

REDWOODS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION 817

RECOGNIZING THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER AS "UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ACTION WEEK"

WHEREAS, Redwoods Community College District is committed to serving all students who can benefit from a post-secondary education, without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, gender, language, socio-economic status, gender identity or expression, medical condition or disability; and

WHEREAS, California's diversity is a great source of innovation and industry, making this state one of the largest economies in the world and an economic engine for the United States. Despite the political controversy, however, research suggests that undocumented immigrants play a vital role in sustaining the U.S. economy. In 2019, undocumented individuals contributed almost \$9.8 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. Data suggests that these individuals play a valuable economic role and are essential contributors to the communities where they work, spend, and raise their families; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County as a sanctuary county does not allow local law enforcement units to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As such, primary jurisdiction over federal immigration laws does not rest with campus police or any other state or local law enforcement agency; community trust is essential in allowing campus police to serve the Redwoods Community College District effectively; and campus police's limited resources should not be diverted from the critical mission of keeping our students safe, by participating in enforcement of federal immigration laws or by assisting federal immigration authorities in any way; and

WHEREAS, Threats of immigration enforcement actions, and particularly of separation and deportation, against students and their families create severe emotional, psychological and physical barriers to learning and education that can and should be alleviated or reduced through support systems, including legal representation, provided by the Redwoods Community College District; and

WHEREAS, Redwoods Community College District personnel in guidance from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office shall not inquire about or record a student's or a family member's immigration status. Pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), shall not disclose, without student consent if the student is at least 18 years old, or otherwise without parental consent, the immigration status, citizenship status, place of birth, or other personally identifiable information of any student; and

WHEREAS, Redwoods Community College District commits to developing a process for evaluating student and employee feedback relating to this and other similar matters that aids the district in better promoting cultural sensitivity. This feedback will be used to understand equity gaps and promote diversity. This will be a campus wide approach to using data-driven initiatives and programming; and

WHEREAS, Redwoods Community College District is committed to reassuring its students, faculty and staff that our campus will remain a safe, welcoming place for students of all backgrounds to learn; inform them that

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there have been no changes made with regard to admissions or financial aid; inform students that financial aid for certain undocumented students is protected by state law; and join with the University of California, the California State University and the California Community Colleges to defend the right of all students to obtain a higher education in California; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Redwoods Community College District declare the third week of October as "Undocumented Student Action Week" to work in partnership with other organizations and encourage the California Community Colleges to engage in activities supporting undocumented students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Redwoods Community College District will support efforts to identify and share best practices for assisting undocumented students, disseminate information to students about how to access funding for immigration defense proceedings and referral to legal service providers, and reinforce state policies that protect student rights and privacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Redwoods Community College District will follow CCC's guidance and not release any student information related to immigration status without a judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Redwoods Community College District will have a physical location for undocumented students, their families, staff, and faculty to receive resources and services they are entitled under the law, along with designating one or more district employees as UndocuLiaisons to be a resource to the district's undocumented student population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Redwoods Community College District commits to serving and protecting vulnerable populations by ensuring that students, staff, faculty and community members are informed about their rights and responsibilities. In collaboration with various campus departments Redwoods Community College District commits to ongoing training, forums, spaces and opportunities for understanding, communication and collaboration across campus departments such as Human Resources, Welcome Center, Financial Aid Office, and other student support departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Redwoods Community College District's campus will remain open, safe and welcoming to all students who meet the minimum requirements for admission, regardless of immigration status, and that financial aid remains available to certain undocumented students in alignment with State regulations and local policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Redwoods Community College District urges the current administration to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which grants "Dreamers" – people brought to this country as children by their parents - be excluded from deportation if they follow all regulations of the program. With a change in federal law that allows DACA holders to be eligible for some federally funded programs, Redwoods Community College District commits to align its policies to reflect those changes in policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Redwoods Community College District will continue to ensure that all students have an opportunity to receive an education on our campus, regardless of immigration status or any other protected status; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Redwoods Community College District will join the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the Chancellor's Office in vigorously advocating to protect our students and our college's values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Redwoods Community College District does hereby proclaim the third week of October as "Undocumented Student Action Week"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to every college and center in the Redwoods Community College District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of District on this 3 rd day of September, 2024 with Absent.	of the Board of Trustees of the Redwoods Community College In Favor, Opposed, Abstaining and
Date: <u>9/3/24</u>	Dr. Rebecca Robertson President of the Board of Trustees
Attested By:	
Date: 9/3/2024	Carol Mathews

Clerk of the Board of Trustees