5 Things Colleges and Universities can do in the Wake of the Fifth Circuit's Decision on DACA

1. **Express your support, publicly and privately, for DACA recipients, Dreamers, and their families—who may be students, staff, or faculty—and commit to continuing to support them at your institution**
   - Send an email to the campus community and/or issue a press release about the Fifth Circuit court decision.
   - Reiterate what on-campus resources and support are available to DACA recipients, Dreamers, and their families.
   - Meet with your elected officials to advocate for permanent legal protections for undocumented students and community members.
2. **Share information with DACA recipients about how to renew their DACA in this current environment**
   - Although the Fifth Circuit ruled that DACA is not legal and cannot continue, it did not lift the stay that has been in place since 2021 that allows DACA recipients to continue to renew their status.
   - It's uncertain if, or for how long, this stay will remain in place, so it's critical that all eligible DACA recipients submit their renewals as soon as possible.
3. **Protect DACA recipients, Dreamers, and their personal information**
   - Utilize FERPA privacy protections to protect immigrant student information.
   - Train students, faculty, and staff on their rights and how to respond in the event of ICE or other immigration law enforcement on campus.
4. **Continue and expand legal representation and screenings**
   - Partner with legal clinics, nonprofits, and/or private attorneys to conduct legal screenings that can identify existing and emerging opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to adjust their status and potentially seek U.S. citizenship.
   - Establish a relationship with your Member of Congress's constituent services staffer to further support the campus' undocumented community. Make sure your representative and/or senators are friendly to undocumented communities before reaching out.
5. **Audit and update internal and institutional policies**
   - Expand eligibility for admissions and financial aid to undocumented students if not already the case.
   - Decouple eligibility for admissions, reduced tuition, and aid from DACA status (if an existing requirement). Make sure access to other institutional resources is decoupled from DACA status as well, including fellowships and scholarships.

For more information about supporting undocumented students and community members on campus see the Presidents' Alliance's Beyond DACA: An Updated Checklist for Campuses to Support Undocumented Campus Members and FWD.us's How can your college or university protect & support undocumented students?

Looking for resources to share with students? Share Informed Immigrant's Guide for Undocumented High School and College Students.