

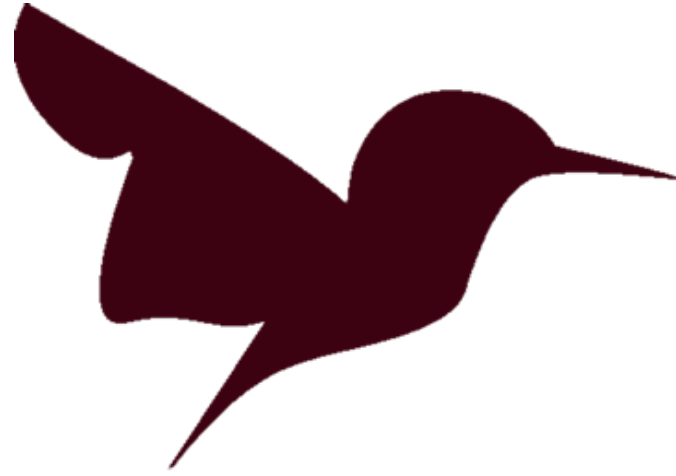
Supporting Undocumented Students in Higher Education

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Presentation Overview

- Key Terms, Policies, and Statistics
- Limitations Faced by Undocumented Students
- Creating Safe/Inclusive Spaces
- Q&A



Key Terms, Policies, Statistics



Key Terms



Mixed-status Family

one in which some family members are U.S. citizens and/or legal residents while others remain undocumented. Students with undocumented parents have unique needs.

A **DACA**
student

An **AB 540**
student

A **DREAMer**
(**DREAM Act**)

Undocumented Students

are often brought to the U.S. by their parents as minors and entered the country without inspection or overstayed their visas. They face unique legal uncertainties and limitations within the U.S. educational system.



DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

- Executive immigration policy signed by President Obama in 2012
- Granted protection from deportation and work permit
- Renew every 2 years; no permanent status; and other restrictions (e.g. no international travel)
- September 2017 – President Trump announced he was ending DACA
- Several lawsuits were filed to prevent termination of the program

Currently...

- The constitutionality of DACA is being debated in the courts. The Supreme Court will take up the issue this November and is expected to rule next Spring.
- At the moment, renewal applications will be accepted. This includes recipients who received protection initially but whose deferred action expired
- New applications are not accepted
- The termination of DACA **DOES NOT** mean students cannot go to college



Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540)

- Passed in 2001
- Allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates at CA public colleges and universities, if they meet two requirements:
 - Graduate from high school in California
 - Attend school in California for at least three years



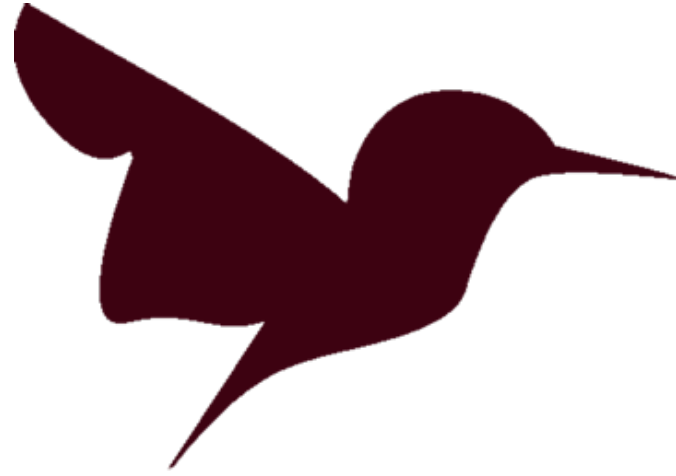
California Dream Act (AB 130 & 131)

- Bills that allow undocumented students who meet AB 540 requirements to receive state aid and private scholarships.
- AB 540 students file the California Dream Act application to receive aid to pay for tuition fees.
- Students with non-immigrant and temporary visas are generally not eligible (TPS may qualify).



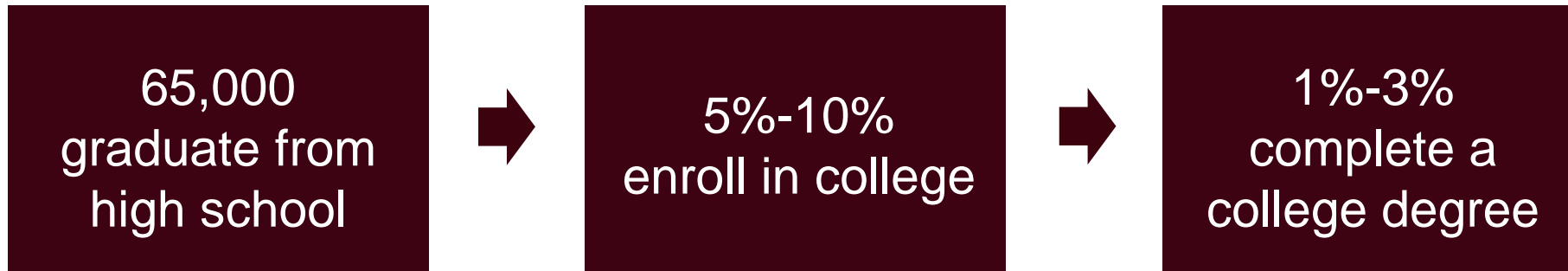
National and State Demographics

- **There are approximately 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.**
 - California accounts for 25% of the population.
 - Approximately 80,000 live in the Sacramento Region
- **Nationwide, there are approximately 800,000 DACA recipients.**
 - **1 in 3** live in California.
- **Approximately 108,000 potential DACA beneficiaries are from Asia.**
 - About 37,000 reside in California, making it the state with the highest Asian DACA population.
- **There are approximately 250,000 undocumented children enrolled in California schools.**



