December 8, 2016

President-elect Donald J. Trump
Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear President-elect Trump:

We the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the 37 chancellors and presidents of the system respectfully request that you continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for students in our system and across the country. In our state we have thousands of DACA students pursuing their dream of higher education. These current students and thousands of earlier students are attempting to better their lives and those of their families by gaining a higher education. They have and will continue to contribute greatly to our local economy and that of these United States.

DACA students must have been brought to this country as minors, stayed out of trouble, and continued to pursue an education. These students are the children of undocumented immigrants but, through no fault of their own, are not considered citizens. Many do not remember their homeland, have never returned and may never have used the language of their parents’ home country. Some are student body presidents and leaders in our colleges. Many are the best students in their class. They are model students and have never been seen as a threat. On their own initiative they came forward to become part of the DACA program in our state.

Moreover, as taxpayers, we consider the enormous investment in their K-12 educations. There is no return on investment if we prevent them from entering or staying in our workforce. Many employers need bilingual and bicultural employees to help them compete globally.

These students are some of the best of the best and we fervently hope they will be able to follow their dream of higher education without the anxiety or dread that the federal authorities may interrupt their studies.

Speaking for these thousands of DACA students in our state, we respectfully appeal to you to allow them to continue their education here in Washington state and reassure them of their worth as important and vital residents of this great country.

Sincerely,
Larry Brown
State Board Member

Elizabeth Chen
State Board Member

Anne Fennessy
State Board Member

Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney
State Board Member

Shaunta Hyde
State Board Member

Carol Landa-McVicker
State Board Member

Wayne Martin
State Board Member

Jay Reich
State Board Member

Fred Whang
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John R. Langrell, III
Bates Technical College

Jill A. Wakefield
Bellevue College

Kimberly Perry
Bellingham Technical College

Terrence Leas
Big Bend Community College

Eric W. Murray
Cascadia College

Bob Mohrbacher
Centralla College

Robert K. Knight
Clark College

Joyce Loveday
Clover Park Technical College

Richard Cummins
Columbia Basin College

Jean Hernandez
Edmonds Community College

David N. Beyer
Everett Community College

James Minkler
Grays Harbor College

W. Scott Morgan
Green River College

Jack Bermingham
Highline College

Amy Morrison Goings
Lake WA Institute of Technology

Christopher C. Bailey
Lower Columbia College

Warren Brown
North Seattle College

David C. Mitchell
Olympic College

Luke Robins
Peninsula College

Michele L. Johnson
Pierce College

Denise R. Yochum
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom
Marty R. Cavalluzzi  
Pierce College Puyallup

Kevin McCarthy  
Renton Technical College

Sheila Edwards Lange  
Seattle Central College

Shouan Pan  
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Cheryl Roberts  
Shoreline Community College

Thomas A. Keegan  
Skagit Valley College

Timothy Stokes  
South Puget Sound Community College

Gary Oertli  
South Seattle College

Christine Johnson  
Community Colleges of Spokane

Ryan Carstens  
Spokane Community College

Janet Gullickson  
Spokane Falls Community College

Sheila Ruhland  
Tacoma Community College

Derek Brandes  
Walla Walla Community College

Jim Richardson  
Wenatchee Valley College

Kathi Hiyane-Brown  
Whatcom Community College

Linda Kaminski  
Yakima Valley Community College

cc:  
Sen. Maria Cantwell  
Sen. Patty Murray  
Rep. Suzan DelBene  
Rep. Denny Heck  
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Rep. Pramila Jayapal  
Rep. Derek Kilmer  
Rep. Rick Larsen  
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Rep. Dan Newhouse  
Rep. Dave Reichert  
Rep. Adam Smith  
Governor Jay Inslee