
Caring for DREAMers: Collaborating in Best Practices for Undocumented Student Support

NRC 37th Annual First Year Advising Conference, Facilitated Discussion

AGENDA

This session is an open forum to share our collective insights and best practices for undocumented immigrant students through a series of questions. We can divide into smaller groups and address each of these areas. Groups are encouraged to synthesize main ideas on flipcharts to share with all.

QUESTIONS

(1) Who are your DREAMers?

Demographics, differences in immigrant statuses and rights, and identity

(2) What are their obstacles to higher education?

National, state, and institutional policies, practices, barriers

(3) How has your campus addressed these obstacles?

Structure of campus support, trained personnel, resource center, funding

(4) How do you build an “undocufriendly” campus?

Legal aid, wellness, peer/ally groups, safe spaces, diversity training, “know your rights”

(5) Are your DREAMers ready for life after college, even without DACA?

Internship, research and service opportunities, graduate and professional school prep, job training programs



Image: Favianna Rodriguez

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- I. Participants will gain a greater understanding of the cultural and contextual variables that impact the undocumented student college experience at different institutions.
- II. Participants will share best practices and resources for creating “undocufriendly” campuses at different institutions.
- III. Participants will increase their network of educators who work with undocumented students and will have the opportunity to connect with each other after the conference through email.

WHO ARE YOUR DREAMERS?

DREAMers

Undocumented youth that would have been eligible for a DREAM Act that has yet to be passed.

Symbolic hope for a better future.

DACAmented

Undocumented youth who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a 2012 executive order under Obama. Benefits are deferred action from deportation, SSN, EAD, ID/license.



Diversity in Immigration Status

- Out-of-status (expired visa)
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- U nonimmigrant status (U-visa)
- Refugee and Asylum
- Mixed status households

NEWS UPDATES

Sept. 15, 2017 Attorney General Sessions announces DACA program phasing out by March 5, 2018

Jan. 9 Court injunction restarts DACA renewals

Jan. 19 Partial gov't shutdown, no immigration reform

Jan. 25 Trump may support a path to citizenship for approx. 1.8 million DREAMers in exchange for increased border security and legal immigration limitations.

Feb. 8 Deadline for immigration reform???

“What it means to be an American is less about who you are than what you are about— how you live your life, how you contribute to this country, how you pledge allegiance to a flag hoping and praying it will make room for you.

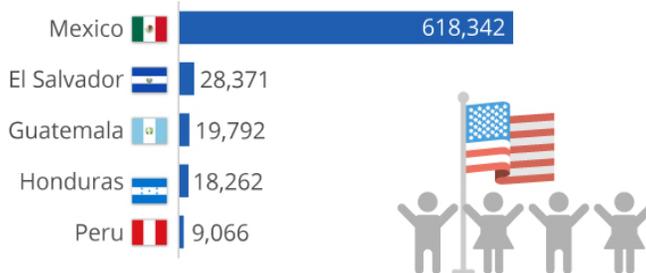
What it means to be an American is in the hearts of the people who, in their struggles and heartaches, in their joys and triumphs, fight for America and fight to be American every day.”

— Jose Antonio Vargas,
The Huffington Post, July 2012

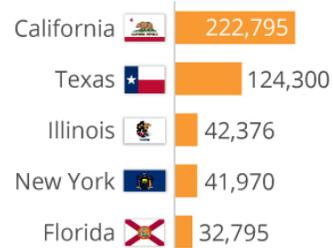
Who Are America's 'Dreamers'?

Figures related to approved DACA applicants as of 2017

Top countries of origin*



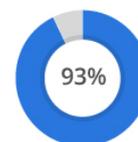
Top states of residency*



Average arrival age**
6 years old

Current average age**
25 years old

% currently employed**



DACA = Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
* For initial applications approved from August 2012 to March 2017.
** According to a 2017 survey (n=3,063)



Sources: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
2017 National DACA Study (Wong et al.)



IDENTITY MATTERS

Who am I?

