ACCU Issues Statement on Executive Order

Over 140 Catholic college and university presidents sign on to show their support

Washington, DC—The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities released the following statement today:

As the voice of Catholic higher education, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities expresses its strong opposition to the Executive Order signed by President Donald J. Trump concerning U.S. immigration policy. We stand in solidarity with other Catholic and higher education organizations that recognize the moral obligation of our country to assist migrants, particularly those who are fleeing any kind of persecution.

In referring to the order’s halt of refugee admissions, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, stated, “We believe that now more than ever, welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope. … We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are humanely welcomed in collaboration with Catholic Charities, without sacrificing our security or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones.” (Read Bishop Vasquez’s full statement online.)

Pope Francis has said that “authentic hospitality is our greatest security against hateful acts of terrorism.” As ACCU gathers this weekend in Washington, DC to celebrate the value of diversity within Catholic higher education, we reaffirm the commitment of our institutions to creating inclusive, welcoming campus environments that embrace people of all faiths and cultures. Catholic higher education was founded precisely to serve the children of Catholic immigrants who in their own time were excluded from higher education. This is a legacy that we proudly pledge to continue.

Following release of the statement, Catholic college and university presidents in attendance at the association’s 2017 Annual Meeting expressed their desire to affirm the document. See the next page for the list of supporting presidents from both the United States and other countries; signatories continue to be added.
Christopher Adams, St. Paul’s College, University of Manitoba
Sr. Peg Albert, OP, Siena Heights University
David A. Armstrong, Thomas More College
Lynn Babington, Fairfield University
Chantal Beauvais, Saint Paul University (Ontario)
Katherine Bergman, St. Jerome’s University
Sr. Linda Bevilacqua, OP, Barry University
Nancy Blattner, Caldwell University
Drew Bogner, Molloy College
Philip L. Boroughs, SJ, College of the Holy Cross
Thomas Botzman, Misericordia University
Michael Brophy, Benedictine University (IL)
Elizabeth A. Burns, Marygrove College
Sr. Joanne Burrows, SC, Clarke University
Noreen Carrocci, Newman University
Donna M. Carroll, Dominican University
Msgr. Franklyn Casale, St. Thomas University
Janice Cervelli, Saint Mary’s College (IN)
Francesco C. Cesareo, Assumption College
Arturo Chavez, Mexican American Catholic College
Peter Cimbolic, Ohio Dominican University
James E. Collins, Loras College
Eugene J. Cornacchia, Saint Peter’s University
Br. F. Edward Coughlin, OFM, Siena College
Greg Craven, Australian Catholic University
Thomas Curran, SJ, Rockhurst University
Barbara Q. Decker, Mercy College of Health Sciences
Bassam M. Deeb, Trocaire College
John DeGioia, Georgetown University
John Denning, CSC, Stonehill College
Steven R. DiSalvo, St. Anselm College
James Dlugos, Saint Joseph’s College of Maine
Chris E. Domes, Silver Lake College
James A. Donahue, Saint Mary’s College of California
Peter M. Donohue, OSA, Villanova University
Terrence J. Downey, St. Thomas More College (Saskatchewan)
Sr. Janet Eisner, SND, Emmanuel College
Michael E. Engh, SJ, Santa Clara University
Thomas M. Evans, Carroll College
Sr. R. Patricia Fadden, IHM, Immaculata University
Mary C. Finger, Seton Hill University
Paul Fitzgerald, SJ, University of San Francisco
John P. Fitzgibbons, SJ, Regis University
Margaret Fitzpatrick, St. Thomas Aquinas College
Scott Flanagan, Edgewood College
Charles L. Flynn, Jr., College of Mount Saint Vincent
Thomas Flynn, Alvernia University
Thomas P. Foley, Mount Aloysius College
Rhona Free, University of Saint Joseph (CT)
Thomas Gamble, Maria College
John Garvey, The Catholic University of America
Mary Ann Gawelek, Lourdes University
Conrado Gempesaw, St. John’s University (NY)
Robert A. Gervasi, Quincy University
Ken Gormley, Duquesne University
Michael J. Graham, SJ, Xavier University (OH)
