I wanted to take a quick moment and talk about an issue that has stunned the educational environment and my peers across all three sister institutions. Last week, it was announced by the US Attorney General Sessions that new applications for DACA permits will not be accepted as of that day.

Wow... Did that really just happen? Was the first thing that went through my mind when I heard about it. I remember last November, there was an unspoken threat that flickered in the hearts of some of my peers. That flicker was so strong, they stopped attending classes and risked the future of their educational careers to make sure that their families were not being deported. Even though California as AB540, I see the fear in my peers that is just not settling with me. I feel there is action we need to take.

As the KCCD student trustee, I feel we need to do more to reassure students their right to education. We have about 35 DACA students at Cerro Coso, 100 at Porterville, and over 800 at Bakersfield College. That about 1,000 KCCD students who fall into this unnecessary stress and burden.

In this manner, I reached out to my sister institutions to see what the student governments and their colleges are doing. I want to share with you my findings in hopes you will attend these events at our campuses.

At Porterville College, I have learned that discussions are being held with faculty and staff regarding DACA and AB540 students. I'm still waiting to learn more about the great things they are doing there.

At Cerro Coso Community College, the Student Government will be hosting Constitution Day where they will be addressing DACA and the provisions given under the executive order. They are also in the process of identifying where there DACA students are (which campuses, online, etc.), so they know where and how to connect with them as they want to reach out to them directly. In addition, they are finalizing a resource guide to provide to students, staff and faculty, which will include information on the MAF DACA Renewal Fund. And I think this is amazing that Deanna Campbell, the Director of Eastern Sierra College Center
made a presentation at their k12 community DACA Rally, informing current DACA students of the scholarship opportunities.

As for Bakersfield College, on the evening of September 21, next week Thursday, BC is hosting a DACA community panel discussion regarding the recent news and pending immigration legislation held by prominent community lawyers. After the panel, the audience is served with heavy hors d'oeuvres and are immediately engaged with Ms. Orubba Almansouri who is the first of six speakers in the Distinguished Speaker Series that the Bakersfield College Student Government Association is hosting this year. Ms. Almansouri will be sharing her struggle to access education as a female Muslim student in American education, in her presentation entitled, Redefining Success: Why My Educational Journey Cannot be An Individual One.

To sum up, I have been informed that both Cerro Coso Community College President Jill Board and Bakersfield College President Sonya Christian have communicated to the faculty, staff, and students in various ways to ensure the Colleges are supporting, retaining, serving and protecting the privacy of our AB540 and DACA students.

Thank you