

RESOLUTION NO. 1796

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SUPPORTING A REASONABLE AND HUMANE APPROACH TO REFORMING THE CURRENT IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Community College District recognizes that immigration reform must protect the rights of all students and their families, regardless of immigration status, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, and provide sufficient family-based channels for migration in the future; and

WHEREAS, immigrant and refugee youth from many parts of the world attend Southwestern Community College, making the school body diverse and enriched by the multiple histories and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Southwestern Community College District is situated along the U.S.-Mexico international border region, and serves up to 20,000 students every semester, many of whom cross the international border to attend Southwestern Community College facilities; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of unbalanced immigration enforcement has caused fear in immigrant and refugee members of the Southwestern College student body, has increased civil and human rights violations, family separation, and immigrant deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Community College District maintains that immigration reform must seek to restore trust between immigrant and refugee communities and local police by reducing racial profiling and increasing transparency and accountability for the involvement of federal immigration authorities in local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, immigration policy reforms must seek to protect labor, civil, and human rights, and create a fair and humane pathway to citizenship; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Community College District supports a reasonable and wide-ranging approach to reforming the now broken immigration system that protects children, youth, and their families; and

RESOLVED, that civil and human rights are deeply rooted in the fabric of democratic and principled societies, and must be instilled in all elements of our enforcement apparatus to ensure every individual's dignity and humanity is upheld, recognized and respected; and

RESOLVED, that immigration reform, in particular, provide a pathway to citizenship for young people who unknowingly entered the United States without proper documentation as minor children and who have grown up here and who contribute to our society.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Southwestern Community College District this 10th day of April, 2013.

Humberto Peraza, Jr., Governing Board President

Terri Valladolid, Governing Board Vice President

Norma L. Hernandez, Governing Board Member

Tim Nader, Governing Board Member

Juan Luis Espinoza, Student Governing Board Member