

## **Higher Education For AB 540 Students (HEFAS) Statement and Sanctuary Resolution Request- May 23, 2023**

Please read and sign the petition by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/D0hM2Ju4em>

Higher Education For AB 540 Students (HEFAS) at De Anza would like to call attention to an incident that happened on May 17th, 2023 on the De Anza campus, in which armed Border Patrol agents were present as participants in De Anza's annual career fair.

The Border Patrol has a brutal history of terrorizing immigrant communities. Their inhumane treatment of migrants has resulted in the injury and death of migrants crossing the border, and in the horrific separation of children from their parents and families. This has led to our students having severe emotional, psychological, and physical damage. Having them present on our campus harms students' sense of safety and belonging, and impairs their ability to learn in an environment free of fear. The fact that these agents were armed intensified this harm.

De Anza students expressed that they experienced anxiety, fear, resurfacing trauma, and an extreme sense of betrayal by the institution. One student immediately left the De Anza campus when they saw the Border Patrol booth and is unsure if they want to continue their studies on a campus that feels unsafe for them and their family. This sentiment was also shared by staff who are directly impacted by anti-immigrant policies and agencies.

In response to the incident last week, HEFAS hosted a healing circle on Monday, May 22nd to create a safe and open space for students, staff, and allies to share how they were impacted by the pretense of armed border patrol agents on the campus. In the 2-hour-long event, these were the demands that the student made to the college/district:

- For De Anza leadership to acknowledge and apologize for the harm that was done to students and staff, by sending a message to the campus.
- For future career fairs- have clear signage at each table that lists opportunities for undocumented students, so students are not forced to "out" themselves and feel safe to approach.
- Have CTE, Workforce Development, and the planning committee complete a 6-hour UndocuSolidarity Training.
- We ask CTE and wider campus programs to create more access and provide opportunities, resources, and support specifically for undocumented students that would like to pursue professional and career development.
- Campus and District leaders commit to learning about the undocumented student experience and well-being to practice responsible allyship by taking steps towards advancing inclusive policies.
- Create a district-wide policy about what it means to be a Sanctuary District. This includes not collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), Border Patrol agents, and other immigration agents or allowing them on FHDA campuses.

HEFAS promotes a welcoming environment for all students, staff, and community members, but we can no longer promote this sentiment until the FHDA District commits to becoming a **sanctuary two-college district** for undocumented students, staff, and families. We are aware that there are two board resolutions to protect student information ([Resolutions 2016-44, 2016-43](#)), and we are also aware that more is needed to be in solidarity with the undocumented immigrant community. We have outlined the requests/demands to the FHDA District from the students, staff, and allies who have been part of these efforts:

- Create a district-wide policy about what it means to be a Sanctuary District. This includes not collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), Border Patrol agents, and other immigration agents or allowing them on FHDA campuses.
- Create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for undocumented students in the FHDA District.
- Acknowledge that the learning environment and educational setting would be disrupted by the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), Border Patrol agents, or other immigration agents who come onto College property. Especially to conduct activities in and around FHDA campuses to threaten, remove or obtain student information or their families for enforcement.
- Recognize that Immigration enforcement activities around FHDA campuses create hardships that affect health and present barriers to educational attainment, as well as a pervasive climate of fear, conflict, and stress that affects all students and staff on our campus, regardless of their background or status, such that students whose family members, friends, or classmates may be at risk of deportation, as well as students who could face deportation themselves, are all at risk.
- We ask FHDA to create more access and provide opportunities, resources, and support for undocumented students that would like to pursue professional and career development.
- Campus and District leaders commit to learning about the undocumented student experience and well-being to practice responsible allyship by taking steps towards advancing inclusive policies.
- FHDA Board Members and Leaders to take a 6-hour UndocuSolidarity All-Day Training.
- Create a response protocol if a student or staff member is detained by an immigration agency and publish it on the De Anza website. Refer to [Education Code Sections 66093 & Education Code Section 66093.3](#)

HEFAS and the students appreciate the apology from the planning committee and the support that we have received from campus allies. This is an opportunity for our campus and district to create a brave and inclusive learning environment where undocumented students and staff feel safe, welcomed, heard, and seen.

In Solidarity,

HEFAS Students, Staff and Allies

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