

## **Congress 2010 Passed Action Agenda**

### *Economic and Education Recovery Campaign; Robert D'Andrea, RAC(s): Working Class Caucus*

For the past several years we have been witnessing and living in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. During this economic crisis 65 million workers have been unemployed for longer than six months. Most of these workers are from communities of color or are youth and adult workers in need of more education or job training. Youth workers are being disproportionately affected trying to overcome an unemployment rate of 15 percent, 5 percent higher than the national average. These unemployment rates are a result of continual job loss because of outsourcing and budget cuts. On our university campuses, the number of years it takes students to graduate is increasing and debt is piling up because of these cuts.

In order to achieve economic recovery and be better able to provide students with a quality education, the United States Student Association fully supports the Local Jobs for America Act, introduced by California Congressmen George Miller. The Local Jobs for America Act would appropriate \$75 billion jobs for 750,000 jobs over two years and would appropriate \$23 billion to help states support 250,000 education jobs. These funds will prevent further layoffs and furlough days for faculty and staff who are necessary to a quality education. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Jobs with Justice will organize a day of action to support full employment and higher education funding. Additionally, local actions will occur October 2<sup>nd</sup>, including a march in Washington, D.C., in support of a jobs agenda.

### *Dream for Equal Opportunity Campaign; RAC(s): National People of Color Student Coalition*

Approximately 65,000 qualified undocumented high school students graduate per year and are unable to access or afford higher education or contribute back to the communities they call home, which are now under attack due to misguided legislation. The DREAM Act as a standalone bill will be a step forward into achieving equal access to education. Recent pieces of reactionary legislation are being passed across the Nation creating an increasing “anti-immigrant” sentiment. As student leaders, community members, and as an organization representing over 4.5 million students, we recognize the effects that imprudent legislation have on our communities, the people, and Humanity; especially pieces of legislation, which inhibit one’s ability to access and/or afford higher education including the continued blatant relegation of marginalized communities. To ensure qualified undocumented students cannot only access and afford higher education but also ensure that students are not criminalized due to short cited legislation allowing or justifying institutionalized discrimination, we must prioritize and push Congress to pass the DREAM Act as a standalone bill. We must push our local elected officials not only to invest in the accessibility and affordability of higher education for immigrant youth, but also the assurance that student are not criminalized by programs and/or pieces of legislation in which immigrant communities are targeted and/or criminalized.