From Dr. Jeff Wagnitz  (Acting Highline College President)
February 1, 2017

Dear Highline College students,

Understandably, in light of recent national events, some of you may be concerned about the potential impact of changes in federal immigration policy, including repeal of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans) executive orders. For many, last weekend’s news served to heighten those concerns.

At this uncertain time, we want to affirm our support for all our students, their families, and communities. South King County is home to a wide variety of languages, ethnicities, nationalities-of-origin, and faith traditions. We believe that diversity is our region’s greatest asset. Please consider this email as a recommitment to Highline’s values of inclusion and equity across our communities.

In addition to reaffirming our values, we also want to provide you with information.

The enforcement of immigration policy is the responsibility of the federal government, not campus officials. For our students, that means:

- Highline’s Public Safety officers will never ask students about their immigration status or participate in any immigration enforcement actions.
- We will continue to protect student educational records as provided under federal privacy laws.
- While we cannot bar federal immigration officials from our campus, our staff will continue to require a subpoena, court order, or other clear legal authority before releasing any student-specific data.
- We will continue to honor Washington state programs — such as WAFSA and HB 1079 — that govern tuition, admissions, and financial aid, as prescribed by the Legislature.

Highline College remains committed to offering all students a safe and welcoming environment. We encourage you to report any harassment, bullying, or threats based on immigration status, religion, or national origin. This kind of behavior is not tolerated on Highline’s campus or in our classes and is a potential violation of the Student Conduct Code or anti-harassment policy.

In solidarity, Highline College is proud to join a national movement of colleges and universities that stand opposed to changes in immigration policy that could threaten members of our student body. We also continue to engage with local organizations that provide immigration-related services in our community.

While we continue to monitor local, state, and national policy, we will do our best to answer questions that you may have about how changes in immigration policy may affect you or your family’s educational plans. To that end, we are working to develop a resource bank with up-to-date information, resources, and referrals on these matters. It can be found at libguide.highline.edu/immigrationresource.

Jeff Wagnitz
Highline College Acting President