

Call for All Public Colleges and Schools to be Sanctuary Institutions

1 WHEREAS, President-elect Trump was elected following a campaign that mobilized
2 racism, misogyny, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia and other forms of violent,
3 systematic oppression and his cabinet choices signal an unchanged commitment to
4 normalizing racism; and

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6 WHEREAS, all members of the community are affected when any of us are unsafe. No
7 educational institution can operate in a climate of fear; and

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9 WHEREAS, schools and colleges must be safe spaces for all students, faculty and staff;
10 learning and collaboration cannot occur in an atmosphere of fear; and

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12 WHEREAS, there are thousands of undocumented students and children in New York
13 State's public schools and colleges who were brought to this country as children or
14 infants and now have no access to citizenship; and

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16 WHEREAS, undocumented youth are at immediate risk. President-elect Trump has
17 vowed to revoke President Obama's executive actions, particularly those concerning
18 immigration reform, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which
19 grants reprieve from deportation and allows undocumented youth to work. Trump has
20 also proposed to create a dedicated task force that will focus on detaining and deporting
21 undocumented residents; and

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23 WHEREAS, the revocation of DACA places the most vulnerable new immigrants in
24 danger. It could rip apart students' families and destroy the lives they have worked to
25 build for themselves against great odds. The "Dreamers," as the students protected by
26 DACA are known, are among the most determined and courageous; and

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28 WHEREAS, there is a growing movement by students, faculty and staff to declare
29 educational institutions "sanctuary campuses" defined by AAUP to be colleges and
30 universities that make all efforts to guarantee the privacy of immigrant students and
31 pledge not to grant access to information that might reveal their immigration status
32 unless so ordered by a court of law and not to gather information about the
33 citizenship or immigration status of people who have interactions with the
34 administration, including with campus police. College and university police should
35 not themselves participate in any efforts to enforce immigration laws, which are
36 under federal jurisdiction. Faculty members should join efforts to resist all attempts
37 to intimidate or inappropriately investigate undocumented students or to deny
38 them their full rights to due process and a fair hearing;¹ therefore be it
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¹ "The Atmosphere on Campus in the Wake of the Elections," Resolution adopted by the AAUP national Council on Nov. 19, 2016, <https://www.aaup.org/atmosphere-campus-wake-elections>.

40 **RESOLVED, that NYSUT call on its affiliated locals to seek the support of their**
41 **members to demand that their schools and colleges be declared sanctuary**
42 **institutions; and**

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44 **RESOLVED, that NYSUT support locals in demanding that**

- 45 • **their institutional administration unequivocally condemn any acts of**
46 **violence, any threats and any expressions of bigotry,**
- 47 • **administrations refuse to allow immigration officials into their institutions**
48 **unless specifically ordered to do so by a warrant or court of law,**
- 49 • **administrations refuse to provide information on the immigration status of**
50 **undocumented students or any other sensitive information about faculty,**
51 **staff or students to federal officials unless required by subpoena or court**
52 **order, or unless prior, explicit authorization has been given by the individual**
53 **concerned,**
- 54 • **administrations direct institutional security personnel not to take any role in**
55 **enforcing federal immigration laws and not act on behalf of U.S. Customs**
56 **and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) or any other immigration enforcement**
57 **agents,**
- 58 • **they oppose surveillance of students, faculty and staff who are Muslim or**
59 **Arab American, or members of any other community,**
- 60 • **they issue a public statement that urges state and federal governments to**
61 **protect students, faculty, staff, and families from deportation, and calls for a**
62 **path to permanent residency and citizenship for students, faculty, staff, and**
63 **families.**