Feelings of limbo, isolation
Cultural, not legal, citizens
Long to belong in American society

Not my fault!

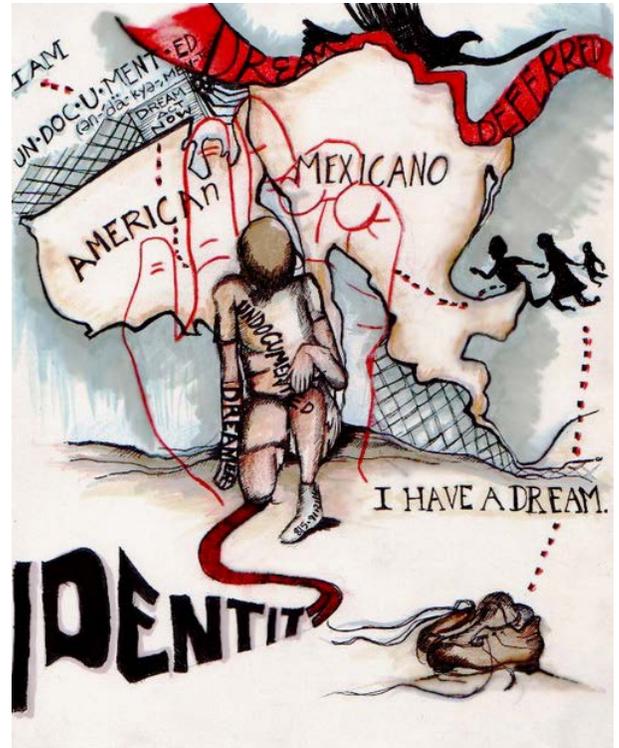
Did not choose to migrate
No easy path to citizenship
Burden of family sacrifice

Not my privilege!

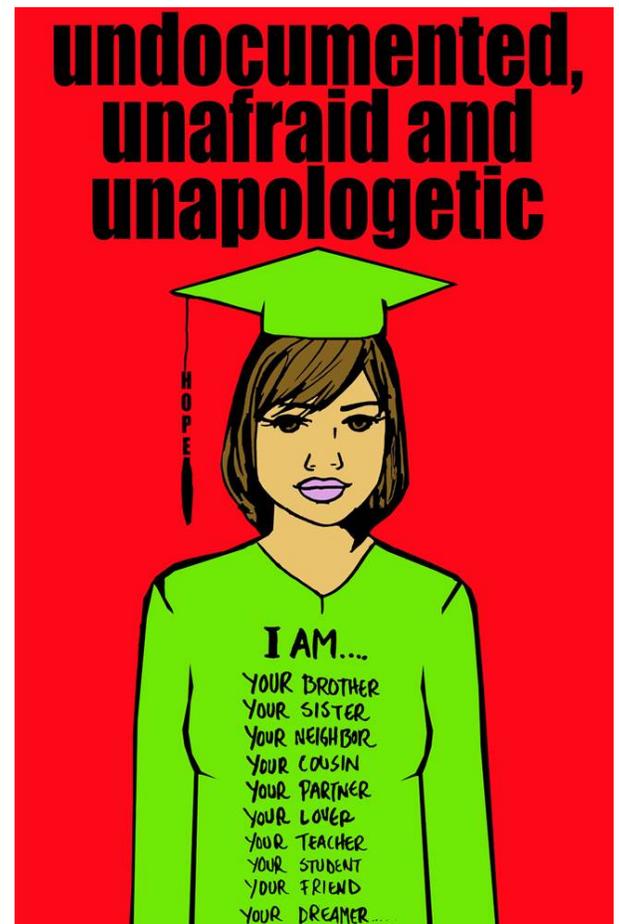
Same aspirations and K-12 as U.S. born peers
Obstacles to work, drive, study, loans, health
Cannot vote, travel abroad, join military, etc.
Many are first-generation, minority, low SES



