



**JOLIET**  
JUNIOR COLLEGE  
—1901—



# **SHARING THE DREAM CONFERENCE**

**Educational Access and Transfer Support**

**2 to 4 Year College Transition for Dreamers**

*Hosted by the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling*

Presented by:

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

Martha Villegas Miranda-Outreach & Retention Specialist, Joliet Junior College

Elisabet MiraMontes-Admission Counselor, University of St. Francis

# PRESENTATION GOALS

**By the end of this session, participants will learn:**

- Statistical data on undocumented students in the U.S and current issues impacting college access and completion.
- How community colleges can provide an accessible and affordable educational option to Dreamers on their pathway to a 4-year degree.
- How one suburban 4-year institution is assisting Dreamers in their 2-4 year college transition and degree completion.
- Best practices on becoming an advocate for undocumented youth at your educational institution.



# WHO ARE THE UNDOCUMENTED AND WHAT IS DACA?

Undocumented refers to foreign nationals who arrive in the United States and currently reside in the country without proper *documentation*.

Undocumented persons could have entered with a visa but remained in the United States after it expired OR entered without inspection (EWI).

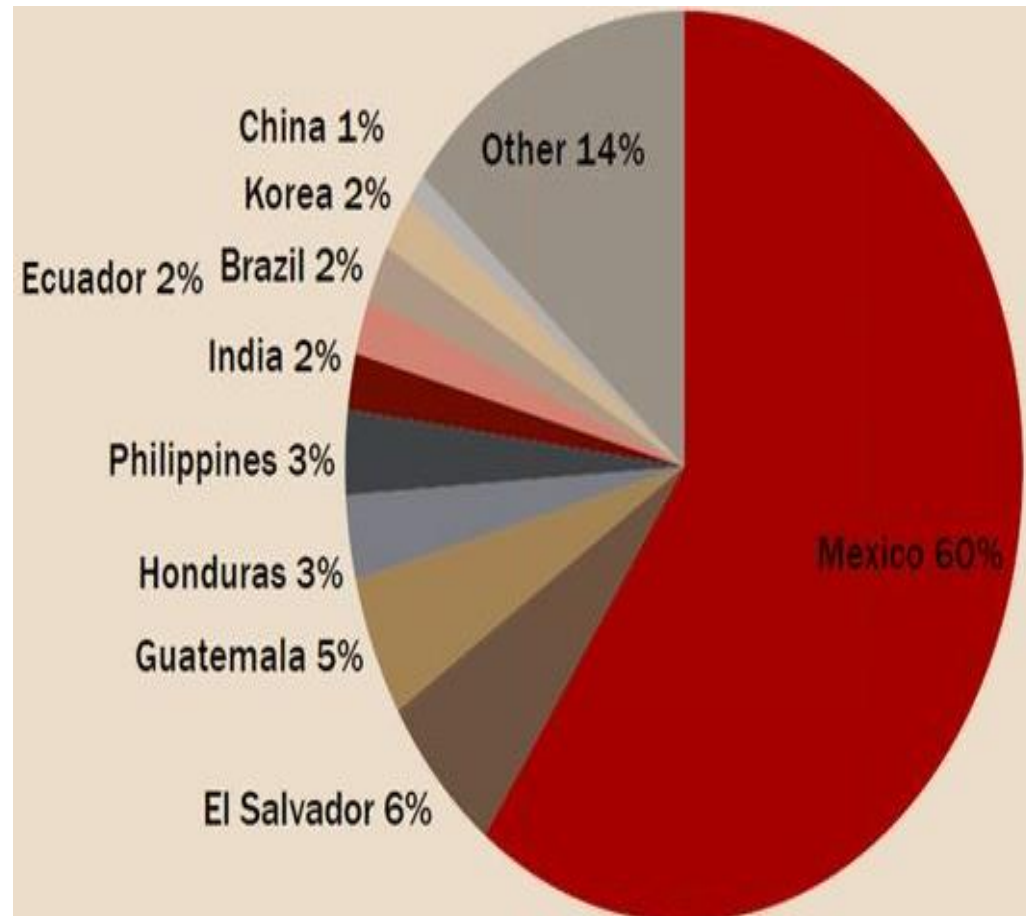
## DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

DACA, an executive memo issued June 15, 2012 offers undocumented persons under the age of 31, meeting specific criteria, deferred action from deportation.

Students who receive DACA are often referred to as "*DACAMENTED*" and have the legal authority to reside in the U.S for a designated period of time.

