

A statement regarding the elimination of DACA on behalf of the Faculty Senate and leaders of the Graduate Student Assembly and Student Government Association

To the Virginia Tech Community,

As students and educators, we affirm the importance of free inquiry and an open educational system. We believe that all of our students, whatever their background or country of origin, have the right to try to improve their lives, and are equal members of a diverse community.

As the decision to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is antithetical to these values, the Virginia Tech Faculty Senate and leaders of the Graduate Student Assembly and Student Government Association stand with our affected students. We believe that DACA is a humane and beneficial policy that should be kept in place until a lasting and inclusive immigration policy is signed into law. DACA allows people who have known no home other than America to continue developing their talents here, enriching their lives, our community, and the nation.

At this time, it is important to remind ourselves of the cornerstone of the Virginia Tech Principles of Community: “We affirm the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and the University.” As constituency representatives, we commit ourselves to be agents of change and support. We aim to ensure a safe campus that is welcoming to all people, regardless of their identities.

Finally, to those impacted by DACA’s cancellation, we want to assure you that, no matter where you come from, you are a Hokie now. You contribute immeasurable value to our campuses. You are part of our community, and **you are welcome here.**

We stand in support of you,

The Virginia Tech Faculty Senate



Alex Hyler, Graduate Student Assembly President

Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh, Graduate Student Assembly Vice President



Rex Willis, Student Government Association President

Julia Billingsley, Student Government Association Vice President