"I'm not considered American enough because I lack a piece of paper. I am no longer afraid of saying I'm undocumented. I know that I'm not the only one. I am a voice who speaks for others who are not ready to speak out. I am the voice who joins others like me in order to be heard and make a change. I will make a change with my photographs. This is how I feel; I feel 'American'." - **Miriam Gonzalez**, "American Flag"

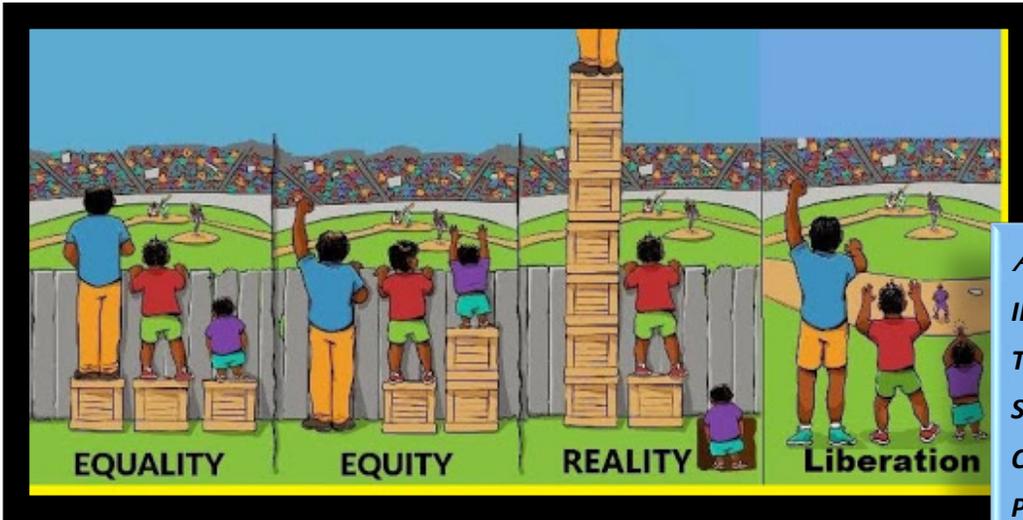


Eleazar Velazquez, "Identity"



Julio Salgado, "Undocumented and Unafraid"
political poster series

WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES TO HIGHER EDUCATION?



AS EDUCATORS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE OBSTACLES OUR STUDENTS FACE IN ORDER TO CREATE MORE EQUITABLE PATHS, OR TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS ALTOGETHER.

Equality assumes that everyone deserves the same resources.

Equity is giving access through different supports according to individual needs.

In **reality**, undocumented youth face extreme systemic barriers that bar access to college and career.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Out of the 11.7 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., approximately 2.5 million are youth.

- Each year...
 - 80,000 undocumented youth turn 18 years old
 - 65,000 undocumented youth graduate from high school
 - Only 5-10% go on to college, compared to about 70% of peers.
 - Of these undocumented youth enrolled in college each year, only 1-3% graduate.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center, 2012; College Board, 2014; Golden Scholars.org, 2014; E4FC.org, 2014

What are some of the practices, programs, or policies affecting undocumented students at your institute and state?

How has your campus addressed some of these obstacles?

OBSTACLES TO HIGHER EDUCATION

College admissions policies

No federal or state laws prohibit admission
BUT – Institutions may restrict admission

Tuition

Most states do not offer in-state tuition
Private institution tuition usually too high

