

Our View

'Dreamers' should be welcomed

Much of the learning that goes on in college happens outside the classroom.

Sometimes, the simple act of eating lunch with fellow students can prove more educational than a boring, hour-long lecture.

And, sometimes, sharing a collective experience toward a common goal has much more educational value than, say, any result on a test or exam.

For hundreds of students at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, one common experience happened Feb. 18, when many protested the U.S. government's stand against undocumented immigrants.

Many, if not most, of the protesters were of Hispanic origin, with some of them actually undocumented immigrants themselves.

They held signs, chanted slogans and yelled through megaphones, marching across campus to make their point known.

As was expected, the group's ire targeted President Donald Trump who, since he announced he was running for president, has declared war against illegal immigrants.

But, in doing so, he also declared war against so-called "dreamers" protected by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

DACA is an Obama-era program that helped undocumented immigrants who contribute to society in the U.S. stay in the U.S.

Trump's time in office has touched off endless debate about whether DACA beneficiaries should be treated the same as, say, someone sneaking across the border.

Many "dreamers" came while they were children and have lived most of their lives here.

On this day, concerned ECSU "dreamers" voiced their concerns — and fear — of suddenly having government agents snatch them away and send them to a country that would be foreign to them.

And, as usual, when local media coverage of their protest hit social media, the trolls came out and insulted them and their existence.

Ideally, a clear path to citizenship should be promoted within this country for DACA folks, who may soon lose their protections as Trump and his supporters continue to try and obliterate those rules.

For now, anybody helping this country — and it's tough to believe hard-working college students are a drain on society — should be respected.

The social media and internet trolls who slammed and attacked these concerned college kids were flat-out wrong.

They should be welcomed. Not shunned.



Eastern Connecticut State University senior Naomi Carranza speaks during a rally in front of ECSU's Webb Hall recently. File photo