



RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY IN SAN JOSE

From: Ariana Lacson, Associated Students President & CEO

Dear Spartan Community,

I hope this message finds you in good health and strength. Today, I write to you not only as your Student Body President but as a fellow member of this vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community that we all call home.

Recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in San Jose, coupled with ongoing mass deportation efforts across the country, have left many in our community feeling anxious, uncertain, and vulnerable. These actions are deeply troubling and have heightened fears among students, faculty, staff, community members, and their families—especially for those who are undocumented or come from mixed-status households.

I want to reaffirm to every member of our community: **You Belong Here.**

San José State University is committed to upholding the values of inclusivity, equity, and support for all students, regardless of your citizenship or immigration status. You are an essential part of our Spartan family, and we will continue to advocate for your safety, dignity, and right to pursue your education without fear.

Resources Available to You

To those who may be impacted, please know that there are resources available to help you:

Organizations with Resources, Services, & Updated Information	Best Practices & Informational Resources
UndocuSpartan Resource Center: Know Your Rights Santa Clara County Rapid Response Network (Follow their Instagram for frequent updates on ICE activity: @scc_rapidresponsenetwork) Statewide Directory of Rapid Response Networks Immigrant Legal Resource Center Immigrant Legal Defense – Legal Services National Immigration Law Center Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education & Immigration Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)	Know Your Rights No Matter Who is President – NILC Immigration State of CA, Office of Attorney General Immigration Preparedness Toolkit Rights & Protections Hub: Guidance for Institutions & Immigrant Students Guidance & Model Policies to Assist CA’s Colleges & Universities by the Attorney General CSU Resources, Guides & FAQs ICE Warrants Basics

Since the recent presidential election, my team and I have engaged in ongoing discussions with campus administrators and personnel regarding how potential changes to federal immigration policies may affect our students. I want to reassure you that, with guidance from the Chancellor’s Office and the California Attorney General, our campus police have confirmed that they **will not** comply with requests from federal immigration authorities to contact or detain individuals based solely on their immigration status.



University Police will also **not enforce** immigration laws or detain students or community members based on their immigration status.

For complete confirmation, here's the excerpt provided from [FAQs for CSU Employees about Federal Immigration Enforcement Actions on University Property](#) which details what procedures our University Police will be following :

*“University police officers **will not** contact, detain, question or arrest an individual solely on the basis of suspected undocumented immigration status or to discover the immigration status of any individual, and University Police (UPD) **will not** undertake joint efforts with federal immigration enforcement authorities to investigate, detain or arrest individuals for violation of federal immigration law.”*

For additional questions on what may happen if ICE were to approach our campus, please read through the full FAQ.

USRC Services and Resources Offered:

- **Personal and Academic Support:** Guidance to help students navigate university systems, access campus resources, and manage academic challenges.
- **Financial Aid Assistance:** The center provides information on in-state tuition options (AB 540/SB 68), the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and scholarships that do not require a Social Security Number, ensuring students are aware of the financial resources available to them.
- **Legal Services:** In partnership with Immigrant Legal Defense (ILD), USRC offers free immigration legal services to all SJSU students, recent alumni, employees, and their immediate families. Services include consultations and representation in various immigration matters, such as deportation defense, applications for lawful permanent resident status, DACA renewal and more.
- **Professional Development:** USRC provides resources related to occupational licensing, background checks, entrepreneurship, and paid fellowships, assisting students in preparing for their careers.
- **Workshops and Trainings:** The center conducts workshops on topics including community building, life after college, know-your-rights sessions, professional development, financial aid, and community wellness.
- **Advocacy and Community Engagement:** USRC fosters a supportive community by connecting students with allies and promoting awareness through events and programs.

The USRC is located on the first floor of Clark Hall and can be contacted at **(408) 924-2762** or undocuspartan@sjsu.edu. You can schedule an appointment [here](#) and sign up for email updates through their newsletter [here](#). Feel free to also check out their [Instagram](#) page as well and stay connected on social media.



How You Can Support Our Undocumented Community

Even if you may not be directly impacted by these policies, this still affects all of us. I call on every Spartan to be an ally during this trying time by:

- **Using your Voice:** Use your privilege to advocate for change and create spaces for undocumented individuals. Advocate for sanctuary policies that increase access to financial aid, legal resources, in-state tuition benefits, etc.
- **Taking Action:** Consistently report and share verified information on ICE activity through the Santa Clara County Rapid Response Network hotline at [\(408\)290-1144](tel:4082901144) if you witness any suspected ICE activity occurring.
- **Educating Yourself:** Learn about the experiences of our undocumented community through books, podcasts, personal stories, etc. Attend a “Know Your Rights” training to learn more about a person’s rights regardless of their immigration status and encourage those around you to attend them as well.
- **Getting Involved:** Join or support our UNITE club and any other support or advocacy groups that provide community and space for our undocumented community on campus and advocate for their rights.
- **Donating:** Help raise money or support fundraisers for scholarships, legal services, DACA renewal fees, emergency assistance, etc.

Our commitment to justice and equity is unwavering, your A.S. Board will continue to monitor this situation and advocate for our undocumented community in every space we are in. We will continue to work together to ensure that every Spartan feels safe, supported, and empowered to succeed.

In Solidarity,

Ariana Lacson

Ariana Lacson
A.S. President & CEO