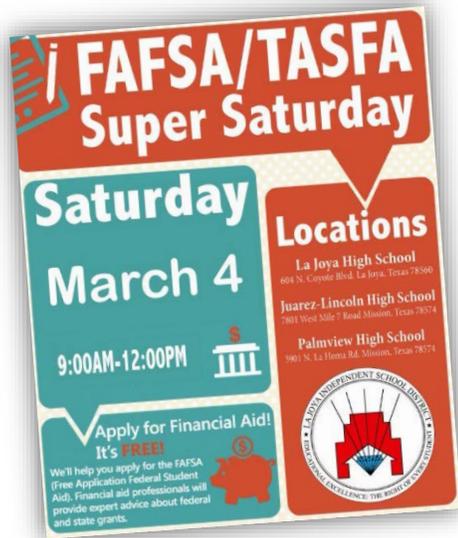
Financial aid

Not eligible for FAFSA, Pell grants, or federal work-study



HELP FIND SOLUTIONS

- Provide easily accessible info
- Provide lists of eligible scholarships
- Start a donation fund or endowment
- Suggest lower cost ways of gaining credits
- Create emergency funds
- Petition for state aid (state DREAM Acts)
- Find bank lending circles (low% loans)
- Address food insecurity
- Provide low cost student housing
- Create lending libraries
- Unite efforts across campus and community

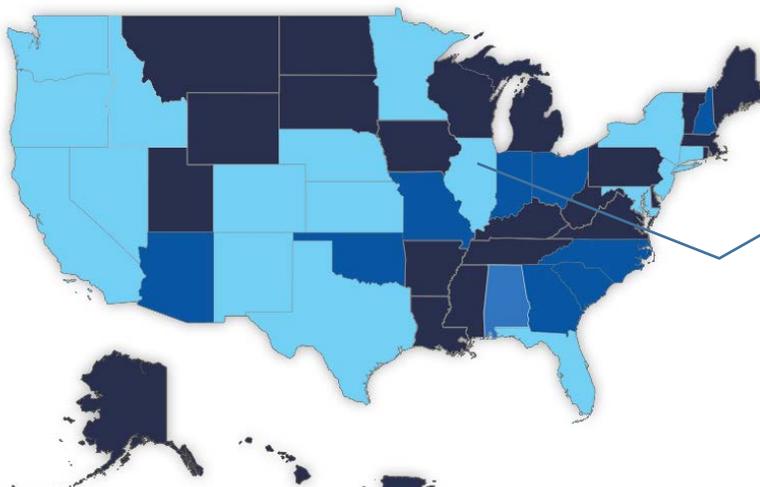


Curious about Education Policies in Your State?

Check out the **TU LEAD network** interactive map

Select a state to see the policies

■ Inclusive ■ Exclusive ■ Unstipulated



IN-STATE TUITION POLICY

The state of Illinois provides undocumented students with in-state tuition and privately funded scholarships through Public Act 093-007 (In-State Tuition) and SB 2185 (Illinois DREAM Act).

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Public Act 093-007 (HB 0060), effective May 20, 2003, allows in-state tuition for undocumented students.

Public Act 097-0233 (SB 2185), effective August 1, 2011, authorizes a private scholarship fund for undocumented students. AS of November 2016, the senate introduced SB 2196

HOW DO YOU BUILD AN UNDOCU-FRIENDLY CAMPUS?

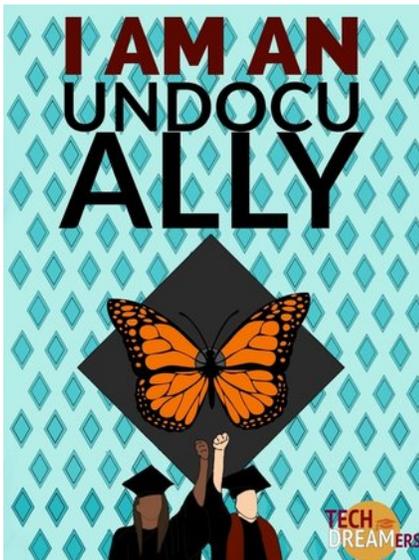
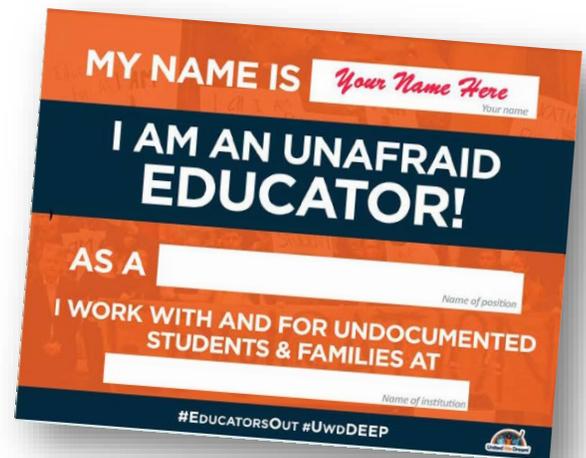
Listen and be witness to the stories of these individuals!

