



NEWS RELEASE

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SJECCD Supports Undocumented Students with Action Week, Oct. 14 – 18, 2019

(San Jose, Calif.) — San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) joins community colleges across the state for Undocumented Student Week of Action, October 14 – 18, 2019, to advocate and provide support services for our undocumented students. Since President Trump’s 2017 announcement to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the status of undocumented students on our campuses has been uncertain.

Lack of action by Congress on DACA and American Dream and Promise Act (H.R.6), as well as recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and detentions have only exasperated the problem, causing fear among our undocumented student population.

As the largest post-secondary education system in the nation and serving the largest number of undocumented students within the state, California Community Colleges are committed to serving all students, regardless of immigration status. When undocumented young people are able to pursue education and careers, they can create new, brighter futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.

“It is vital that we assure all in our community that our campuses are committed to serving all students equally, regardless of immigration status, and reaffirm our belief that Californians of all backgrounds deserve a chance to obtain a higher education,” said Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, SJECCD chancellor. “It is as important now as it has ever been that we set an example for the rest of the country by upholding California’s values by offering educational pathways and resources for our undocumented students as they strive to meet their educational goals.”

This year’s action week serves as an opportunity to highlight the challenges our undocumented students face in today’s current climate, while also advocating for Congress to take immediate legislative action on important federal policies and provide resources to better assist undocumented students on our campuses.

Undocumented Student Week of Action is supported statewide by California Community Colleges, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, the Community College League of California, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, and Immigrants Rising.

Events taking place on the campuses of San José City College (SJCC) and Evergreen Valley College (EVC) include a Know Your Rights workshop on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Mishra Community room at EVC. This workshop will be led by Celine DinhJanelle, immigration attorney and director of South Bay operations at Pangea Legal Services.

Also on Wednesday, an Immigration Forum will take place at SJCC at 6:00 p.m. in Room 204 inside the Student Center. Presenters will provide up-to-date information on immigration policies and campus resources.

Both the Know Your Rights workshop at EVC and the Immigration Forum at SJCC are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.evc.edu and www.sjcc.edu.

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About San José – Evergreen Community College District

Located in vibrant downtown San José in the heart of Silicon Valley, the San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) encompasses more than 300 square miles, including a large portion of the City of San José and all of the City of Milpitas. SJECCD is comprised of: San José City College, the first community college in Santa Clara County, established in 1921; Evergreen Valley College, established in 1975; the Community College Center for Economic Mobility (previously known as the Workforce Institute), established in 1988; and the San José – Evergreen Community College Extension at Milpitas, established in 2016. For more information, visit www.sjeccd.edu.