March 4th, 2020

**JSGA student body presidents released the following statement regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA):**

In 2017, student body presidents at the 28 Jesuit Institutions joined together to stand in solidarity with DACA recipients in response to the rescinding of the DACA program. With the establishment of the Jesuit Student Government Alliance (JSGA), we, student body presidents at Jesuit institutions across the United States, once again come together to reaffirm our commitment to standing with not only undocumented students and Dreamers throughout our country and on our campuses, but also the parents of Dreamers who sought protection under DAPA.

The DACA program protects nearly 700,000 undocumented young people, who were brought to this country as children, from deportation. These children and young adults, many of whom reside on our Jesuit campuses, have known no other home but the United States. However, since the rescinding of DACA in 2017, their fate continues to be in limbo.

Jesuit colleges and universities were called to action on November 12, 2019 when the Supreme Court of the United States began hearing oral arguments regarding the DACA program. Jesuit institutions across the country united through prayers, vigils, and protests in support of DACA recipients; but our advocacy cannot and will not end here. As we await the Supreme Court’s decision regarding the DACA program, we recognize that we must continue to put our prayers and our values into action. We hereby commit our student governments to foster inclusive campus communities where immigrants and DACA recipients feel welcomed, safe, and supported through the following actions:

- Facilitating educational opportunities for members of our campus communities to learn more about immigration and the importance of the DACA program in the context of our Jesuit identity.
- Further promoting the resources available for undocumented students on our campuses.
- Engaging students in advocating on and off campus for the DACA program and immigrant rights through service and political involvement.
- Ensuring that the concerns of undocumented students are represented to our schools' administrations.
The idea of deporting young people who came to this country through no fault of their own, and who have known no other home, is unjust and beneath our country. We are taught that,

“For the Lord your God...loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”

(Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

It is our responsibility as members of the Jesuit Catholic community to call out injustice. In doing so, we are further called to stand with and love the stranger, remembering that our own ancestors in faith were also once strangers in a foreign land.

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The undersigned members of the JSGA:

Michael Osaghae  
SGA President  
Boston College

Abby Hughes  
USA President  
Canisius College  
JSGA Communications Chair

Donna Shahbazi  
CSU President  
Creighton University

Kaylee Wong  
USG President  
Fordham University-Rose Hill  
JSGA Co-Chair

Norman Francis Jr.  
GUSA President  
Georgetown University

Michael Tanaka  
GSBA President  
Gonzaga University

Erin Ahern  
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John Carroll University

Mia Franko  
SGA President  
Le Moyne College

Ken Cavanaugh  
ASLMU President  
Loyola Marymount University

Kathleen Meis  
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