CATESOL Board Resolution on DACA

Of the 800,000 DACA applicants in the United States, approximately 30% of the total reside in California. These young people arrived in the United States before the age of 16 and have lived continuously in the U.S. since 2007. Furthermore, they have attained high school diplomas or GEDs and thanks to the DACA program have enrolled in post-secondary institutions or joined the workforce. Recognizing the positive contributions of this group of immigrants and negative impact on the economic growth of our nation were the DACA program to end, the CATESOL Board of Directors and CATESOL membership supports the following proposition:

Whereas ending the DACA program would promote the dissolution of families and cause economic hardship for family members living continuously in the United States for many years,

Whereas the only country these young people have known is the United States, and have no ties to their native countries,

Whereas DACA applicants have contributed positively to the U.S. economy through their productivity and taxes they pay,

Whereas DACA students are pursuing educational programs to attain skills in demand to support the U.S. economy,

Whereas DACA applicants have passed rigorous background checks and not been convicted of any crimes,

Whereas the United States workforce has positively benefited from the skills and diversity of all immigrants,

Be it resolved that the CATESOL Board of Directors and CATESOL membership actively advocate for and support the following:

- Continuance of the DACA program, allowing present and future DACA applicants to remain in the United States with the privileges provided by the DACA provisions until Congress passes a long term solution that allows the “dreamers” to pursue a pathway toward permanent legal residency and United States Citizenship.

- Comprehensive immigration reform proposals that do the following:
  - Offer orderly and fair pathways to legal residency and citizenship for all immigrants;
  - Provide support for refugees and those fleeing oppression so that they may develop the resilience needed for successful resettlement and integration;
  - Lower the barriers that unfairly target students and scholars who wish to come to the United States legally for academic and language study;
  - Enhance resources and opportunities for the linguistic, economic, and civic integration of immigrants into the United States;
  - Foster respect and appreciation for the contributions made by all immigrants and those who work with them; and
  - Respect the human and civil rights of all immigrants, refugees, and their families.