

Please email signatures to mmerritt@astate.edu. I am collecting them in person as well.

Thanks again to everyone who recognizes the importance of this movement. Regardless of political affiliation, protecting our international students and staff should be a priority.

We are stronger and more powerful than all the hate.

Dr. Charles Welch, President, Arkansas State University
Dr. Doug Whitlock, Chancellor, Arkansas State University

Dear President Welch and Chancellor Whitlock:

In the wake of the recent Presidential election, and the surge of hate crimes that have targeted immigrants, people of color, Muslims, non-Christians, and the LGBTQIA+ communities across the nation, we—the undersigned students, faculty, and staff—urge you to take immediate steps to make Arkansas State University a sanctuary campus for students, staff, and their family members who face deportation under President-elect Donald J. Trump's proposed policies.

Trump's politics promise to put the undocumented members of our community at unprecedented risk. The threat to students and workers requires a concrete and tangible response from the University—not words and symbolic gestures. We write in solidarity with other students and workers across the country who have called upon their own schools to take similar action. There is currently a national movement led by students on over 80 campuses to assert campuses as sanctuary spaces, including our neighbors at: University of Kentucky, Berea College, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

An internal 2011 memo declares that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are subject to certain restrictions upon entering college campuses. This puts Arkansas State in a unique position, which it can and should use to protect its undocumented community members from law enforcement. It is the duty of this University to ensure that it remains a place that actively protects the rights and safety of its community. (See <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>)

Given that many students and their family members now live in fear of Donald Trump's deportation threats, we call upon the University to immediately develop a protocol for making itself a sanctuary campus. Arkansas State has promised to be a home for all of us. A home is supposed to be safe. We owe it to the most vulnerable members of our community to do our utmost.

We respectfully ask that you implement the following actions as quickly as possible:

1. Declare the Arkansas State University to be a sanctuary campus that will actively refuse to comply with immigration authorities regarding deportations or raids;
2. Guarantee student privacy by refusing to release information regarding the immigration status of our students and community members to any government agency;
3. Create an undocumented student program, with a full-time director, and free on-campus access to legal counsel. Make funds available to assist undocumented students (and faculty, staff and students with family members) in need;

- a) For current Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, guarantee that merit-based scholarships will not be forfeited if the DACA program is rescinded;
- b) Protect in-state tuition consideration to current DACA recipients as well as any Arkansas high school graduate (regardless of immigration status) who meets domicile requirements for in-state tuition;
- c) Include DACA recipients and undocumented students in all merit, university, and diversity initiative scholarship eligibility.

If we do nothing, then our stated commitments to diversity, justice, and inclusion will reveal themselves to be empty promises and hypocritical lies. At this moment, we cannot afford silence.

Awaiting your action,

Michele Merritt, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Philosophy, and World Languages
 Lillie M. Fears, Professor, Department of Media
 Catherine Mann, Sociology Student
 Temma Balducci, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Design
 Anne A. Grippo, Associate Dean, College of Sciences & Mathematics
 Deborah Chappel-Traylor, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Communication
 Airek Beauchamp, Department of English
 Scott A. Childress, Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science
 Kate Krueger, Associate Professor, Department of English, Philosophy, and World Languages
 Braelen Hunt, Dietetics Student
 Bethany Anderson, Graduate Hall Director, Department of Residence Life, M.S. Graduate Student
 Argelia Lorence, Professor, Department of Chemistry and Physics
 Sarah Mayberry Scott, Instructor, Department of Communication
 Cherisse Jones-Branch, Professor, Department of History
 Patricia Burleigh, Sociology Student
 Lisa Bohn, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre
 Gregory Hart, Computer Support Specialist, Information & Technology Services
 Charolette Baker-Duncan, CMHC Student and Graduate Assistant
 Elizabeth E. Hood, Professor, College of Agriculture and Technology
 Sarah Ponder, Staff
 Abrie'I Williams, Biological Science Student
 Rebecca Funderburg, Staff and Graduate Student in History
 Nina Smith, Biological Sciences-Botany
 George Gatewood, III, Marketing Management
 Shakitha LaShea Robinson, Sociology Student
 Rebecca Barrett-Fox, Assistant Professor of Sociology
 Tracy Caskey College of Science and Mathematics
 Lisa C. Guzman, Director, SMART Center, College of Sciences & Mathematics
 Lauri Umansky, Professor of History
 College of Sciences & Mathematics
 Lauri Umansky, Professor of History
 Sarah Kendig, Assistant Professor of Sociology
 Juan Robles, Alumni

Laquita Austin, Alumni
Harley Mayall, student
Alyssa Moses, Education student
James Sawyer, Alumni
Brooke Graham, Health Studies Student
Tyler Waggoner, Sports Management Student
Baileigh Spriggs, Education Student
Tanisha Tak, Communication Studies Student
Takida Phillips, Biology Student
Olivia Pesaresi, Biology Student
Iman Hall, Biology student
Eric Cave, Professor, English, Philosophy, and World Languages
Cody Reynolds, Alumnus
Jordan McBride, Education Student
Ashley Markum Swindle, Alumnus
LaQuita Penny Austin, Alumnus
Juan Robles, Alumnus
James Sawyer, Alumnus
Granvill Adkins, Alumnus
Peggy Robinson Wright, Political Science Instructor
Rosemary Freer, Staff
Natalie Smith, Alumnus
Kristi Costello, Assistant Professor, English Philosophy and World Languages
Alysa Burleson, Theater Student
Todd Fuist, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Hashim Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Physics
Rebecca Rowe Hoskins, Alumnus
Amelia Rainwater, Alumnus
Carmen Lanos Williams, Instructor, English, Philosophy, and World Languages
Janelle Collins, Chair, Department of English, Philosophy, and World Languages
Kellie Buford, Assistant Professor, History
Zahid Hossain, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering
Abrar Alam, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Shahab Akhter,
Tareq Rajab,
Masgood Ali Mughal, Instructor, Engineering
Drew McNutt, Instructor, English, Philosophy, and World Languages
Cara Sullivan, Instructor, Department of Art and Design

Signatures from Concerned Community Members

Kay Atchison Brockwell
Kristie Calohan
Paul Hiebing
Emaam AbduRahman, Jonesboro Islamic Center