

**THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES ARE NOT AN EXTENSION OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND POMONA COLLEGE SHOULD NOT BE
ACTING AS A DE FACTO AGENT OF ICE**

Date: November 22, 2011

Subject: OPEN LETTER TO THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES AND POMONA COLLEGE

The Claremont Colleges Latino Alumni Coalition ("CCLAC") is a coalition of well educated, and socially committed Latino graduates of the Claremont Colleges. We have come together as CCLAC to add our voices in support of the faculty, staff and workers (collectively, "Workers") who's civil rights are being violated by the Pomona College Board of Trustees (the "Board").

Our position is clear and to the point. The severe, immediate, unwarranted and unprecedented fear and harm to Pomona College Workers and their families being caused by the Board's anti-immigrant actions must stop immediately.

CCLAC's position is based on, among other things, the following facts and circumstances:

1. The Pomona College Board, in response to a bare allegation that the College was "not obtaining proper documentation" from its employees at the time of hire, decided to "investigate" the immigration and documentation status of all its Workers campus-wide, including long standing and respected faculty members and Workers, some of whom have been employed at Pomona College for 20 years or more;
2. All Workers, including faculty members who's documentation status was beyond question, have had their confidential, personnel files opened to review and scrutiny by a crew of "outside compliance experts", all in complete disregard of their individual privacy and 4th Amendment Rights against unreasonable searches and seizures;
3. Based on the findings of the Board's independent investigation, the leadership of the Pomona College Board of Trustees concluded that the College's procedures to verify the documentation status of its Workers "were in compliance with the law."

Despite these findings and conclusions, and without any request, instruction or demand from ICE or any other federal agency, the leadership of the Pomona College Board decided to go yet a step further and require Workers suspected of having "deficiencies" in their personnel files to submit to mandatory interviews, or be subject to termination; a demand that is fraught with potential for abuse of discretion and violations of 5th Amendment rights.

This unwarranted and unprecedented campus-wide, anti-immigrant enforcement action blurs the vital distinction between a prestigious, nationally ranked liberal arts college like Pomona College, and that of a federal immigration enforcement agency like ICE.

So, we call upon the members of the Pomona College Board of Trustees who care about the rights of Workers, and the image and reputation of Pomona College, to ask their Board leadership to reconsider the increasingly serious and exponential harm their anti-immigration enforcement actions are causing to the very institution who's well-being they are entrusted to enhance, promote and protect. Members of the Pomona College Board of Trustees, it's not too late to do what is fair, reasonable and right for your Workers, and their families.

Stop all anti-immigrant enforcement actions at Pomona College immediately. so your Workers and their families can enjoy the holidays with the same peace of mind that you will be sharing with your families.

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES LATINO ALUMNI COALITION