Michael A. Grandillo, Madonna University
Judith Maxwell Greig, Notre Dame de Namur University
James T. Harris III, University of San Diego
Antoinette Hays, Regis College
Mary Dana Hinton, College of Saint Benedict
Br. Norman Hipps, OSB, St. Vincent College
Sharon L. Hirsh, Rosemont College
Fr. Prof. George Hobeika, LMO, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon
Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM, DePaul University
Timothy J. Houlihan, St. Francis College
John J. Hurley, Canisius College
Sr. Candace Introcaso, CDP, La Roche College
Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, University of Notre Dame
Fr. George Nketze Jingwa, Catholic University Institute of Buea, Cameroon
Arvid C. Johnson, University of St. Francis (IL)
Laurie M. Joyner, Saint Xavier University
Thomas W. Keefe, University of Dallas
Sr. Anne Kilbride, OP, Albertus Magnus College
Sr. M. Elise Kriss, OSF, University of Saint Francis (IN)
Thomas Kunkel, St. Norbert College
Lucas Lamadrid, Marymount California University
Linda M. LeMura, Le Moyne College
Fr. Timothy A. Lenchak, SVD, Divine Word College
William J. Lennox, Jr., Saint Leo University
Sr. Joan Lescinski, CSJ, St. Ambrose University
Rev. Brian F. Linnane, SJ, Loyola University Maryland
David J. Livingston, Lewis University
Daniel Lowery, Calumet College of St. Joseph
Thayne M. McCulloh, Gonzaga University
Ann McElaney-Johnson, Mount Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles
Sr. Maureen McGarrity, CFSN Holy Family University
Joseph M. McShane, SJ, Fordham University
James J. Maher, CM, Niagara University
Andrew P. Manion, Marian University (WI)
Br. William Mann, FSC, Saint Mary’s University (MN)
Joseph R. Marbach, Georgian Court University
George E. Martin, St. Edward’s University
Fr. John Meehan, SJ, Campion College
Suzanne K. Mellon, Carlow University
Thomas Mengler, St. Mary’s University (TX)
Susan Mumm, Brescia University College (Ontario)
John Neuhauser, St. Michael's College
Robert L Niehoff, SJ, John Carroll University
Joseph E. Nyre, Iona College
Sr. Mary Eileen O’Brien, OP, Dominican College
Brennan O’Donnell, Manhattan College
Juan Olivarez, Aquinas College (MI)
Kathleen Owens, Gwynedd Mercy University
Brother John Paige, CSC, Holy Cross College (IN)
Sr. Mary Persico, IHM, Marywood University
Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM, Chaminade University of Honolulu
J. Michael Pressimone, Fontbonne University
Anne M. Prisco, Felician University
Christopher P. Puto, Spring Hill College
Kevin P. Quinn, SJ, University of Scranton
Sr. Mary Reap, IHM, Elms College
Mary Lou Retelle, Anna Maria College
ReBecca Koenig Roloff, St. Catherine University
Jo Ann Rooney, Loyola University Chicago
Andrew P. Roth, St. Bonaventure University
Therese Scanlan, Resurrection University
Eileen Schwalbach, Mount Mary University
Matthew Shank, Marymount University
Rev. Brian Shanley, OP, Providence College
Ronald A. Slepitza, Avila University
John Smarrelli Jr., Christian Brothers University
Maureen Smith, Laboure College
Timothy Law Snyder, Loyola Marymount University
Eric F. Spina, University of Dayton
Sr. Joseph Spring, SCC, Assumption College for Sisters
Sr. Diane Steele, SCL, University of Saint Mary
Maryanne Stevens, RSM, College of Saint Mary (NE)

Helen J. Streubert, College of Saint Elizabeth
Julie H. Sullivan, University of St. Thomas (MN)
Stephen V. Sundborg, SJ, Seattle University
Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland, Donnelly College
David G. Sylvester, King’s University College, Canada
Donald B. Taylor, Cabrini University
Keith Taylor, Gannon University
Timothy E. Trainor, Mount St. Mary’s University (MD)
Sr. Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Chestnut Hill University
Rev. Malachi Van Tassell, TOR, Saint Francis University (PA)
Jorge Ivan Velez-Arocho, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico
Susan C. Wajert, Mercy College of Ohio
Jeanie Watson, Holy Names University
H. James Williams, Mount St. Joseph University
Cynthia Zane, Hilbert College

The ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, founded in 1899, serves as the collective voice of U.S. Catholic higher education. Through programs and services, the association strengthens and promotes the Catholic identity and mission of its member institutions so that all associated with Catholic higher education can contribute to the greater good of the world and the Church.