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Subject: A Message to our Dreamers from your Mesa College President
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SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



Message from the *President*

Hello Dreamers,

We recognize the recent elections results may bring mixed emotions about the future. I want to take a moment to reaffirm Mesa college's commitment to supporting all members of our community, including our undocumented students. Our resources, such as mental health and legal services, Dreamer Resource Center (DRC), academic counseling, and financial aid support are available to you, and we encourage you to seek for the support.

Please note that your student information is protected, our college complies with all Federal and State laws governing the privacy of student records including the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Regardless of the presidential election outcome. San Diego Mesa College will still provide the AB 540 and the California Dream Act. AB 540 exempts undocumented and out-of-state students who completed high school in California from non-resident tuition, and the California Dream Act offers state financial aid to undocumented students .

You are a valuable part of our community, and we look forward to continuing supporting you throughout your journey. Again, regardless of the presidential election outcome, you continue to have value, worth and a multitude of opportunities to be, belong and become at Mesa College. Keep pursuing your purpose and educational dreams! San Diego Mesa College remains deeply committed to providing excellent educational opportunities and will do everything possible to ensure your academic success.

Below are some internal and external resources available to you.

Internal Resources

- San Diego Mesa College Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars Program: Provide a safe and welcoming environment for undocumented students and UndocuAllies. We support these students to overcome personal and educational challenges due to their immigration status. We provide personal, career, and academic counseling, on-campus support services, and community resources including free legal services. Contact us at 619-500-2053 and MesaDreamers@sdccd.edu, or visit us in room [I4-204](#).
- Immigration Legal Services: Jewish Family Services (JFS): The Higher Education

Legal Services (HELS) program provides trusted, accessible, and high-quality immigration legal services to college communities within the California border regions, directly on campus. HELS also empowers immigrants through education and by building lasting relationships that recognize their dignity, complexity, intersectionality, and hopes and dreams. <https://www.jfssd.org/our-services/refugees-immigration/higher-education-legal-services/>

- Mental Health Resources Student Health Services: Provides a safe and private place for you to discuss your mental health concerns with a caring professional. Make an appointment to receive free, one-on-one counseling for issues including stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness, questions about identity, and other issues you may be experiencing. <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-support/student-health-services/mental-health-services.shtml>

External Resources

Immigration Legal Services:

- Undocumented Legal Services at Your College: All California community colleges have dedicated legal services for undocumented students. These services can help with DACA renewal, legal consultations, and other immigration-related matters. Visit FindyourAlly.com to schedule your free consultation today!
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC): Offers a wide range of resources for navigating immigration laws and protecting your rights. Visit their site at <https://www.ilrc.org>.
- National Immigration Law Center (NILC): NILC provides resources and advocacy for undocumented individuals across the U.S., including information on DACA, protections for immigrant youth, and updates on immigration policies. Visit www.nilc.org for more information.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA): Offers mental health services and support specifically for immigrant communities. Find resources at <http://www.calmhsa.org>
- Mental Health Counseling on Campus: Many colleges provide free or low-cost counseling services for students. These resources are available to support you in managing stress, anxiety, or other mental health concerns during this time. Be sure to reach out to your campus counseling center.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California: Provides mental health

resources and peer support for immigrants and their families. Visit their website at <https://www.namica.org>

- The Trevor Project: For LGBTQ+ undocumented students, The Trevor Project provides confidential, free mental health support through texting, calling, or chat. Visit www.thetrevorproject.org for crisis counseling.

In community,

Ashanti Hands

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.

President | San Diego Mesa College

Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!

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San Diego Mesa College

