



Thursday, June 18, 2020

Today's life-changing [ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court](#) rejecting the Administration's plan to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program offers new hope to the almost 800,000 young Dreamers in the United States who are going to school, working, and who are an integral part of our lives and our communities.

Our District has long supported hundreds of DACA students who attend our colleges each year.



Today's ruling will benefit DACA students like Jonathan Noriega, 23, who graduated from Grossmont College this month with a degree in business administration and will be attending San Diego State University in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in marketing. Jonathan, a first-generation college student, came to the United States from Mexico with his family when he was 3 years old.

Working as an assistant in the Grossmont College Financial Aid department to help support himself because he is not eligible for federal loans or grants, Jonathan said today's ruling offers a reprieve so he can focus on his education without worrying about his immigrant status.

"I'm definitely happy," he said. "But we need a real bill to be signed and put in place so we can get permanent protection."

The Supreme Court ruling follows another legal victory for our students. Yesterday, a U.S. District Court in Northern California granted an injunction prohibiting the U.S. Department of Education from imposing eligibility restrictions on students in receiving emergency grants from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Our District was one of nine California community college districts that were part of an amicus brief in the lawsuit seeking the injunction.

The lawsuit was filed by the California Community College system against U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, who had sought to limit eligibility for the emergency funds only to students who are eligible for regular federal aid. These limitations excluded funding for hundreds of thousands of California community college students, including Dreamers,

international students, students taking only non-credit courses, and many others. At Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges, more than 14,000 students were ineligible to receive aid under the CARES Act.

With the federal court ruling, our District is carefully planning how to distribute the federal emergency grants to additional students who have been impacted by the health crisis, but previously ineligible for federal relief funds. [More than 4,200 Grossmont and Cuyamaca College students have already been approved to receive grants](#) from federal funding, the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges, the San Diego Foundation and other program and college funding.

We applaud these historic rulings that represent significant steps to help create the nation we want to be. As a district we are deeply committed to our mission to support and protect all our students in pursuit of their educational dreams, and will continue to strongly advocate for Congress to pass permanent protections for these young Americans.

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