The New American Dream
Loyola Grad and Dreamer Speaks Out on DACA’s Demise
by Sue Weishar, Ph.D.

September 12, 2017

On September 5, 2017, Secretary of Homeland Security announced that the Trump administration would end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program within 6 months. This program, created in 2012, permits young immigrants who entered the country as children to remain in the United States and work. Here are Karla's thoughts on the program's decision.

Karla Bustamante is a former student at Loyola University New Orleans, and a former member of the Democratic Dreamers Network. She is currently a graduate student at Tulane University, where she is studying political science.

She explained in an email what DACA has meant for her: "DACA has given me a chance to plan for my future: to work and save money, to go back to school, and to meet my unique academic needs. It has allowed me to pursue my dreams in college and in the workplace." She added, "DACA has also provided me with a sense of security and stability, which has been crucial in helping me achieve my goals."

Karla grew up in a family that was a member of the Democratic Dreamers Network. She explained, "My family has always been involved in the network, and I have seen firsthand how it has helped young immigrants like me." She added, "The network has provided me with a sense of community and belonging, and it has also helped me to navigate the challenges of being a DACA recipient."

Karla was interviewed by editorial writer Jarvis DeBarry on September 5 at Loyola's Kennedy Library. She discussed the Dream Act of 2017, which would provide permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship for immigrants who entered the country as children, provided they have a background check, and meet certain educational requirements. She explained, "The act is important because it would not only help young people who might have missed the cut-off date for eligibility, but also would give immigrants a sense of security and stability." She added, "In the long term, I ask allies to use their privilege as citizens and push their elected officials to support and pass the Dream Act 2017." She concluded, "In the long term, I ask allies to use their privilege as citizens and push their elected officials to support and pass the Dream Act 2017."

She explained in an email what DACA has meant for her: "DACA has given me a chance to plan for my future: to work and save money, to go back to school, and to meet my unique academic needs. It has allowed me to pursue my dreams in college and in the workplace." She added, "DACA has also provided me with a sense of security and stability, which has been crucial in helping me achieve my goals."