A Cloudy Crystal Ball: How to Prepare for Real and Threatened Changes to U.S. Immigration Policy

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A CLOUDY CRYSTAL BALL: HOW TO PREPARE FOR REAL AND THREATENED CHANGES TO U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

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OVERVIEW

University of Massachusetts Amherst

• Commonwealth's flagship campus
• Nationally ranked public research university

Enrollment (Fall 2019)

• 31,350 total undergraduate and graduate students
• 24,209 undergraduate students
• 7,141 graduate students
OVERVIEW

International Student & Scholar Services

• Six full-time staff professionals
• Two part-time student staff

International Student Enrollment (Fall 2019)

• 3,500 international undergraduate and graduate students
• 117 countries represented
• Plus additional 550 international faculty, researchers and scholars.

www.umass.edu/ipo/iss
Immigration Update

Communities Impacted by U.S. Immigration Issues / Policies

• International Students
• International Faculty & Staff (Scholars)
• Undocumented / DACA Students
• First Generation Immigrant Students
University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota has 5 campuses throughout the state. The flagship University of Minnesota Twin Cities is the state’s land-grant university and one of the most prestigious public research universities in the nation.

- Student population:
  - 31,455 Undergraduate (Fall 2018)
  - 16,038 Graduate and Professional
  - 7,212 International Students
  - 2,576 students studying abroad

International Student and Scholar Services and the Immigration Response Team work in tandem to support the international and immigrant population on campus.
What can we expect to happen next??

- Difficult to predict – seems to be part of the strategy
- Impact on all “types” of immigrants (more info here)
  - Changes to processing of employment-based visas
  - Scrutiny on international students
  - Cutting asylum numbers
  - Increased enforcement impacting both arriving immigrants and those already living within the U.S.
  - Slower USCIS processing (with plans to increase fees)
  - Public Charge
  - DACA
- Trump regulatory agenda released in November offers clues
  - Useful analysis from NAFSA
"We are an alliance of American college and university leaders dedicated to increasing public understanding of how immigration policies and practices impact our students, campuses and communities."
We are focused singularly and comprehensively on immigration matters impacting colleges and universities across the country.

We give voice to the concerns of college and university presidents whose campuses and students are being impacted by changes in U.S. immigration policies.
How to Survive the Future

What does higher education institutions support look like for students?

• Institutional Support
• Mental Well-being Support
• Advocacy and Support
• Financial Assistance
• Campus Preparedness
How to Survive the Future

• Stay informed!
• Encourage students to renew their DACA status
• Build campus collaborations & community partnerships
How to Survive the Future

• Create new alliances
  • Immigration Response Team
  • University Medical/Legal partnership
  • Minneapolis Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
  • Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration

• Think creatively about how the proposed changes impact different groups, both on and off campus
  • Connect to the community

• Push boundaries, but also be realistic

• Communicate, communicate, communicate
Presidents’ Alliance Members by State
Profile of Presidents’ Alliance Members

*Colleges and Universities focused on arts, music, health, business, or medical schools.
Support undocumented, immigrant, & international students

Advance advocacy, increase awareness, share best practices

Focus on federal, state, & institutional levels
Three Critical Focus Areas at the Intersection of Higher Education and Immigration

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Best Practices</th>
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<td>Educate the public and policymakers about the value and contributions of immigrant and international students and scholars to our campuses, communities and nation.</td>
<td>Support the consideration and adoption of federal immigration policies and practices and relevant state policies that honor our values and commitments as educational institutions and press for reform of those that do not.</td>
<td>Improve how we support immigrant and international students on our campuses, including by developing and sharing best practices with each other.</td>
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Engaging on critical policies in support of international students

- Defend and advance pathways for international students to stay and work in the U.S.
  - Develop model policies and legislation
  - Support litigation and prepare legal briefs
  - Provide talking points, FAQs, testimony, comment letters
  - Develop media strategy and collaborate with educational and business partners and coalitions
  - Support grassroots efforts such as state specific initiatives and days of action
Advancing federal advocacy to serve campuses, communities, and our country’s future

- Advocating for permanent relief and access to education for undocumented immigrant students
  - Draft legislative language for members of Congress
  - Activate presidents and campuses in target districts
  - Lead on higher education issues in immigration coalitions
Advancing advocacy and higher education access for immigrant students at the state level

- Advance the fight for in-state tuition, financial aid, and licensure
  - Prepare model legislation and provide immigrant student data for states’ efforts
  - Provide customized talking points, testimony, FAQs
  - Develop media strategy and partner collaborations
  - Build on successful models in additional states (ex. Arkansas, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York)
Building and sharing best practices so campuses can better support immigrant and international students

- Developing resource tools that support members and partners
  - Develop and share best practice briefs, FAQs and webinars
  - Convene experts, practitioners and campus leaders on key immigration issues impacting campuses
  - Facilitate and coordinate communities of practice for campuses
  - Collaborate with partners on pilot programs
  - Networking and relationship building
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