



At the March 24, 2015 College Commission meeting, we unanimously voted to support Tuition Equity as outlined by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA children were brought to this country at an early age and as immigrant students. We support providing in-state tuition for DACA immigrant students to assist with furthering the education of young immigrants and to improve the quality of our state's labor force making the state more attractive to businesses.

As you are aware, Greensboro is home to seven colleges and universities (UNCG, NC A&T, Guilford, Bennett College, Greensboro College, GTCC, and Elon Law). These colleges and universities serve a large number of students who have immigrated to our region from more than 79 different countries and who speak nearly 100 different world languages and dialects.

Guilford County has a long-standing commitment to providing all students with an education that qualifies them for pursuing the college or career of their choice. However, undocumented students who otherwise meet the NC system academic and residency requirements are charged out-of-state tuition, which is up to four times that of in-state tuition. This unequal policy affects approximately 55,000 students throughout our state who are limited in their access to higher education, which significantly limits their job and life prospects, even though many of them have lived the majority of their young lives in our state and county. It is projected that by 2020 nearly 61-percent of jobs in North Carolina will require some post-secondary education.

Led by Texas and Governor Rick Perry in 2001, 17 states have now adopted a Tuition Equity policy providing opportunity for undocumented students to pay more affordable in-state tuition at public universities and community colleges. On December 14, 2014, Guilford County Schools Board of Education has passed a Resolution in Support of In-State Tuition for North Carolina's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The Greensboro Human Relations commission has also passed a resolution in support.

We respectfully urge the North Carolina General Assembly to adopt legislation providing in-state tuition for immigrant students who are considered Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and generate the economic and workforce development benefits associated with providing these students greater education opportunities.

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