Student voices reinforce not just our understanding of their needs, but also our understanding of their strengths, identity, and sense of dignity, purpose, and belonging in our community.

STEPS TO INCREASE SUPPORT ON YOUR CAMPUS

Form an action plan

- Create a task force
- Get administrative buy-in
- Write a mission statement
- Map out structure and staff roles
- Prioritize via students' top needs
- Be flexible and ready to adjust
- Stay well informed, invite experts



Virginia Tech poster

Build campus-wide awareness and support

- Create easily accessible online information
- Publicize statements of support and inclusivity
- Offer workshops, guest speakers, webinars
- Include immigration issues in diversity training
- Create undocu-ally training
- Reinforce student record confidentiality (FERPA)
- Centralize student services
- Support peer and ally clubs



Educate yourself, Research models

- U.S. Dept. of Education: Resource Guide on Supporting Undocumented Youth, 2015
- United We Dream: National Institutions Coming Out Day TOOLKIT, 2016
- E4FC.org: UndocuCollege Guide & Equity Tool: California, 2016
- Community College Consortium for Immigration Education: Dreaming Big: What Community Colleges can do to Help Undocumented Immigrant Youth..., 2012
- CHECK OUT UC Berkeley model www.discoverourmodel.berkeley.edu

LEGAL SUPPORT & STUDENT SAFETY

Top Priority

SEEK LEGAL SUPPORT ASAP!!!

Help students connect with accredited immigration attorneys or BIA accredited reps for legal document assistance and screenings for other immigration options.



WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR

- DO NOT OPEN DOORS**
ICE cannot come in without a signed warrant by a criminal court judge. They can only come in if you let them.
- REMAIN SILENT**
ICE can use anything you say against you in your immigration case so claim your right to remain silent!
*Say "I plead the fifth amendment and choose to remain silent".
- DO NOT SIGN**
Don't sign anything ICE gives you without talking to an attorney.
- REPORT & RECORD!**
Report immediately: UWD hotline 1-844-363-1423.
Take pictures & video unless you're on federal government property.
Take notes of badge numbers, number of agents, time, type of car and exactly what happened!
- FIGHT BACK!**
Get a trustworthy attorney & explore all options to fight your case. If detained, you may be able to get bail - don't give up hope!
Join your local team to defend yourself from enforcement!

unitedwedream.org/engd

Organize Know Your Rights Education

Encourage student to create safety plans and contingency documents for their families in case a loved one is detained or deported.

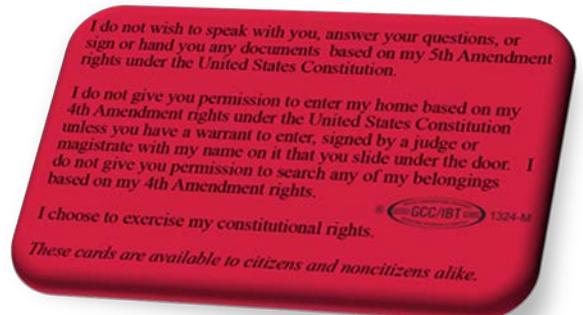
Provide legal and safety information about ID uses, travel to/from campus, and on/off campus housing.

What if ICE shows up on campus?

Establish emergency response team and protocols for various scenarios if ICE comes to campus.

Train front line staff on FERPA policies and send ICE agents to campus police or legal counsel office.

ILRC's "red card" can be slid under a door and presented to an ICE agent.

