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February 21, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Kate Hudepohl, Chair University Senate

FROM: Gary A. Ransdell 

SUBJECT: University Senate Resolution on DACA Program

This is to acknowledge receipt on Friday, February 17, 2017, of the University Senate Resolution on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). I have studied the "Statement in Support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" and the list of some 600 college and university Presidents who have signed it.

The protection provided by the DACA Executive Order of 2012 remains in full force and represents one of the basic tenets upon which the United States was founded—the opportunity to better oneself and become a productive member of society. Throughout its history, WKU has been an institution of opportunity, and the DACA Executive Order gives students a chance to improve their lives and their community. In that spirit, I endorse the University Senate resolution supporting the DACA program, and I will take the necessary steps to confirm my support.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

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Attachment

Statement in Support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and our Undocumented Immigrant Students

The core mission of higher education is the advancement of knowledge, people, and society. As educational leaders, we are committed to upholding free inquiry and education in our colleges and universities, and to providing the opportunity for all our students to pursue their learning and life goals.

Since the advent of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in 2012, we have seen the critical benefits of this program for our students, and the highly positive impacts on our institutions and communities. DACA beneficiaries on our campuses have been exemplary student scholars and student leaders, working across campus and in the community. With DACA, our students and alumni have been able to pursue opportunities in business, education, high tech, and the non-profit sector; they have gone to medical school, law school, and graduate schools in numerous disciplines. They are actively contributing to their local communities and economies.

To our country's leaders we say that DACA should be upheld, continued, and expanded. We are prepared to meet with you to present our case. This is both a moral imperative and a national necessity. America needs talent – and these students, who have been raised and educated in the United States, are already part of our national community. They represent what is best about America, and as scholars and leaders they are essential to the future.

We call on our colleagues and other leaders across the business, civic, religious, and non-profit sectors to join with us in this urgent matter.