

Statement of Support for DACA and Undocumented Students

Dominika Laster

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To:Theatre Dept <theatre@unm.edu>;

Cc:Vladimir Conde Reche <vreche@unm.edu>; Sarah Lentz <slentz@unm.edu>;

Dear Jenn, could you please send the email below to our student list serve? Thank you. Dominika

Dear students,

I write to reiterate—in the strongest possible terms—my unwavering support for DACA and undocumented students.

Last week, the President announced his plans to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), an important immigration policy that extends work permits and other protections to 800,000 young people across the country.

The decision will phase out DACA, starting 6 months from now, unless Congress acts. This means that public support for DACA and for all immigrants can pressure Congress to extend DACA protections by passing a strong, stand-alone DREAM Act.

But today, many DACA students—and students from mix-status families—are worried about their future.

I affirm the strongest support and continued solidarity for undocumented students and their families at this difficult time, and echo the interim president Abdallah's message: "You are not alone. You are cherished. You belong here!"

Last Friday, over two hundred faculty, students, staff, and community members attended the *DACA | Know Your Rights Training* in Rodey Theatre—including Dean Kymberly Pinder, as well as faculty and students from our department. Further, the Theatre and Dance faculty will offer a faculty-led healing and self-care session for any interested students. We will send more out details about this session soon.

[United We Dream | Here to Stay](http://weareheretostay.org/resources/mental-health-emergency-toolkit/) has a number of resources available, including a Mental Health Emergency Toolkit, which you can access by following this link: <http://weareheretostay.org/resources/mental-health-emergency-toolkit/>

Do not hesitate to reach out if you need support. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-1:45 PM, and by appointment.

In solidarity,

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Dominika Laster, PhD (*she, her, hers*)

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