Senate Bill No.: 2015-16-003

Date: September 30, 2015

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Referred to: External Affairs Committee

Committee Rec: Approved on 10/05/2015 (17-0-0)

Senate Action: Approved on 10/05/2015 (17-0-0)

Title: Associated Students in Favor of the Creation of the AB-540 DREAM Center.

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. (A.S.) is the official voice of over 41,000 students at California State University Northridge; and

2. WHEREAS: A.S. is the primary advocate for students at CSUN and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning focused campus environment; and

3. WHEREAS: The A.S. recognizes and acknowledges Assembly Bill 1366 written by, Assemblywoman Patty Lopez, which encourages California colleges and universities to establish Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act Resource Centers; and

4. WHEREAS: According to the American Immigration Council, the population of DREAMer students in California is roughly 540,000, including immediate beneficiaries, as well as future beneficiaries. A large number of these students are enrolled in the CSU; and

5. WHEREAS: The amount of accepted DREAM Act applicants continues to increase significantly within the entire CSU system every academic year since its establishment. In the academic year 2013-2014, the award rate for the entire CSU System was 22.21%. The 2015-2016 academic year has had the highest award rate to date with 55.27% of DREAM Act applicants awarded; and

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1 Dream Act Project
6. WHEREAS In the academic year 2015-2016, 11.65% of total DREAM Act applications in the CSU system came from CSUN. During that same year, 12.61% of the total awards in the CSU system were awarded to CSUN students, which makes CSUN the largest CSU with DREAM Act awardees; and

7. WHEREAS According to the DREAM Project, in the academic year 2013-2014, only 26.44% of DREAM Act applicants were awarded. This academic year 2015-2016, CSUN had the highest application and award rate of CA DREAM Act applicants, where 59.82% of the applicants were awarded the CA DREAM Act; and

8. WHEREAS The number of applicants and awardees has been vastly increasing at CSUN. 1,222 undocumented students have applied for the CA DREAM Act. However, that does not include undocumented students that do not qualify for the CA DREAM Act; and

9. WHEREAS CSUN created the Dreamers Scholarship for undocumented undergraduate students with a 2.5 GPA or higher. Winning students receive one of four scholarship awards: $2,500 for full-time students, $1,250 for part-time students, $12,500 for full-time students living in Student Housing or $8,800 for undocumented students who don’t qualify for California Assembly Bill 540; and

10. WHEREAS Undocumented students are in need of serious academic and financial advisement to increase the award rate of the DREAM Act. They also need personal support, and a sense of belonging to the CSUN community; and

11. WHEREAS The current DREAM Project meeting room, located in Santa Susana Hall, is not in an adequate location for all undocumented students to be able to seek advisement and personal support: and

12. WHEREAS The University Student Union (USU), and the University are in talks of placing the AB-540/DREAM Center in an appropriate location; therefore let it be

1. RESOLVED: That A.S. fully supports and stands by the USU, and California State University, Northridge’s plans to construct an AB-540/Dreamer Center; and let it be further
2. RESOLVED: That the A.S., recommends that the center is created to give undocumented students a place where they feel safe to talk about their status, and can have resources to enhance their education academically and financially; and let it be further

3. RESOLVED: That A.S. will assist with the marketing of this new CSUN DREAM Center through social media as well as other means; and let it be further

4. RESOLVED That the A.S. urges that the CSUN DREAM Center provides resources to undocumented students, including but not limited to assistance with: the transition process into CSUN, workshops addressing their needs, peer mentoring and networking programs, information and guidance on the Deferred Action Program, assistance with the AB 540 Affidavit, and the California Dream Act application; and let it be finally

5. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to the following:

- Dianne Harrison, CSUN President
- Yi Li, CSUN Provost
- William Watkins, Vice President of Student Affairs
- CSUN Today
- The Daily Sundial
- Jerry Brown, Governor of California
- Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles
- Timothy White, CSU Chancellor
- CSU Board of Trustees
- USU Board of Directors
- CSUN Today
- The Sundial
- CSUN Dream Project

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