

Sharing the Dream

Wednesday, May 20, 2015
University of St Francis, Joliet, IL

#sharingthedream2015

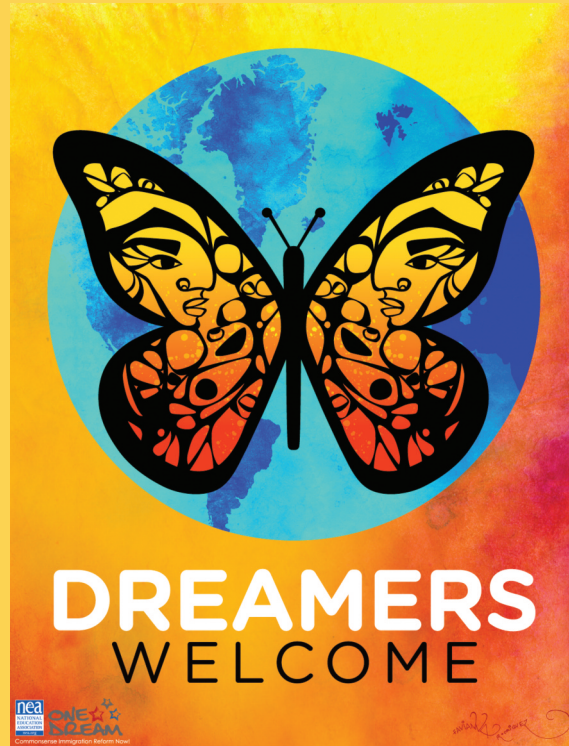


Image by Favianna Rodriguez

We would like to welcome each of you to the first “Sharing the Dream” Conference. It is an exciting time when we can offer those who hold such an important role in supporting our undocumented youth the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other. This conference was created with the understanding that just as laws continue to change regarding this subject, we too must continue to adjust our philosophies of best practices to better serve our undocumented students. While some institutions and organizations cater to an ongoing learning environment regarding the matter, others feel isolated in their efforts. Our hope for today is that everyone walks away knowing that there are resources for our students, and that support exists within this growing coalition.

Today, undocumented students continue to face a multitude of issues in an attempt to achieve the dream of going to college: limited financial aid support services, substantial

gaps of information, and discrimination, to name a few. While there are many access barriers, there is also hope for a changing landscape. Initiatives such as HB 3528 support equal higher education access for undocumented students in Illinois. Proposals such as these serve as a reminder that we are not alone in our efforts, as this and many other initiatives have been student centric efforts.

The narratives of undocumented students may vary, but this does not make any student less deserving of the right to obtain a college degree. The dream to prosper is a right, and it is our responsibility to secure it for those who may not be able to secure it for themselves. We are grateful for those in attendance today and for those who help put this conference together. A special thanks to Favianna Rodriguez, whose amazing artwork has given color to a movement. It is a movement we hope will continue to grow. Everyone involved makes it possible for us to continue sharing the dream.

Sharing the Dream Agenda

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Registration/Continental Breakfast**
Pat Sullivan Recreation Center

9:00 am – 9:05 am **Welcome**
Pat Sullivan Recreation Center

Eric Ruiz, Associate Director of Admissions, University of St. Francis, Sharing the Dream Committee

9:05 am – 9:10 am **Welcome**
Pat Sullivan Recreation Center

Dr. Arvid C. Johnson, President, University of St. Francis

9:10 am – 10:00 am **GROUP SESSION** 

Undocumented 101: Understanding the Issues

Pat Sullivan Recreation Center
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Rigo Padilla, Undocumented Students Support Services and College Support, Eric Solorio Academy

In this overview of the current status of undocumented students, participants will receive a brief introduction to a wide array of topics including appropriate terminology, legal context, higher education, and why it all matters.

10:15 am – 11:00 am **WORKSHOP SESSIONS I** 

How to Be an Effective Ally for Undocumented College Students—Recruitment

Auditorium
College Track

Luke Kerber, Admission Counselor, Aurora University
Andriana Esparza, Student Outreach & Recruitment Specialist, Oakton Community College

Discover how a community college and private four-year university have developed admission and financial aid processes to assist undocumented families. Presenters will highlight the importance of building trust and confidence with undocumented families.

Student Panel

Turk Theater
High School and College Track

Students from various institutions will provide their insights, thoughts, and stories about their collegiate pursuits and goals.
This will be repeated again in Workshop Sessions III.

