



August 6, 2018

President's Waypoint: Border Angels at Wake Campus

Last Thursday, we had a very special event at the Wake Campus. Enrique Morones, President and Founder of Border Angels, was the keynote speaker. Enrique helped the audience of about 80 people understand the horrific plight of refugees fleeing unspeakable conditions of violence and crime in Central and South America and making the difficult journey to the U.S. for refuge. The main topic addressed by Enrique was how, after families and groups of these undocumented immigrants make the hundred plus-mile trek to the U.S.-Mexico border, they then need to cross the border security and the treacherous river. And then, the toughest part of the journey is to cross the unbearable trek over a vast and desolate desert the size of Connecticut on the Southern reaches of California and Arizona. [Click here to read more about how thousands of men, women, and children succumbed to the desert sun trying to cross the desert.](#) (Warning, this is very graphic)

Since 1986, Enrique Morones has dedicated his life to the prevention of thousands of migrant deaths that happen on the US-Mexican border due to the diaspora of people from Central and South America. One mission of the more than a thousand volunteers of Border Angels is to place water in the desert for those making the harrowing crossing. This is a tremendous humanitarian effort. I can tell you, it is hard to find a more passionate advocate for human rights in America than Enrique Morones. He is certainly an angel on earth in both his work and life.



Related to all of this are the 300+ DACA students who we serve at the college. These are the children of undocumented parents living in the United States. Last Friday, a Federal Judge in Washington, D.C., ordered the Trump administration to restart the DACA program in full. President Trump was planning to phase out the Obama-era program, which offers deportation relief to undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children, if Congress did not provide funding for a new border wall. There are currently more than 700,000 undocumented immigrants enrolled in the DACA program. Friday's ruling goes into effect later this month, and the administration will be required to accept new applications from people who meet DACA's eligibility requirements.

The border issues are certainly complex, and there are no good answers to the problems. As community college educators, our goal is to focus on providing education to those who come through doors motivated to learn and make a better life for themselves, their families, and members of our community. Certainly Santa Barbara City College excels at this. A big thank you to Melissa Moreno, Jose Martinez, Ilda Pulido, Ana Rios Suaste, Karla Uribe, and all others from the School of Extended Learning team for pulling the event together. Really wonderful and educational for all!

Together forward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony", is positioned below the text "Together forward,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial letter.