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## **Sanctuary Campus in Concept: Adelphi University Response and Resources**

There are many members of the Adelphi Community who are calling for Adelphi University to declare itself a “Sanctuary Campus”. Given the high level of anxiety and concern shared by Adelphi’s immigrant population and expressed by students, faculty and staff, such a request is quite understandable. Adhering to such a request requires that the university is able to define and describe what “sanctuary campus” means and then make sure it can keep its promise if the institution were to make such a declaration.

Our policy on students who feel vulnerable and threatened by actions taken at the federal level is to welcome them as part of the Adelphi community and support them by any legal means at our disposal. The university will not voluntarily follow federal immigration law to provide access to immigrants or information about them. That said, if presented with a duly authorized administrative or judicial subpoena, the university would be required by law to comply. In other words, we would no longer be the “sanctuary” that is implied in a declaration of being a sanctuary campus. There is no legal definition of “sanctuary campus”, making its application unethical, unwieldy and misleading. In addition, shining the light of a public declaration of sanctuary campus status may draw unwanted attention to undocumented students on campus, making them more vulnerable, not less vulnerable.

Adelphi University stands with all members of the Adelphi Community who feel threatened by recent executive orders on immigration and are vulnerable to deportation. At present, Adelphi University does most of the things declared sanctuary campuses do, including:

- Creating a task force to address the issue directly and transparently; monitoring the unfolding situation; and giving support to the extent possible to those students who may be adversely affected by federal orders on immigration.
- Committing to protect the personal information of all of our students, including immigration status.
- Sponsoring an informational panel discussion of legal experts in immigration law.
- Developing clear protocols for how the university should respond if contacted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers, as well as other government agencies inquiring about immigration status.
- Providing resources online, including an Immigration Research Guide, so that students can obtain information and make the best choices concerning their immigration status.
- Not voluntarily assisting in any efforts by the the federal government to deport students, faculty, or staff due solely to their immigration status.
- Joining institutions of higher learning and professional associations across the country in calling for support of DACA and reiterating our values on issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice.