

March 15, 2013

To the Regis University Community:

At the recent meeting of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), the group held a press conference to highlight the findings of a two-year Ford Foundation study on undocumented students at Jesuit institutions and to demonstrate support for comprehensive immigration reform. The report is available online at www.fairfield.edu/immigrantstudent.

Along with other Jesuit university presidents, I urge you to engage yourself in this important issue, especially as voices of reason and compassion in support of those students and potential students who make up an important part of our future and the future of the United States.

I also urge you to join Regis University in welcoming Archbishop of Denver, Samuel J. Aquila, D.D., S.T.L., to our campus for a public lecture in our “Catholicism in the Modern World” series—“A Catholic Voice on Immigration Reform”—on **Thursday evening, April 4 at 7:00 P.M. in the St. John Francis Regis Chapel**. The U.S. Bishops have consistently reinforced our moral obligation to treat the stranger as we would treat Christ Himself, and they have entreated us to find meaningful ways to welcome our immigrant brothers and sisters into our communities. Their recommendations can be accessed at “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope”: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/strangers-no-longer-together-on-the-journey-of-hope.cfm>). We are grateful to Archbishop Aquila for bringing this message to Regis University.

In addition, Regis has supported the passage of the ASSET bill in the Colorado legislature, which would provide in-state tuition rates at Colorado’s public colleges and universities for graduates of Colorado high schools who are undocumented students. This bill recently passed after several years of efforts. While this does not directly affect Regis, we applaud this new initiative to assist these promising students.

Finally, I want to thank those at the University who have brought this issue to the attention of the Regis community over the past eighteen months through their awareness campaign on immigration reform issues, especially our Service Learning staff in the three colleges who sponsored so many workshops and forum opportunities for us, and the wonderful Bracero Exhibit sponsored by Dr. Nicki Gonzales and our Dayton Memorial Library staff last fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President