# THE DIVERSITY OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- Between 55% and 60% of the undocumented in the US are from Mexico
- Among the children with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent, 70% have parents from Mexico.
- 17% are from other Latin American countries,
- 7% from Asia,
- 2% from Europe and Canada,
- and 3% from Africa and other nations.



Source: (Pew Research Center, 2011 & United We Dream Webinar, 2015)

# UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

- There's approx. 1.1-1.4 million undocumented students in the U.S.
- Many were brought to the U.S. by their parents to no fault of their own.
- 49% will drop out of high school (compared to 11% of native born students).
- 65,000 of the 1.4 million undocumented students who have lived in the U.S. for five years or more will graduate from high school each year.
- Only 5-10% of undocumented students enroll in higher education.
- As many as 1.76 million unauthorized immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children could be eligible for DACA.
- MPI estimates 350,000 unauthorized young adult immigrants (ages 16 and older) without a high school degree or GED could be eligible for DACA.
- **DACA serves as an opportunity for both DREAMERS & Higher Ed. institutions for increased ACCESS to post-secondary education.**

*Source: Golden Doors, 2012 and the Migration Policy Institute, 2012*

# Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Criteria June 15, 2012

## DEFERRED ACTION

- Grants a work permit for 2 years
- IL students eligible for a driver's license
- Students are issued a social security number

### – Requires one of the following:

- Current enrollment in school
- Completed GED or High School Diploma
- Honorably discharged veteran
- No felony convictions
- Resided in the US 5 yrs. preceding memorandum



**An estimated 350,000 unauthorized immigrants could be eligible by enrolling in school.**

**Given the affordability and mission of open access of community colleges, 2-year institutions often times serve as the gateway to “achieving the dream” of higher education for many undocumented students.**

# JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE 2-YEAR SUPPORT FOR DREAMERS



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— 1901 —

Enrique Rodriguez, Univision Reporter and former Dreamer,  
Martha Villegas Miranda, Outreach & Retention Specialist at JJC and daughter  
of undocumented parents, and  
Brian Herrera, 1st undocumented JJC Student Trustee

# Multicultural Student Affairs at JJC empower students to ACHIEVE the “DREAM” by:

Providing outreach, academic guidance, personal support, cultural resources, and leadership opportunities to enhance the educational experience  
and facilitate the academic and personal growth of underrepresented students and DREAMERS.

## SERVICES OFFERED

- Outreach/Recruitment to Underrepresented Groups
- Academic Guidance and Referral Services
- Advising & Support for English Language Learners
- Advocacy for Underrepresented and Undocumented Students
- Transfer Related Services
- Mentoring Programs-B2B, Peer Mentors
- Cultural Enrichment Programs
- Leadership Programs and Conferences
- Field Trips and College Tours





# Multicultural Student Affairs at JJC empower students to ACHIEVE the “DREAM” by:

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) encourages educational access and transfer support of undocumented students by developing a clearer pathway to college completion through a holistic 3-prong approach to student engagement:

- Academic Coaching,
- Cultural Reinforcement, and
- Leadership Development.



Since 2012, OMSA has advised and mentored nearly 70 Dreamers on the credit-side of the house and had 138 duplicated contacts with these students through our 3-Prong approach.

# Initiatives for Undocumented Students at JJC for Educational ACCESS and TRANSFER

- ❖ Creation of a Campus-Wide **Undocumented Student Taskforce**.
- ❖ **Targeted Outreach & Information Dissemination of Information.**
  - ❖ Created an Undocumented Student Admissions Page.
  - ❖ Developed a one-page Undocumented Advising Reference Guide.
  - ❖ Dreamer resource information in New Student Orientation Brochure.
  - ❖ Created a Scholarship Seekers Series, Scholarship Guide, and alternate method of determining need for Dreamers.
- ❖ Created a **Residency Policy** that is “Dreamer” Friendly.
- ❖ Designated Multicultural Affairs as the **undocumented liaison** office.
- ❖ Hosted several **webinars** on how to supporting undocumented students.-2013, 2014
- ❖ Facilitated the **Transfer Process** & connected students to 4-yr. college liaisons.

