

RESOLUTION NO. 17-1

**BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE
SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S
COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS
AND STUDENT PRIVACY**

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) is an open access institution and supports, promotes, values, respects and protects all students and employees of the District, irrespective of their immigration status, or that of their families; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted a strategic plan in 2015 that emphasizes the District's priority of "Students First" and the District takes very seriously its solemn responsibility of caring for students; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2016, the Board's statement of "Affirmation of the San Mateo County Community College District's Commitment to Educational Social Justice through Access, Affordability, Individuality, Diversity and Inclusion," was adopted which is core to the manner in which all students and employees of the District are to be treated, protected, respected and valued; and

WHEREAS, the SMCCCD has supported and implemented the federal government's Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy and California Assembly Bill (AB) 540, which provide protection and financial assistance for undocumented students attending the SMCCCD; and

WHEREAS, the SMCCCD continues to support the internal policy memoranda issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to its staff relating to restrictions upon entering college campuses and in the prosecution of high school and college students, and which was reinforced to that agency by a letter to that effect from our Chancellor on December 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the SMCCCD values the privacy of students and continues to uphold federal privacy requirements as outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); and

WHEREAS, in recent months, federal immigration policy changes have been contemplated and discussed that could lead to emotional and physical insecurity of some undocumented students and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Board continues to promote social justice and is dedicated to finding ways in which the District might further refine and implement policies and strategies to ensure that the District's colleges remain safe and welcoming environments so that students can learn and thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees:

- (1) Fully endorses the urgent appeal of the chief executive officers of the California Community Colleges, the University of California and the California State University systems in their joint letter to President-elect Trump encouraging his continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy on November 29, 2016; and

- (2) Believes adherence to the guidance issued by the California Community College Chancellor's office on December 5, 2016, relating to the collection and protection of personally identifiable student information – including immigration status – is prudent and appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring every student within the District views its three colleges as “safe havens” so that they may learn, live and thrive without fear of discrimination, profiling, targeting or unlawful prosecution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor of the District to:


- (1) Develop directives and procedures to protect the safety and security of all students and employees of the District, and to facilitate a greater sense of community and enhance the relationship with and between District public safety staff; and
- (2) Protect student privacy and ensure confidentiality by prohibiting the release of information about a students' immigration status to law enforcement and federal agencies unless legally compelled to do so; and
- (3) Limit access to SMCCCD campuses and property to federal officials for the purposes of immigration enforcement, unless legally compelled to do so; and
- (4) Provide opportunities for students and their families, employees and their families, and members of the community to know about and understand their legal rights and, when appropriate, provide referrals to legal services that provide such assistance; and
- (5) Ensure that students and employees are aware of counseling and support services and ensure that those services are available and provided as needed; and
- (6) Develop a process for evaluating student and employee feedback relating to this and other similar matters that aids the District in better promoting cultural sensitivity, understanding and promoting diversity, serving and protecting vulnerable, at-risk and marginalized populations, and providing trainings, forums, spaces and opportunities for understanding, communication and collaboration; and
- (7) Take all necessary steps to engage the college and broader communities, media, elected officials, policy makers and other supporters to bring to light any injustices surrounding or relating to this matter, should any occur.

REGULARLY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of January, 2017.

Ayes: Maurice Goodman, Richard Holober, Dave Mandelkern, Thomas Mohr, Karen Schwarz

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Attest: 
Richard Holober, Vice President-Clerk
Board of Trustees