

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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February 26, 2013

Pima Community College
Board of Governors
4905 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85709-1010

Dear Members of the Pima Community College Board of Governors,

We, the Governing Board of Tucson Unified School District, would like to thank you for considering a revision to your in-state resident tuition for *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)* recipients. As the largest public school district in the Tucson Metropolitan Area, serving a diverse population of immigrants, refugees, migrants, residents and citizens, we recognize the importance of higher-education opportunities for each and every student who graduates from our schools. We also recognize the legal conundrum in which some young people find themselves. Some students, who have been with us from a young age, successfully complete our K-12 program and find a great financial hurdle, barring them from continuing their education after graduation. This is most difficult for young people who grew up in our community, consider Tucson their only home, and are not granted the same in-state tuition benefits as their peers.

We recognize that *DACA* is a federal program to begin addressing educational hardships many of our young scholars face. We also recognize that only certain young people are considered for *DACA*

status. Applicants must have continuously resided in the United States for the last six years, currently be enrolled in college or honorably discharged from the US Armed Forces, and not be convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor. These are young people who, if we ease the burden

2

of paying out-of-state tuition, will have a better opportunity to become educated, employed, productive members of our society who contribute to the well being of us all.

We encourage you to:

- Approve in-state tuition for *DACA* beneficiaries.
- Revise the residency definitions in your policy to include *DACA* beneficiaries.
- Allow *DACA* students equal access to in-state resident scholarships.
- Publicize your decision so young people and their families in our community understand the opportunity this decision grants them.

Respectfully,

Adelita S. Grijalva
Governing Board President

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