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GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

**Resolution 21-019**  
**Declaring October 18-22, 2021, as Undocumented Student Action Week**

On motion of Member **Adams**, seconded by Member **Justeson**, the following resolution is adopted:

**WHEREAS**, more than two million undocumented immigrants of all nationalities and backgrounds call California home, including more than 183,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients; and

**WHEREAS**, California has uplifted and empowered undocumented immigrants to seek a better life by providing access to public services and extending protections through sanctuary laws; and

**WHEREAS**, undocumented immigrants have historically faced racism, poverty, language and other barriers restricting access to higher education, limiting their ability to find better work and provide for their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 540, authored by the late Assemblymember Marco Antonio Firebaugh and signed by former Governor Gray Davis on October 12, 2001, declared that long-term California residents, regardless of their citizenship status, may pay in-state fees at California public colleges and universities; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 85,500 undocumented students, including 72,000 California Community College students, benefit from AB 540 today; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 540 expanded opportunities for a college education and reduced opportunity gaps for undocumented students by removing the burden of out-of-state tuition; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Community Colleges are committed to serving all students, regardless of their immigration status, and providing them with the supports, resources, and opportunities to pursue their educational goals; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the Trump's Administration's attempt to rescind DACA caused a rise in political tensions and antagonistic views regarding immigrants, and spurred the creation of the annual California Community Colleges Undocumented Student Action Week (USAW), focused on advocating for policy change and resources to better support our undocumented students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fifth Annual USAW will bring together UndocuLiaisons (Dreamer Liaisons AB 1645), administrators, faculty, and students across 116 colleges to engage in state, federal, and local action to support undocumented students in their goal of earning a college education; and

**WHEREAS**, collective budget and legislative advocacy during USAW has led to funding for Undocumented Resource Centers and UndocuLiaisons, the creation of the Immigration Legal Services Project, the expansion of AB 540 eligibility, and the protection of DACA; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's USAW will focus on building broad awareness about the ways in which institutional, state, and national leaders can continue supporting undocumented students and fulfill the spirit of AB 540; and

**WHEREAS**, students, faculty, administrators, staff, and UndocuLiaisons will also engage in a joint advocacy effort to urge Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform and implement greater educational supports for undocumented students; and

**WHEREAS**, President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda proposes a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students and expands access to federal financial aid, which will enable more undocumented students to pay for college, complete their studies, and contribute far more greatly to the economy; and

**WHEREAS**, President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda will ensure a stable and welcoming future for undocumented students by allowing them to achieve their higher education goals and become fully participating members of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Community Colleges must continue to combat persisting inequalities among this underserved population, develop pathways that foster access, equity, and inclusion, and advocate fiercely for the necessary policies and resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD) relentlessly supports college access, inclusion, community, and success for all undocumented students; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that GCCCD recognizes October 12, 2021, as the 20-year anniversary of AB 540; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that GCCCD urges all faculty, staff, administrators, and students to celebrate the significance of AB 540 in empowering undocumented students to pursue a college education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that GCCCD will participate in Undocumented Student Action Week and cultivate policies, procedures, and best practices to support undocumented students in their pursuit of a college education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that GCCCD calls on Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform and provide financial resources for undocumented students through budget reconciliation.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District of San Diego County, California, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021 by the vote:

AYES: Adams, Cartwright, Justeson, Monroe, Schorr

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

I, Debbie Justeson, Clerk of the Governing Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by said Board at the regularly called and conducted meeting held on said date.

  
Clerk of the Governing Board