

Dreamers Welcome

Living the Loyola Mission through Educating Undocumented Students

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An e-mail arrived (May 2011). . .

A professor at a Jesuit university enquired of the medical school prospects for his student Clara

- 3.94 GPA
- Pre-Med double major in Biology & Spanish
- Strong volunteer service record
- Does not have an authorized immigration status, i.e., is a DREAMer



STRITCH
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Why Clara Interested Stritch . . .

- Outstanding academic qualifications
- Personal qualities: *Overcame extraordinary life circumstances*
- Added Value of Diversity
- Social Justice – for Patients
for Clara

But Clara was out of luck (2011) till Deferred Action for Child Arrivals program (DACA), June 15, 2012.

My journey with dreamers

- Met Aliza in 2009
- Met Cynthia in 2010
- Met New and Denisse (founders of PHD) in 2011
- Advised cohort of applicants via Skype
- Anchored in my own history/purpose



Welcoming “Through the Front Door”

1. With advent of DACA, non-discrimination joins social justice as important concern
2. Admissions Criteria amended to welcome applications from persons of DACA status. Fall of 2012: www.stitch.luc.edu/daca
3. Enlistment of community support through announcing intentions. Aimed to achieve a financial aid package comparable to other students; developed loan program with Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
4. Becomes a “teachable moment” within life of school
5. Seven DREAMers in Class of 2018



DREAMers of DACA Status Welcome

Medical education in the Jesuit tradition of care of the person and promotion of social justice

The Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine is pleased to invite applications from qualified persons with DACA immigration status or who are DACA-eligible. These students join U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents as eligible for admission to Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. Application for admission may be made concurrent with pursuit of DACA status; matriculation requires completion of the process and conferral of deferred action from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

As a Jesuit and Catholic educational institution, we strive to be a welcoming and supportive environment that welcomes qualified DREAMers to join their peers and achieve their full potential in serving others as physicians. Moreover, it is simply in the interest of the medical profession and the people we serve to utilize the talents of qualified students of this immigration status. We call upon our peers in the medical

NEWS ABOUT LOYOLA STRITCH WELCOMING DREAMERS

- [Stritch Dreamers on Aljazeera America](#)
- [Crain's: Stritch Leads Illinois Medical Schools Regarding DREAMERS](#)
- [Stritch Students Show Support for DREAMer Peers](#)
- [Dreamers Press Conference \(Aug 2014\)](#)
- [AAMC blog on the Stritch DACA Story](#)
- [Loyola Dreamer tells his story](#)
- [Academic Medicine article on DACA students and MD workforce](#)
- [Remarks from Mark Kuczewski, PhD, on Loyola's Moral Courage Award from Faith in Public Life at the Student Summit on Immigration Reform.](#)
- [Kuczewski & Pruthi lead USIP article on](#)

Loyola University Chicago Medical Students Show Support for DREAMER Peers

August 14, 2014 / 3 Comments / in Immigration, Voices for Justice / by ISN Staff

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Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine recently welcomed their Class of 2018, including seven "DREAMers."

The milestone came nearly two years after Loyola Stritch became the first medical school to amend its admissions policies to include qualified students who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status and are legally recognized U.S. residents. Medical school leaders celebrated the presence of these students with an on-campus press conference where Linda Brubaker, MD, MS, dean and chief diversity officer, said, "Our social justice tradition called us to take a leadership role in offering educational opportunities to underserved groups, including qualified applicants with DACA status."



Stritch School of Medicine students applaud during the campus press conference celebrating the presence of DREAMer students in the new class.

In a sign of solidarity with their new peers, numerous Stritch School of Medicine student organizations published the following public letter in support of Loyola University Chicago's commitment to accepting undocumented students:

Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine is the first medical school to allow

Resources

- Prehealth Dreamers
<http://www.phdreamers.org/>
- United We Dream
<http://unitedwedream.org/>
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights <http://icirr.org/>
- Educators for Fair Consideration
<http://e4fc.org/>



Resources

- DACA is on the AMCAS application as a status now
- DACA applicants are eligible for the Fee Assistance Program (reduced MCAT and 13 applications through AMCAS)

References

- www.stitch.luc.edu/daca *DREAMERS of DACA Status Welcome*
- Mark Kuczewski & Linda Brubaker (2014) Medical Education for “Dreamers”: Barriers and Opportunities for Undocumented Immigrants, *Academic Medicine*.
- Kuczewski MG, Brubaker L. Accepting Undocumented Immigrants: How We became the "Medical School of Dreams" and Dreamers.
<http://academicmedicineblog.org/accepting-undocumented-immigrants-how-we-became-the-medical-school-of-dreams-and-dreamers/>
- Kuczewski MG, Brubaker L, Bernal M. Medical School Dreams Come True for Undocumented Students and Their Families - Three Perspectives
<http://aspiringdocsdairies.org/2014/07/03/medical-school-dreams-come-true-for-undocumented-students-and-their-families-three-perspectives/>
- Loyola University Medical Students Show Support for DREAMer peers
<http://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2014/08/14/loyola-university-chicago-medical-students-show-support-dreamer-peers/>

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