

PATHWAYS FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS  
September 8, 2017

As a consortium of colleges in the Great Lakes region, we urge legislative action in support of the goals of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The removal of this program will eliminate an important pathway to opportunity for motivated, constructive, and committed young people.

Our 89,000 living alumni have received an education designed to inculcate the values of citizenship, personal responsibility, and integrity. Our colleges share these values because all were founded in the 1800s by local communities; they believed our republic would advance only to the degree the diverse range of hard-working people who were then populating the frontier Midwest (mostly immigrants or the children of immigrants) could learn to think and act together to achieve these ideals.

Our commitment to this common good has remained unabated for more than a century, and we have welcomed to our campuses all who share this goal. Included among these people are undocumented students, whom we have found to be exemplary representatives of these long-held values. While as children they were not in positions to choose the nation of their residence, they have pursued a productive American path by hard work in a challenging educational environment; they have chosen an education which prepares them to contribute to the success of our nation. Their presence has also greatly enriched our campus communities as places of learning and development.

We believe the threat to the future of these young people is also a threat to the values we work so hard to instill. Dismantling DACA will undermine a tenet of our nation which has been present throughout our history: that hard work, achievement, and productive contribution to our society matter more than ethnicity or place of birth. As such we urge that effective steps be taken to preserve the opportunity which DACA has represented for our nation by speedily enacting legislation to create a secure future for these young people who have chosen to commit themselves to the values we share.



Richard A. Detweiler

President, Great Lakes Colleges Association

On behalf of these GLCA Member Colleges and their Presidents:

*Mauri Ditzler*  
*Albion College*

*Mark McCoy*  
*DePauw University*

*Carmen Twillie Ambar*  
*Oberlin College*

*James Mullen*  
*Allegheny College*

*Jorge Gonzalez*  
*Kalamazoo College*

*Rock Jones*  
*Ohio Wesleyan University*

*Thomas Manley*  
*Antioch College*

*Sean Decatur*  
*Kenyon College*

*Gregory Hess*  
*Wabash College*

*Adam Weinberg*  
*Denison University*

*Sarah Bolton*  
*The College of Wooster*