Talking points**
- **A template statement**
- **Social media toolkit.**

All of these materials can be personalized to fit the needs of your state and campus.

For communications questions, please contact Jason Koh at jason@presidentsalliance.org. For questions regarding the DACA Week of Action, please contact Diego Sanchez, diego@presidentsalliance.org.

Table of Contents

- [Talking Points](#)
- [Template Statement](#)
- [Social Media Toolkit](#)

Talking Points

Importance of DACA

- For 12 years, DACA has been an immensely successful program that has offered temporary protection from deportation and the ability to work legally to [over 800,000](#) immigrants who came to the United States as children.
- However, the future of the program is uncertain, as the [Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals](#) considers challenges to its legality.
- Halting DACA renewals is estimated to cost the U.S. economy [over \\$280 billion](#) in the next decade alone, and an estimated [1,000 DACA recipients](#) would be forced out of their jobs every week for the next two years.
- Many DACA recipients have graduated college and are now well into their thirties, with homes, stable careers, and U.S.-citizen spouses, children, and other relatives who depend on their continued ability to work. Terminating DACA would upend the lives of all of these families.

DACA Recipients

- Over [400,000 undocumented students](#), including Dreamers, are pursuing higher education, launching careers and contributing to our communities and states.
- Many undocumented graduates go on to achieve master's degrees, PhDs, MDs, JDs, and more. [Nearly twenty percent of the 141,000 DACA-eligible higher education students are enrolled in a graduate or professional program.](#)
- There are approximately [343,000 DACA recipients working essential jobs.](#)
- DACA recipients form a key part of our campus workforce. As faculty, staff, and administrators, they keep our campus running, our students learning, and our impact growing.
- There are [530,110 DACA holders](#) in the United States (as of December 31, 2023), most of whom are currently in the workforce. It is estimated that nearly [100,000 DACA recipients](#) are married to a U.S. citizen.

Urgent Need for Permanent Relief

- It is very concerning that recent Congressional negotiations on immigration did not include protections for Dreamers.
- The looming termination of the DACA program heightens the urgency for Congress to act on a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers.
- DACA recipients and other Dreamers should be afforded a permanent legislative solution that allows them to continue to live, work, and contribute to the only country most have ever known.
- Now is the time to work towards a bipartisan compromise, as there is [broad support](#) across both parties for passing a permanent fix for Dreamers.
- Congress should build on the successes of DACA by providing a permanent fix so that all Dreamers can achieve their goals and meet the talent needs of our nation.

Template Campus Statement

Below is template language for a campus statement on the 12th anniversary of DACA. We encourage you to use the portions that are relevant to your campus and edit the language to fit your specific institution.

[INSTITUTION] CELEBRATES 12 YEARS OF DACA AND CALLS FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR [INSTITUTION] COMMUNITY

Congress must provide a permanent solution for students, staff, scholars, and alumni

[Date]

[City, State]

[Name, Title, University affiliation]

Contact: [email]

[City, State]— June 15th, 2024 marks the 12th anniversary of the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. On this anniversary, we reflect on the contributions DACA recipients have made to our campus as students, alumni, faculty, and staff. At the same time, we recognize the determination of those who are not eligible for DACA, as well as the resilience of all who have weathered challenges to the program, and emphasize the importance of establishing permanent protections for all Dreamers.

DACA recipients at [Institution] are pursuing rigorous programs in STEM, healthcare, teaching, and more. Our graduates enter fields facing severe labor shortages, making vital contributions to the U.S. economy as workers, taxpayers, entrepreneurs, and business owners. DACA recipients also form a key part of our campus workforce. As faculty, staff, and administrators, they keep our campus running, our students learning, and our impact growing. DACA recipients at [Institution] are pushing the boundaries of research and teaching, ensuring that U.S. higher education retains its global reputation for excellence. [Specific examples from your institution that demonstrate the role DACA recipients play as employees].

The DACA program has allowed Dreamers to demonstrate the immense contributions they can make when provided with access to protections and work authorization. DACA recipients who graduate from college have become impactful employers, homeowners, military personnel, faith leaders, and founders of thriving businesses. They contribute almost \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare annually and unleash a wave of entrepreneurship.

Our state of [State] has [number] undocumented students, [number] of which are DACA-eligible. However, the number of DACA-eligible students on our campus has been [consistently decreasing](#) as court restrictions and eligibility criteria narrow access for the younger generation. This represents a significant loss of talent and revenue that imperils our state's intellectual and economic interests. [Opportunity to highlight labor shortages in your state]

Threats to the DACA program cause persistent anxiety for Dreamers and their families. Many of the DACA recipients who have graduated from [Institution] are now well into their thirties, with homes, stable careers, and U.S.-citizen spouses, children, and other relatives who depend on their continued ability to work. Terminating DACA would upend the lives of all of these families. [Quotes from affected students/staff]

Dreamers' success is our country's success. Our experiences at [Institution] show that, as Dreamers thrive, so too will their families, communities, and the nation. At a time of severe [labor shortages](#), with consequences ranging from inflation to diminished economic growth, we must invest in the existing talent of the Dreamer population and provide opportunities for them to apply their skills and dedication as residents of [State]. As we celebrate the 12th anniversary of DACA, we look toward a future in which all Dreamers have the opportunity to leverage their talents as full members of American society.

Social Media Toolkit

You may use the suggested social media content below to spread the message that the education community supports DACA recipients and that Dreamers deserve permanent protections now.

Suggested Hashtags: #HigherEd #DACA #Dreamers #SupportDACA

Twitter Handle: @PresImmAlliance

Twitter Posts

- Over 400,000 undocumented students, including many #DACA recipients, are pursuing #HigherEd. Nearly 20% of the 141,000 DACA-eligible students are in graduate or professional programs.

It's essential to recognize their contributions and support their continued success!

- #DACA has been tremendously successful, offering temporary protection from deportation & the ability to work legally to nearly 800,000 young people since the program's inception.
- #DACA recipients and other #Dreamers should be afforded a permanent legislative solution that allows them to continue to live, work, and contribute to the only country most have ever known.

Facebook and LinkedIn Posts

- Dreamers are integral to our nation, contributing to our communities, higher education, and workforce. Over 400,000 undocumented students, including many DACA recipients, are pursuing higher education. Nearly 20% of the 141,000 DACA-eligible students are in graduate or professional programs. It's essential to recognize their contributions and support their continued success.

#SupportDACA #DREAMers #HigherEducation

- For 12 years, DACA has been a crucial program offering temporary protection from deportation and work authorization to over 800,000 immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children. However, the program's future is uncertain, with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals soon to make a ruling that could undermine or end it. Halting DACA renewals could cost the U.S. economy over \$280 billion in the next decade and force 1,000 DACA recipients out of their jobs every week for the next two years.

DACA recipients and other Dreamers should be afforded a permanent legislative solution that allows them to continue to live, work, and contribute to the only country most have ever known.

#SupportDACA #DREAMers