

Values Affirmation Statement

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and faculty of Central Washington University issue this affirmation of our shared values, at this important, and uncertain, moment in history. This statement affirms President Gaudino's December 1, 2016 letter to the campus university on immigration matters and amplifies our shared ethical commitment to all our students.

We unequivocally express our support and compassion for all our students who may be undocumented or whose citizenship status may be ambiguous. We recognize with great concern that students who have had "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival" (DACA) status are anxious about their futures and the futures of their families and loved ones. We note that President Gaudino co-signed the national open letter by university and college presidents calling for a continuation of the DACA policy, and we affirm that all DACA students are valued members of our university community. We are all committed to the education and positive development of our DACA students, and all others whose citizenship status may be ambiguous or undocumented, within a safe and respectful environment. To the extent permissible by law, we pledge to do everything we can to honor and provide a safe educational environment, in every classroom and on all the university campuses, for all students regardless of documentation or citizenship status.

Specifically, we express support for the university's commitment to the following policies and principles:

- The university is committed to its educational mission. It has no affirmative responsibility to enforce immigration law, and will not initiate any such action. This remains the responsibility of Federal authorities.
- The university is committed to safeguarding student privacy and will not release student educational records, information about students' immigration status, or biometric data, such as fingerprints, to law enforcement agencies, including ICE, without a specific court order.
- Campus police remain committed to respecting the rights and privacy of all students. They do not question people about their immigration status and will not arrest or detain undocumented persons simply because they are undocumented.
- The university does not make admissions or other decisions about students based on immigration status, and does not request immigration documentation (except as needed to determine the eligibility of "HB 1079" students for resident tuition rates).
- The university is committed to providing adequate mental health, advising, & counseling services for all students, provided by professionals who have competency in working with marginalized communities.
- While we protect freedom of speech, sometimes even offensive speech, we do not tolerate unlawful harassment, threats, or hate crimes as defined under our student conduct code or applicable law.
- The university welcomes and affirms the values of diversity and inclusiveness, as well as the right of all students to be free from unlawful interference with the attainment of their educational goals.

We recognize the national legal and political environment on immigration enforcement matters is fluid and may change in the coming months. We pledge to work compassionately with all students who have immigration concerns and provide timely and transparent updates on relevant university policies and resources.

Submitted by Senator Mark Auslander, endorsed by the Senate Executive Committee, and voted/endorsed by the CWU Faculty Senate on January 11, 2017.