



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2017
TO: Faculty, Staff, and Administrators
FROM: Adrian Gonzales, Vice President for Student Services
RE: FAQ Regarding Support for Undocumented/Immigrant Students

With the recent policy changes being proposed in Washington D.C., there has been growing concerns among our faculty, staff and students with regard to how Palomar College will support impacted students, especially those who may be undocumented/immigrant students.

Below is a brief FAQ developed to help guide the campus community with regard to questions that have recently been raised:

Has there been U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or border patrol agents on any of the Palomar College sites recently?

No. To our knowledge, there have been no verifiable reports that ICE or border patrol agents have been on any of our campus sites.

Is it likely that ICE or border patrol agents will come to campus to conduct enforcement activities?

It is very unlikely that ICE agents will come to campus specifically looking to detain or arrest random students. However, there are several organizations, such as the ACLU, recommending that people understand their rights as new policies and executive orders are being developed in Washington. We have provided links to such organizations on the Palomar College website.

Are there protocols in place if an external law enforcement agency wants to come on campus?

Yes. The current protocol is that the external law enforcement agency (federal or state) must first contact the Palomar College Police Department to inform us of the scope and intent of their proposed activities. This is a common protocol among law enforcement agencies to ensure respectful recognition of legal jurisdictions and to facilitate good communication and cooperation among agencies.

Will the College Administration or College Police cooperate with ICE to identify undocumented/immigrant students?

As a public institution of higher learning, we are bound to protect the privacy of our students as outlined in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). We take this responsibility seriously and no

employee of the District is allowed to release any personal information about a student without the permission of that student or without a legally issued court order or warrant.

What should I do if an ICE/law enforcement agent comes to my class/workspace to ask for information about a student?

Should this occur, inform the agent that they first need to make contact with the Campus Police Department to facilitate their request. The Campus Police will evaluate the credibility of the request and then coordinate any legal activity that may be required.

Additionally, should you experience this, please notify your supervising administrator so that we can follow-up and monitor any increases in activity that may be occurring on campus.

What is the College doing to inform faculty, students, and staff about new information when it becomes available?

The College has developed a new “AB540/Immigrant Resources” website that is located in the “Current Students” drop down menu of the Palomar College website. The website contains resources for students and staff, a list of related campus events, legal resources and related FAQs. We hope to use this as a centralized information center for both students and staff.

In the coming weeks, the College will also host forums at both our San Marcos and Escondido sites to explain campus policing procedures and our coordination efforts with external agencies. Additionally, we will collaborate with local, non-profit agencies to provide informational workshops on related topics.