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September 5, 2017

The presidents of Washington's six public baccalaureate college and universities, 34 community and technical colleges, 10 members of the Independent Colleges of Washington, as well as the 10 members of the Washington Student Achievement Council issued the following statement following today's announcement terminating the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in six months:

"Today's announcement leaves us with profound disappointment and pained yet unequivocal resolve to stand up for our students who are among the 800,000 nationwide registered under DACA. These young people are some of the finest and most resilient students at our colleges and universities, often exhibiting unique character forged in the fire of adversity. They overcome major obstacles just to gain and retain eligibility without access to the federal financial assistance needed by so many to help make a college education attainable.

In Washington, all of our students, regardless of their immigration status, are invaluable to the teaching we provide in our classrooms, the research we perform in our labs, and the discoveries we make in medicine. These students and those who came before them are not strangers on our campuses, in our communities, and in our homes. They are our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends and our family. They are us.

Our nation's history has proven that education and service are essential components to sustaining communities and stimulating economic growth in addition to helping create personal success and happiness. Washington's colleges and universities are working aggressively to produce graduates with degrees in science, business, technology, and medicine and a variety of other high-demand areas of endeavor. Employers in their desperate search for talented young people are already reaching out of state to fill top jobs. DACA graduates are playing and will continue to play an important role in meeting this critical need in the state of Washington. They embody the initiative and resolve that has made the United States of America the most prosperous and innovative country in the world.

This lamentable decision to end DACA threatens to rob us of hundreds of thousands of gifted, hardworking, and dedicated young people who are American in every way but their immigration status. We agree with the many business leaders throughout the country who are urging Congress to pass the bipartisan Dream Act or legislation that will allow these students to continue to contribute to the global competitive environment."

**On behalf of:**

Central Washington University  
Eastern Washington University  
The Evergreen State College  
University of Washington  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University  
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
Bates Technical College  
Bellevue College  
Bellingham Technical College  
Big Bend Community College  
Cascadia College  
Centralia College  
Clark College  
Clover Park Technical College  
Columbia Basin College  
Edmonds Community College  
Everett Community College  
Grays Harbor College  
Green River College  
Highline College  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Lower Columbia College  
North Seattle College  
Olympic College  
Peninsula College  
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom  
Pierce College Puyallup  
Renton Technical College  
Seattle Central College  
Shoreline Community College  
Skagit Valley College  
South Puget Sound Community College  
South Seattle College  
Spokane Community College  
Spokane Falls Community College  
Tacoma Community College  
Walla Walla Community College  
Wenatchee Valley College  
Whatcom Community College  
Yakima Valley College  
Gonzaga University  
Heritage University  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Saint Martin's University  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University  
University of Puget Sound  
Walla Walla University  
Whitman College  
Whitworth University  
Washington Student Achievement Council