Parents as Allies in Pursuit of the Dream

N309
High School Track

Maria Bucio, Director of LaCasa Student Housing and Resource Center, The Resurrection Project
Juan Gloria, Founder, Familias Unidas Por la Educacion
Araceli Lucio, Parent, The Resurrection Project

For most undocumented students exploring their opportunities beyond high school, the challenges would be insurmountable without active support from their families—especially from parents. This session will highlight collaborative efforts of students and parents to meet the challenge together. Participants will hear from representatives of organizations that are actively engaged in developing and nurturing those efforts, and directly from parents who are or have been engaged with their child(ren).

Paying for College

Moes/Presidents
High School and College Track

Gerard J. Cebrynski, Associate Vice-President for Financial Aid, Lake Forest College
Isabel Castro, ISACorps, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Andrea Gonzalez, ISACorps, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Paying for college can be a daunting experience for students regardless of their immigration status. Understanding how undocumented students can pay for college, breaking down & understanding college costs, developing institutional aid, understanding the FAFSA, and having strategies for saving money while in college are key to successfully obtaining a postsecondary credential.

11:15 am – 12:00 pm **WORKSHOP SESSIONS II** 

How to be an Effective Ally for Undocumented College Students—Retaining and Graduating

Auditorium
College Track

Laura Bohorquez, Dream Educational Empowerment Program (DEEP) Coordinator, United We Dream
Sadika Sulaiman Hara, Director of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Loyola University Chicago

Due to the multiple challenges undocumented college students continue to face once enrolled in college, intentionally designed programmatic support is critical for their persistence to graduation. This session will highlight the various ways a college or university can support undocumented students through the divisions of academic and student affairs. Participants will also learn about UndocuPeers: Liberating Campus Climate, an ally certification training program developed by United We Dream's Dream Educational Empowerment Program.

How to be an Effective Ally for Undocumented High School Students

Turk Theater
High School Track

Pablo Alvarez, Counselor, Highland Park High School
Amy Moore, Art Teacher, Senn High School

This session will highlight the various ways high school educators can support undocumented students on the path to college. Presenters will address the importance of student identification and the need to create opportunities for self-disclosure.

By utilizing student support groups and promoting parent engagement, high schools can help undocumented students explore their post-secondary options and advance their college dreams. **This will be repeated again in Workshop Sessions III.**

Beyond the Undergraduate Degree: Careers and Employment

N309

High School and College Track

Sioban Albiol, Clinical Instructor in Immigration Law, DePaul University

Mary Devona Stark, Associate General Counsel, DePaul University

Dr. Sunshine Nakae, Asst Dean for Admissions, Recruitment & Student Life, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

David Nissim-Sabat, Coordinator of Student Services, Northeastern Illinois University

Job placement is an inevitable outcome of the college experience. For undocumented students, this can be even more challenging, given the limited opportunities and career fields available at present. This session will highlight major and field advising, viable employment opportunities for undocumented/DACAmented students, and advice from professionals who currently work in a wide variety of settings—supporting students as they get ready to graduate and transition to their professions.

Myths and Misconceptions: Differentiating Fact from Fiction

N221

High School and College Track

Cindy Agustin, Outreach Coordinator, National Immigrant Justice Center

Maria Bucio, Director of La Casa Student Housing and Resource Center, The Resurrection Project

Undocumented students are a very diverse group of individuals whose stories span a wide spectrum. Often times, educators are unaware that they are working with an undocumented student. Avoiding stereotypes, understanding what options they have, and recognizing how many are working diligently on a postsecondary degree will empower you to assist students in reaching their goal of a college degree. Experts will provide comprehensive insight on issues of student eligibility.

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch

Pat Sullivan Recreation Center

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Student Stories

Pat Sullivan Recreation Center

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm WORKSHOP SESSIONS III



How to be an Effective Ally for Undocumented High School Students

Auditorium

High School Track

Pablo Alvarez, Counselor, Highland Park High School

Amy Moore, Art Teacher, Senn High School

This session will highlight the various ways high school educators can support undocumented students on the path to college.

Presenters will address the importance of student identification and the need to create opportunities for self-disclosure.

By utilizing student support groups and promoting parent engagement, high schools can help undocumented students explore their post-secondary options and advance their college dreams. **This is a repeat of the session from Workshop II.**

Student Panel

Turk Theater

High School and College Track

Students from various institutions will provide their insights, thoughts, and stories on their collegiate pursuits and goals.