# Initiatives for Undocumented Students at JJC to support ACCESS and TRANSFER

- ❖ Created “**Dreaming for the Future Benefit Gala with Latinos Unidos**” 2013 to date.
- ❖ Conducted 7 **DACA Workshops** with SSIP, 2012, 2013, 2014
- ❖ Assist Dreamers in secured transfer dollars through **leadership development**.
- ❖ Developed an Undocumented Student Support/Mentoring Group called “**Dreamers Advancing in Leadership and Education**” (DALE).



# LATINO EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE 2015

## “DARING TO DREAM”



# UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

**Ana Marchan, JJC Alumna-Associate of Science, Dec.2013 3.62 GPA**

Transferred to Illinois Institute of Technology, Major: Bio-Chemistry, Future Doctor

- OMSA Outstanding Leadership Award
- Member of the Honors Program
- Phi Theta Kappa President
- Student Ambassador
- OMSA Peer Mentor
- Rotary Student of the Month (May 2013)
- L.U. E-Board, Community Affairs Chair
- OMSA Student Worker
- Volunteered with ICIRR and DUCAP

**Scholarship Seekers Series & Leadership Engagement enabled her to:**

- Receive \$10,800 in scholarships @ JJC
- Receive \$34,000 in scholarships from various sources to attend IIT in Chicago



# UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

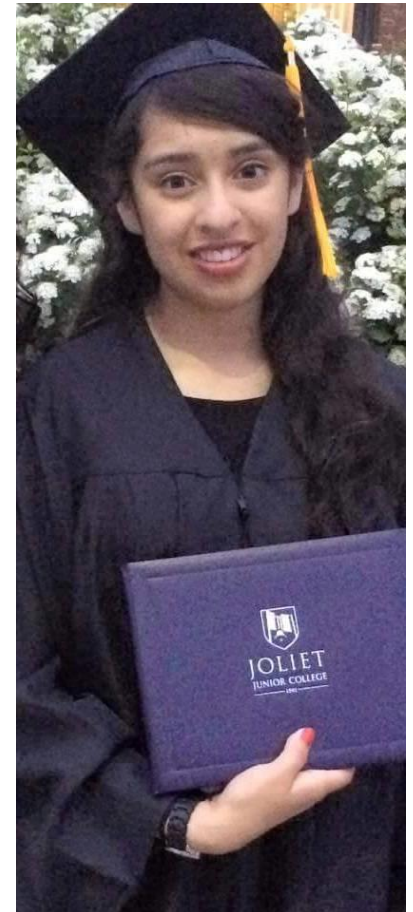
**Estefanía Pérez, JJC Alumna-Associate of Science-2014, 3.82 GPA**

Transferred to Benedictine University, Major: Health Science, Future Doctor

- Honor Roll-Academic Excellence
- Latinos Unidos, Secretary and General Member 2012-2014
- OMSA Outstanding Leadership Award
- Phi Theta Kappa, Member
- Peer Mentor
- Participated in UIC's Medicinas Scholars Program
- Student Government Member
- Volunteered with ICIRR and South Suburban Immigrant Project (SSIP)
- Community Health Clinic Volunteer Interpreter
- New Student Orientation Peer Leader

**Scholarship Seekers Series & Leadership Engagement enabled her to:**

- Receive over \$11,000 in scholarships @ JJC
- Receive \$30,000 from various sources to attend Benedictine University. No out of pocket expenses.



# UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

**Brian Herrera**, Associate of Arts-December 2015, 3.4 GPA

Major: Social Work, Transferring to Governor's State University

- Honor Roll-Academic Merit
- Latinos Unidos President, 2013-2014
- OMSA Peer Mentor
- Rotary Student of the Month (March, 2015)
- College Club Council Vice-President, 2013-2014
- Student Government Member
- Brother 2 Brother Member
- JJC's 1<sup>st</sup> Undocumented Student Trustee, 2014-2015
- Volunteer for ICIRR, SSIP, & Family Focus
- Co-Presenter, IL Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE), 2015
- Presenter at JJC's Latino Empowerment Conference, 2014 & 2015
- Featured Undocumented Student Story on Noticiero Univision, May 2015

**Scholarship Seekers Series & leadership engagement enabled him to:**

- Receive over \$7,000 in scholarships while @ JJC.





