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Support Pledged for College Students With DACA Status

Catholic College and University Presidents

More than 100 presidents of Catholic colleges and universities have signed a statement pledging their support for students attending their schools who are legally protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. The statement, posted Nov. 30 on the website of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, says it hopes "the students in our communities who have qualified for DACA are able to continue their studies without interruption and that many more students in their situation will be welcome to contribute their talents to our campuses." President Barack Obama's DACA

"Our colleges and universities share a long history of educating students from a diverse array of ... backgrounds, often welcoming those on society's margins."

program protects immigrants brought into the United States by their parents as children without legal permission. More than 720,000 of these immigrants have been approved for the program, which protects them from deportation for two-year periods. The statement was released three weeks after the presidential election. During his campaign, President-elect Donald Trump promised to undo what he called Obama's "overreaching" executive orders, including the president's November 2014 expansion of his 2012 DACA program to allow more immigrants to benefit from its provisions. Signers of the statement represent large schools, like Villanova, which is outside Philadelphia, DePaul University in Chicago and The Catholic University of America in Washington, and small schools, like Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts, and Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and dozens of colleges in between. The statement follows.

Catholic education has been part of the fabric of American life for more than two centuries. Our colleges and universities share a long history of educating students from a diverse array of socioeconomic, geographical and ethnic backgrounds, often welcoming those on society's margins, especially immigrants and underprivileged populations.

Today Catholic institutions of higher education continue this mission and legacy. Our college and university communities are home to students from around the world

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