This is a repeat of the session from Workshop I.

Tending to the Mental and Emotional Health Needs of Undocumented Students

N309

High School and College Track

Aurora Chang, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning, Loyola University Chicago, School of Education

Padraic D. Stanley, MSW Candidate, Loyola University Chicago, School of Social Work

Undocumented students are faced with undue stress, frustration, and sometimes fear as they pursue postsecondary options due to the constantly changing landscape of immigration policy. This session will provide a general framework for understanding the emotional and psychological experiences of being undocumented. It will also provide critical interventions and best practices on how educators can help undocumented students address and get support for their emotional and mental health needs.

Achieving the Dream: Transfer Support—2 to 4 Year College Transition for Dreamers

N221

High School and College Track

Michelle Roman-Garcia, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, Joliet Junior College

Martha Villegas Miranda, Latino Outreach and Retention Specialist, Joliet Junior College

Elisabet Miramontes, Admission Counselor, University of St. Francis

As we usher in a new era, with DACA legislation providing undocumented students greater access to post-secondary education, an unprecedented number of Dreamers are enrolling at 2-year colleges because of their affordability and mission of open access. Many aspire to obtain a 4-year degree, but feel it is out of reach due to their immigration status and ineligibility for most financial aid. It is imperative that educators and other professionals committed to college access must be informed about the challenges undocumented youth face; and about how we can collectively serve as a bridge to the “Dream” of a 4-year degree.

Session participants will hear from 2 and 4-year higher education professionals and learn about the successful strategies they employed in helping students navigate those transfer challenges that ultimately lead to a seamless 2 to 4-year transition.



2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

Endnote Speaker

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Roberto Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Education, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University

Roberto Gonzales is a qualitative sociologist whose research focuses on the ways in which legal and educational institutions shape the everyday experiences of poor, minority, and immigrant youth along the life course. He is recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on undocumented immigrant youth and young adults. Over the last decade he has been engaged in critical inquiry regarding what happens to undocumented immigrant children as they make transitions to adolescence and young adulthood. His West Coast Undocumented Young Adults Research Project in Los Angeles and Seattle has collected in-depth qualitative data on over 300 undocumented young adults who have lived in the U.S. since childhood. This research has helped scholars, policymakers, and educators gain a better understanding of their educational trajectories, how they come of age, and how a segment of these young people engages in civic and political activity. He is currently engaged in two projects aimed at better understanding the effects of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program: the National UnDACAmented Research Project, a longitudinal study to assess the effects of widened access among undocumented immigrant young adults; and a companion study to assess DACA

implementation in schools and community based organizations. He is also carrying out a comparative study of immigrant youth in the U.S. and the UK. His work is being supported by MacArthur, Irvine, and Heising-Simons Foundations. Gonzales serves on the editorial board of *Social Problems* and the City of Chicago Office of New Americans Advisory Board. In addition to top social science journals, his work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *TIME*, *Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, CNN, and NPR. He is currently completing a book manuscript based on his 10 year study of undocumented young adults in Los Angeles. Prior to his faculty position at the Harvard, Gonzales was on faculty at the University of Chicago and the University of Washington. He received a B.A. from Colorado College, an M.A. at the University of Chicago, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California – Irvine.

3:30 pm – 3:35 pm

Closing

Pat Sullivan Recreation Center
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Aliza Gilbert, College Counselor, Highland Park High School, Sharing the Dream Committee

3:35 pm – 4:00 pm

Reception and Mingling

Pat Sullivan Recreation Center
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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING SHARING THE DREAM CONFERENCE!
YOUR TIME AND PASSION WILL TRULY BENEFIT STUDENTS!

Sharing the Dream Committee

Todd Burrell, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Tanya Cabrera, Illinois Institute of Technology and Illinois Dream Fund Chair

Mike Dessimoz, Illinois College Access Network

Traci Flowers, Loyola Academy

Aliza Gilbert, Highland Park High School

Mayra Lagunas, Golden Apple Foundation

Abel Montoya, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Eric Ruiz, University of St. Francis

Roberto Suarez, Homewood-Flossmoor High School

Special thanks to University of St. Francis



Supported by IACAC and NACAC



Visit www.iacac.org/undocumented for more resources for undocumented students and to access the College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students