



KHEDF Statement of Support for DACA Students

Wichita, KS, September 26, 2017—The Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation (KHEDF) issues the following statement in response to the current Administration's recent decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

KHEDF remains steadfast in our support for those directly impacted by this Administration's recent decision to repeal DACA. Through no fault of their own, these 800,000 innocent, hard-working young people were brought to the United States as children. They know this country as their only home. English is their primary language. Numerous DACA students excel academically and dream of pursuing a college degree, but are unable to receive federal financial aid to enable their post-secondary education. Many of these young people live in Wichita, Kansas and attend our schools. They are some of the best and brightest our community has to offer.

KHEDF understands and recognizes the hardships they face. Therefore, we have supported and awarded scholarships to DACA students from the Wichita Metro area. Many of them have become student leaders and active members of their respective colleges. For all practical purposes, they have become part of the beautiful fabric of this country.

Most of us can relate to the *Dreamers'* situation. Their stories are our stories. Many of our own families came to this country in much the same way. And now, generations later, we are benefitting from their risk-taking and sacrifices, which allows us to live the American dream.

We are proud that some of our Hispanic scholarship recipients are *Dreamers*. They have tremendous pride, and so do their families. They understand what education can enable in a person's future, and how they ultimately improve our communities. We at KHEDF stand with and applaud our *Dreamers* and all our student scholars. Yet, due to the Administration's recent actions we are concerned for their future and welfare.

Rescinding the DACA program has created tremendous anxiety for these students and their families. We remain hopeful, though, that this situation will result in enduring legislation that capitalizes on the tremendous potential of these *Dreamers*. KHEDF hopes Congress recognizes the valuable contributions *Dreamers* are making to our country, and pass immigration legislation that protects them, and enable even greater opportunities for them.

We will continue to support and assist all of our students who desire to turn college dreams into college degrees.

About KHEDF

Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation provides Hispanic students with financial and educational resources they need to achieve a college education and help Kansas be more competitive. Since 2008, more than \$471,300 in scholarships has been awarded to 288 Hispanic high school seniors in the Wichita metro area.