

A Resolution in Support of AB 540 Students and the Conditions that Promote their Access to a Quality Public Higher Education

- The Associated Students, Inc. of the California State University, East Bay
December 2, 2010
- WHEREAS, The Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of the California State University, East Bay (CSU East Bay) is the official voice of the students of this campus; and
- WHEREAS, The role of ASI at CSU East Bay is to facilitate participation across a spectrum of fields relating to the promotion of student life on this campus and a multicultural college experience is promoted by the existence of the ASI Diversity Center; and
- WHEREAS, Five of Seven Strategic Mandates of CSU East Bay aim to achieve an inclusive Campus Climate, Strong Growth and Full Enrollment with Expanded Access, Vibrant University Villages, Distinction, and Regional Stewardship; and
- WHEREAS, The Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540) of the 2001-2002 session of the California State Legislature was approved and chaptered into California State Law under Section 68130.5 of the Education Code; and
- WHEREAS, The enacted law allows that a person who has attended high school in California for 3 or more years, has graduated from that high school or attained the equivalent, has registered at or attends an accredited institution of higher education and if he or she is without lawful immigrant status, be exempted from paying the nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges and the California State University and remain confidential; and
- WHEREAS, The CSU Chancellor's Office estimates that an approximate 3,600 undocumented students are enrolled into the California State University



(CSU) under the AB 540 protected status and 130 of those are students of CSU East Bay, and many more are potentially eligible for the protected status yet remain reluctant to register out of fear of deportation meaning they must pay out-of-state student tuition and fees; and

WHEREAS, Many of those students were brought into the country in their youth as a result of their parents' actions, were raised and educated in the United States, view themselves as "Americans," and have the same dreams, goals, and aspirations as other students of citizen status; and

WHEREAS, Despite the protected AB 540 status, these students are denied benefits geared to promote student success offered to citizens, including but not limited to Federal Financial Aid and the like despite income and ethnic minority status leaving a heavy burden that may discourage some from finishing their studies; and

WHEREAS, Many of these students attending CSU East Bay are constantly reminded of the differences between themselves and their peers due limitations set by their immigration status resulting in feelings of stigma that can be internalized to blur a student's sense of identity thereby inducing a state of deniability and secrecy discouraging cultural expression; shall it be known that

RESOLVED, ASI and its constituents, the students of the California State University, East Bay, recognize and support the plight of AB540 students; and let it be further

RESOLVED, ASI and its constituents actively promote an intellectual discussion regarding the difficult experience of AB540 students and others so they may step out of the shadows and celebrate their identity as well as protected status, encouraging those who are eligible to register as soon as possible without fear of retribution to access the benefit of paying in-state tuition; and let it be further

RESOLVED, ASI and its constituents support any future legislation that includes but is



not limited to increased access to financial aid, inclusion to “historically disadvantaged minority” classifications, and eventual avenues toward earned legalization; and let it be further

RESOLVED, ASI and its constituents, considering the gravity of the situation which includes financial hardship and the like will push for the creation of special scholarships, which will serve as a financial resource specifically aimed to aid AB540 students and their educational goals at CSU East Bay; it is

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall be distributed widely, including, but not limited to: the office of CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, the office of CSU East Bay President Mo Qayoumi, the CSU East Bay Academic Senate, the Pioneer Campus Newspaper, the CSU Associated Students, the California State Student Association, the University of California Student Association, Student Senate for California Community Colleges, United States Student Association, and the Legislative representatives of the districts of which CSU East Bay belongs to.