# Reaching the Dream at USF

[#sharingthedream2015](#)



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# Undocumented Population 2014-2015

## ❖ 2014-2015 Academic Year

- ❖ Estimated 2014/Fall First-Year apps = 40

  - ❖ 16 enrolled

  - ❖ 24 did not enroll

- ❖ Total enrolled = 42

  - ❖ 100% retention from Fall to Spring 2014-15

  - ❖ In the past 4 years, 2 have dropped due to different reasons

## ❖ 2015 Fall Applications

- ❖ Total = 39



# Preparing for the Dreamers

## ❖ Department Support

- ❖ Making sure Undocumented/any other group are a part of the conversation
- ❖ Not Ostracizing

## ❖ Questioning

- ❖ Asking if this includes DREAMers

## ❖ Professional Development

- ❖ Introducing DREAMers to the USF Community

## ❖ Illinois Dream Act Training

## ❖ Financial aid training



# Start early, start talking

- ❖ Private vs. Public

- ❖ Admission: Freshmen vs. Transfer

- ❖ Intensive recruitment

  - Bilingual FAFSA workshops, financial literacy workshops



University of St. Francis student volunteers display their award at Joliet's Spanish Community Center Volunteer Banquet.



# Admissions Process at USF

## ❖ Online/Paper Application

- SSN
- FAFSA Application

## ❖ Institutional Scholarships

- Academic/Merit
- Endowment Scholarships

## ❖ Finding the Financial Need



# University of St. Francis

## Application Process



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[Student Experience -](#)

[Centers & Institutes -](#)

[Support -](#)

## Undocumented / DREAMer / Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

[Freshman Students](#)

[Transfer Students](#)

[Living on Campus](#)

### Undocumented/DREAMer Students

- An undocumented student refers to students born outside of the United States, but who have lived in the country for a significant portion of their lives, and reside in the United States without the legal permission of the federal government.
- Are often ineligible for careers that required licensing, background checks, or a Social Security Number.

[Financial Aid](#)

[Undergraduate Programs](#)

[Admission Staff](#)

[Admission Checklist](#)

[Admission Status](#)

[Saints Ambassador Corps](#)

[Undocumented / DREAMer / Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#)

[Request Information](#)

## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- DACA, an executive memo issued on June 15, 2012 offers undocumented persons under the age of 31, meeting specific criteria, deferred action of deportation.
- DACA does not provide an individual with lawful status.
- Through the Department of Homeland Security, DACA recipients are granted the right to an Illinois driver's license, a Social Security Number and a work permit.
- DACA students are eligible for paid internships and student employment
- [Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#)
- [Renew Your DACA](#)

## Apply for Admission

1) Undocumented/DREAMer students fill out our [Online Application](#) – Please put 000-00-000 in the social security field – do not make up a number or use your ITIN number. University of St. Francis will give you an assigned ID number once you submit the application. Please put “NO” for US Citizen. Please put “NO” for Applying to Financial Aid.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals(DACA) students fill out our [Online Application](#) – Please put 000-00-000 in the social security field – do not put your SSN given to you by DACA or use your ITIN number. University of St. Francis will give you an assigned ID number once you submit the application. Please put “NO” for US Citizen. Please put “NO” for Applying to Financial Aid.

## Financing your Education

Undocumented and DACA students may be eligible to receive privately funded merit scholarships or grant aid. They are not eligible to receive state and federal financial aid.

Students should begin looking for scholarships as early as possible. Contact individuals, groups, or colleges/universities about resources that may be available.

### Scholarship Resources

- [Get Ready for College](#)
- [Illinois Latino Council for Higher Education \(ILACHE\)](#)
- [Immigrant Youth Financial Resource Guide](#)
- [FastWeb](#)
- [Latino College Dollars: Scholarships for Latino Students](#)
- [LINC Telacu](#)
- [Mexican American Legal and Educational Fund \(MALDEF\)](#)
- [Migrant Scholarships](#)
- [Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund \(SALEF\)](#)
- [Scholarships Open Students Regardless of Immigration Status](#)
- [U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard Scholarship Guide](#)
- [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) Eligible Scholarships](#)
- [Hispanic Scholarship Guide \(USHLI\)](#)
- [Dr. Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders](#)
- [Scholarships Chicano Organizing & Research in Education–Que Llaveva Café Scholarship](#)

# “Are you a dreamer?”

- ❖ Finding out if they are a DREAMer
  - “If you or if you know of someone that is a DREAMer....”
  - Including “regardless of status” in your everyday language
  - Say a story about DREAMers on your campus
- ❖ Using the hints
  - FAFSA
  - Emails about different procedures when they say NO to FAFSA



**DREAMER**  
**STORIES**



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# What's the problem with our Apps?

