



Dear UNC Community,

As we approach the transition to a new Presidential administration, we want to take this moment to address our shared commitment to supporting and uplifting each other during these challenging times. Our university is home to a diverse community that includes immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and many others whose identities enrich our campus and whose rights and humanity deserve our firm support.

We recognize that the election season has brought forward promises that may feel threatening to many in our community. From discussions about immigration and LGBTQ+ rights to debates over access to education, these issues are deeply personal for many of us. These concerns can evoke a wide range of emotions, including fear, anger, sadness, or uncertainty. At these moments it is vital that we offer grace and empathy to one another as we navigate these times together.

We strive to be a place of belonging, equity, and support for students and all UNC community members. We are aware of the anxieties our students and colleagues may be facing and are prepared to stand with you as we address any challenges ahead.

To support our community:

1. **Resource and Brave Spaces:** Our [Counseling Center](#) is available for students, faculty, and staff seeking a space to process their emotions. Additionally, the [Cultural and Resource Centers](#) are here as welcoming environments where students can find opportunities for connection and dialogue and many connections to other resources on and off-campus.

- a. **Resource List:** [Here](#) you will also find a list of resources, organizations, and events that can support your academic and professional endeavors and overall wellbeing.

2. **Advocacy for Undocumented Students:** Resources for students who are undocumented or from mixed-status families are available through the César Chávez Cultural Center (CCCC). These include information on rights, support services, and advocacy networks.

- a. **DACA and Emergency Scholarships:** If you need to renew your DACA status, please check-in with staff from the CCCC, as there might be some funding available to support you financially.

- b. **Know Your Rights Workshop:** On Saturday, January 25th, we are hosting a Know Your Rights Workshop from 9-10am. The workshop is designed to provide participants with information about their legal rights and how to exercise them. Location will only be shared following registration and participant names will be kept confidential.
- c. **Immigration Clinics/Consultations:** Also, on Saturday, January 25th, we are hosting immigration attorneys who can provide support to UNC students, staff, and their families who are navigating immigration procedures or have related questions. From 10-11am, a panel of immigration attorneys will provide general immigration advice and answer questions, and from 11am-1pm, immigration attorneys will be available for individual consultations and help with DACA renewal paperwork. Location will only be shared following registration and participant names will be kept confidential.

3. **UNITE Workshops:** We invite you to attend the upcoming Unite Workshops, designed to deepen your understanding and equip you with practical skills to advocate for immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other minoritized groups within and beyond our campus.

4. **Confidentiality Protections:** As members of this community, we are bound by FERPA to protect the confidentiality of students who disclose their immigration status or other personal information. Please continue to uphold this responsibility with care.

Take care of yourselves, take care of one another, and reach out if you need support. We are here for you, and we remain committed to ensuring your academic success and overall wellbeing.

In solidarity,

Rudy Vargas

HSI Leadership Team

The Campus Community Support Task Force

UNC Faculty Senate

Student Government Association

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Jill Bezyak, Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling and Sciences

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