Limitations Faced by Undocumented Students

Educational Attainment for Undocumented Students





Paying for College

MANY STUDENTS

- Experience financial difficulties

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- Experience financial difficulties
- Cannot lawfully work without DACA
- Might pay out of state tuition rates
- Cannot apply to scholarships for U.S. citizens/resident
- Cannot receive federal financial aid



Employment Limitations

- Unable to work once DACA work authorization permit expires
- Unable to work if student did not qualify for DACA (even after graduation)
- Ineligible for federal wages (e.g., no access to jobs/careers that require residency/citizenship)
- Expiration date on authorization card may deter prospective employers
- Limited resume history
- Remember, not everyone has DACA



Uncertainty, Anxiety, Constant Worries

Intensified During Change in Political Climate

Disclosing
immigration
status

Deportation
of self or
loved ones

Uncertainty
of the
future



Status-Related Stressors

- **Having to get a driver's license**
- **Having to find work**
- **Applying for financial aid for college**
- Making tuition payments
- Trump rhetoric
- News about "illegal aliens"
- Social media about immigrants (positive or negative)
- Seeing/encountering police officer
- Getting a speeding ticket
- Instances of discrimination (including microinsults & microassaults)
- Stranger asks, "where are you from?"
- Having a health issue or family member having health issue
- Holidays
- Asked for ID at a bar/club



Creating Safe Spaces



DRC Programs & Services

ACCESS

- Consortium for the Advancement of Dreamers (CAD)
- *Feria de Educación: Dreamer Clinic*
- Collaboration with Admissions & Outreach
- Outreach at community resource fairs, educational conferences, etc.

CAMPUS CULTURE

- Fall Open House
- Dreamer Ally Training
- Expert Policy Briefings
- Annual *Keeping the Dream Alive* Conference
- Dream Gatherings
- Dream Connections
- DRC Fundraiser

RETENTION & GRADUATION

- Academic & Financial Guidance
- Dreamer Experience Seminar
- Immigration Clinic
- DRC Student Emergency Grant
- Dream Leaders Internship
- DRC Scholarship / List



Elements of Support

Empathy;
Knowledge of
student
experience;
On-going
awareness of
basic laws

Make
referrals,
build a
network of
support

Help solve
problems;
inform others of
undocu-issues,
laws, etc.

Engage in active
& direct
advocacy at
individual &
institutional
levels. Use
leadership role
for impact.



Our goal: To **empathize** not in the sense of “feeling sorry” but in the sense of:

- (a) Being **sensitive to** the issues faced by undocumented students, and
- (b) providing appropriate **support for agency & empowerment**

Working with undocumented students

Listen

- Acknowledge **trust** and **courage** needed to 'come out'

Comfort

- Communicate support, validate impact of status-related stressors, but know your boundaries & avoid false promises

Working with undocumented students

Discuss options available to improve the situation

- Consider different strategies and allow student to choose
- If you don't know, refer students to others who can help (e.g., Dreamer Resource Center) or do the research
 - Engage students in this process; avoid taking over the situation
- **Avoid discouragement & misinformation**



Additional External Resources

Define American

Inspirational stories, access to media sources, and more

United We Dream

FREE subscriptions and toolboxes for educators

The Education Trust - West

Provide Info graphics, State & National facts, Toolkits and more

Immigrants Rising

Direct support, leadership and career development to undocumented young people & community outreach.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Immigration legal trainings, educational materials, including FREE Family Preparedness Emergency Plans

National Immigration Law Center

FREE! Know Your Right Red Cards

CA Immigrant Guide

immigrantguide.ca.gov

Know Your Rights App

Supports five languages

DREAMer's Roadmap App

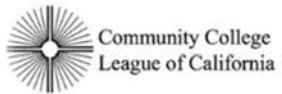
Find & track scholarship opportunities

My Undocumented Life

This blog provides up-to-date information & resources for undocumented immigrants

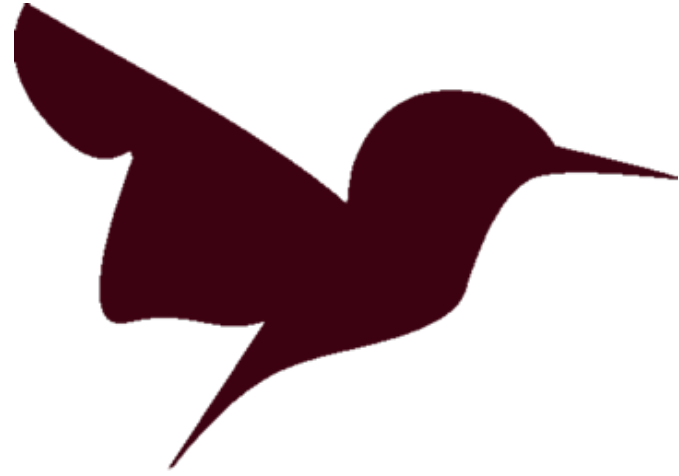


California
Undocumented
Higher Education
Coalition



California Community Colleges
Chancellor's Office





Questions?

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