- ❖ Undocumented students will answer them differently
- ❖ There's no good way to track them unless we are inappropriately asking them and adding a "code" to their file, don't do that!
- ❖ They think they are international students
- ❖ Apply incorrectly due to DACA SSN



# Eligibility for Financial Assistance

Citizenship Status	Federal Aid	State Aid (IL)	Institutional Aid
US Citizen US Permanent Resident/Eligible noncitizen	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	No	No	Yes/No*
Non-eligible noncitizen	No	No	Yes/No*

\*Depends on institution

# Determining financial need

## ❖ Institutional Need-Based Grants

- Early Estimate Form/Paper VOIDED FAFSA
- Prepare in Person for verification
- Ask for tax information
- Work with Financial Aid Liaison

## ❖ Proposing to not count MAP and Pell against the student



# Institutional Money

- ❖ Public universities/colleges in Illinois are not permitted to knowingly give state tax money to non-eligible citizens
- ❖ Private colleges can use institutional funds
  - ❖ May have separate scholarship form/application
  - ❖ Contact institution to determine what steps should be taken
- ❖ Scholarships from community
  - ❖ Each scholarship form will have eligibility criteria
  - ❖ Determine requirements if recurring

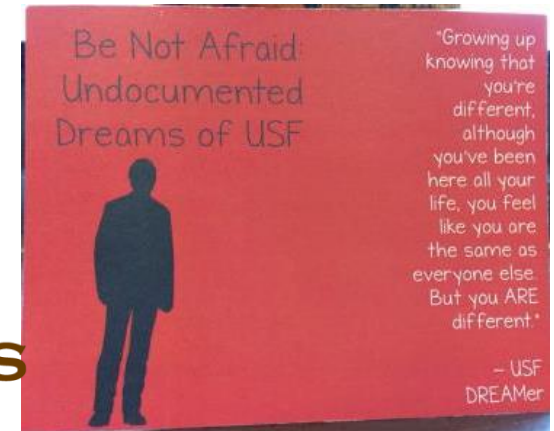


# Environment of inclusivity

- ❖ Implementing H.O.U.S. E. (Helping Our Unprivileged Students Excel)
- ❖ Utilizing new Residency Policy Language-“Dreamer” Friendly.
- ❖ Designated Multicultural Affairs (Eric Ruiz) as the undocumented liaison office
- ❖ Be Not Afraid: Undocumented Dreams of USF
- ❖ Hosting Sharing the Dream Conference



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# What is next for us?

- ❖ Establishing an Undocumented Student Safe Zone Training-Fall 2015
- ❖ DACA workshops
- ❖ Partner with CBOs



USF President Arvid Johnson joined U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin, U.S. Rep. Bill Foster, and area leaders last week to discuss immigration reform in a forum hosted at St. Patrick's Church in Joliet.



# How can you do the same...

- ❖ Start the conversation
- ❖ Become the expert on the topic
- ❖ Sell the idea as “their idea” and why it is beneficial to the university
- ❖ Buy in from upper administration
  - ❖ Lack of undocumented knowledge
  - ❖ Worries of how undocumented topic is perceived
- ❖ Time needed by Financial Aid to create process and forms
- ❖ Being sure you catch everyone.
  - ❖ Many do not indicate on the application that they are undocumented
- ❖ Educate others to obtain buy in.
- ❖ Provide numbers and examples
- ❖ Be persistent



# ACHIEVING THE DREAM-BEST PRACTICES

## ▪ Increase College Access

- Coordinate an outreach plan with CBO' s, advocacy groups, churches, & schools.
- Promote dual credit, on-line resources & develop student community ambassadors.

## ▪ Make College Affordable

- Assist in the scholarship application process & increase private funding.
- Community Colleges average \$3,347 per year thus making them an ideal place to start for full-pay students like Dreamers. (College Board, 2015)

## ▪ Support College Readiness and Success

- Designate staff to advise the undocumented, provide training & involve parents.



# ACHIEVING THE DREAM-BEST PRACTICES

## ■ Offer Alternatives for Adult Learners

- Connect ABE/ESL to the credit-side through a case-management approach and adopt ABE/ESL bridge courses.

## ■ Improve College Retention and Completion

- Promote safe zones & empower immigrant student leadership.
- Provide support services for the academic, social, and emotional well-being of Dreamers.
- Organize campus-wide support & awareness programs for Dreamers.
- Facilitate the transfer process.

*Source: Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education*



Thank you for coming to our workshop!  
¡Muchas Gracias!



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College Admission Counseling**

