

From: Official ESU Email

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Subject: A Message to the Campus Community from Dr. Santiago Solis Regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program

East Stroudsburg University is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As Champions of Social Justice, we celebrate the Supreme Court's decision to keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in place, protecting nearly 700,000 undocumented young people from deportation.

On June 18, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the DACA program. This decision restores the program and (theoretically) both initial and renewal applications can be filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The decision is a victory for immigrant communities and their allies who organized to protect the DACA program. However, while the Supreme Court has indicated that new applications must be accepted, until USCIS releases guidance applications are not officially open.

DACA is a United States immigration policy that allows some individuals with unlawful presence in the United States, after being brought to the country as children, to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and become eligible for a work permit in the U.S. While many DACA recipients are Latinx, they are a diverse group and come from a multitude of countries and cultures.

As a queer undocumented Afro-Panamanian, Jonathan Jayes-Green, founder of UndocuBlack Network, is one example of a new generation of civil rights leaders and activists. Jonathan, who lives at the intersection of several current movements, states:

I deeply believe that today, we are getting a taste of the fruits of the seeds that our movements have been planting for a long time. We got a taste on Thursday with the DACA decision; we got a taste on Monday with the Title VII decision impacting LGBTQIA individuals like myself; and we've been getting a full entrée as the movement for Black Lives has inspired global action against police violence and systemic violence against all Black people. This is not the time to stop. This is the time for more and more people to come off the sidelines, to join our movement for freedom and justice.

ESU remains committed to supporting [DACA](#), immigrant, and first-generation students. The PA State System of Higher Education states that "... undocumented immigrants who provide clear and convincing evidence of residing in Pennsylvania may be considered domiciled in the Commonwealth. Students who graduated from Pennsylvania high schools fit this description and should be considered in-state for tuition purposes." ESU is steadfast in providing access for all individuals that seek to pursue an education.

While the DACA decision is promising, there is still more work to be done. The end of DACA would have devastating consequences for recipients. For one, losing DACA would make higher education far less accessible for many of these amazing young people. We therefore stand with DACA recipients, like Johnathan, and immigrant communities in the pursuit of freedom and justice.

Dr. Santiago Solis

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Black Lives Matter!

Vice President, Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence

East Stroudsburg University

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