

A RESOLUTION of the Academic Senate of Sierra College in Support of Student Scholars with Undocumented Status

February 5, 2025

Whereas, Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success are included as “academic and professional matters” under Academic Senate purview in Title 5 §53200 (b), and the Academic Senate of Sierra College is committed to the success and well-being of all student scholars, regardless of their background or immigration status;

Whereas, “The mission of Sierra College is to ensure that all our students have access to an equitable, high-quality education where they are welcomed, supported, and empowered to achieve their goals” and our first three core values are:

1. Cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community to enrich its mission and support students in achieving their educational goals
2. Empower students in their education
3. Identify and remove historical barriers to equitable education and success;

Whereas, Scholars with undocumented status bring experiences and perspectives that add to the cultural wealth of our campuses and whose academic, social, and economic contributions inspire and improve our communities;

Whereas, Students with undocumented status face unique challenges and uncertainties in pursuing their education due to federal immigration policies as well as harmful discourses which instill dehumanizing perspectives; and

Whereas, Academic institutions have a responsibility to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students, regardless of their immigration status;

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Sierra College affirms its commitment to providing a welcoming and supportive environment for all students, regardless of their background or immigration status; and unequivocally condemns all forms of discrimination, including xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments;

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Sierra College will advocate for policies at the local, state, and federal levels that support the rights and educational opportunities of students with undocumented status;

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Sierra College will advocate for the development, effective implementation, and/or ongoing improvement of services and resources which support scholars with undocumented status as well as English language learning scholars, immigrants with vulnerable status, and refugees from enrollment to the completion of their educational goals;

Resolved, The Academic Senate encourages faculty to include statements of support for students with undocumented status in their syllabi, highlight [the Sierra College Undocumented Student Center](#) as an available student resource, and make efforts to create inclusive classroom environments for all students;

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Sierra College will partner with [the Sierra College Undocumented Student Center](#) to promote existing resources for students with undocumented status and support the expansion of resources, including but not limited to:

- Maintaining free immigration legal services for students with undocumented status through the Higher Education Immigration Legal Services Program
- Creating and marketing workshops and professional development opportunities focused on supporting students with undocumented status, addressing racial equity, combating discrimination, and cultivating culturally humble and responsive practices
- Promoting campus and community cocurricular educational events which proactively debunk harmful stereotypes of people with undocumented status
- Advocating for access to inclusive, trauma-informed mental health support sensitive to the unique challenges faced by individuals with undocumented status and students from mixed-status families
- Advocating for the ongoing assessment of human resources required to ensure a comprehensive and effective system of support and advocacy for students with undocumented status and students with vulnerable immigrant status
- Promoting programming which supports students with undocumented status in holistic ways which validate and empower intersecting aspects of their identities

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Sierra College will advocate for the Sierra Community College District to protect the privacy and rights of students with undocumented status to the fullest extent allowed by law (e.g., Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) as well as Sierra College Board Policies and Administrative Procedures (e.g., AP 3416), and refrain from sharing student information with law enforcement agencies, including federal immigration authorities unless legally compelled to do so;

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Sierra College will work with District leadership to generate and disseminate information about employee rights and responsibilities, as well as offer trainings for best practices for protecting the human rights of our student scholars with undocumented status.