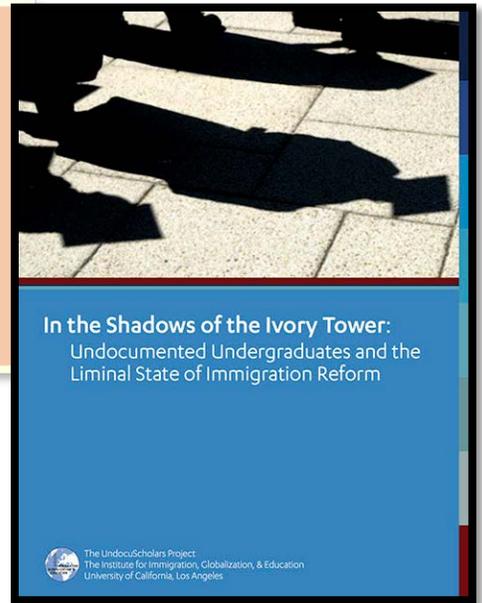


WELLNESS SUPPORT

Abnormal Anxiety Reported in Study

“37 percent of the young women and 29 percent of men reported elevated anxiety levels, in contrast to 9 percent and 4 percent of normal population.”

Source: Suarez-Orozco, MM; Teranishi, R; & Suarez-Orozco, CE. (2015). In the Shadows of the Ivory Tower: Undocumented Undergraduates and the Liminal State of Immigration Reform. *The UndocuScholar Project. Institute for Immigration, Globalization & Education, UCLA.*



Advisors are front line responders to our students' physical and emotional needs!

Provide insurance or free/reduced cost health services

Provide connections to local clinics

Make it easy to connect with counselors

Provide information on suicide prevention

Establish anonymous bias reporting

Check out **Mental Health Toolkit** www.weareheretostay.org

ACADEMIC AND CAREER SUPPORT

Help Create Solutions

Study abroad and travel issues

- ➔ Offer more domestic “study away”
- ➔ Offer legal advice about ID use and travel safety

Limits to access and eligibility for academic programs

- ➔ Re-evaluate restrictions/application questions
- ➔ Ask departments to create equal access for all

No DACA = No work permit

- ➔ Help students find alternative means of gaining scholarly and skill based experiences, credit-bearing research, service/volunteer, unpaid internships, networking, job shadowing, resume support



Offer campus workshops to train all advisors and departments!!!

ACADEMIC AND CAREER RESOURCES

Educators for Fair Consideration (e4fc.org)

- “Life After College” Guide
- “Long-Term Immigration Remedies Every Undocumented Young Person Should Know About”

National Skills Coalition (nationalskillscoalition.org)

- “Missing in Action: Job-Driven Educational Pathways for Unauthorized Youth and Adults”

If no SSN, then apply for ITIN

- ITIN is used to pay taxes. Complying with federal tax laws shows “good moral character” and provides documentation of work history and physical presence in the U.S. (www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org)



WEBINAR SERIES

immigrantsrising.org

1. Working for Yourself
2. ITINs, EINs and Taxes
3. Choosing a Business Structure
4. Credit and Financial Capital
5. Immigration Remedies through Entrepreneurship
6. Business Plans

Help Students Find Information

Offer Workshops



Making a living post-DACA
Tax assistance
Legal vs. illegal uses of SSN or ITIN

Graduate and Professional Schools



Find undocu-friendly programs
Ask about stipends or fellowships that do not require I-9s
Know ID requirements for exams (GRE, LSAT, MCAT)

Scholarship Resources



www.dreamersroadmap.com
www.e4fc.org/otherscholarshiplists.html
www.actonadream.squarespace.com
www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships
www.mydocumentedlife.org
www.thedream.us
www.lulf.org
www.missionassetfund.org (DACA grants)

LOOK INTO OTHER OPTIONS

- Earn a U.S. degree but apply internationally
- Ask lawyer: family-based change of status options
- Ask lawyer: employment-based visas
- Be a student as long as possible. “Wait it out” since colleges tend to provide better spaces of inclusion and belonging.

THANK YOU!!!

Please stay in touch: lwangens@nd.edu

Remember to submit your evaluation on Guidebook!

<https://guidebook.com/g/fye18/>