How to be an Effective Ally
Part 1: Recruitment

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Objectives

1. Challenges
2. College application process
3. Working with Families
4. Financial aid process
5. Institutional support and struggles
6. Resources
Challenges Faced by Undocumented Students

* Early intervention
* Having correct and the most up to date information
  * Avoiding unscrupulous individuals such as “notarios”
  * Only use qualified immigration lawyers—Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights has list of reputable attorneys
    * [http://icirr.org/content/immigration-legal-resource-referrals](http://icirr.org/content/immigration-legal-resource-referrals)
* After gaining admission to college, paying for college can be very difficult for many students
* Being able to finance the length of program versus just the first year
* Transportation to/from school
* Support from Family
* Psychological and medical issues
* Communication/Spanish Speaking
* What to Major in?
Questions Students/Families ask...

Questions stated

* What is the admission criteria?
* Can I use my SS# on FAFSA?
* How much does it cost to go to college?
* Scholarships?

Questions that should be asked

* How do I fill out the application, and what else is needed?
* SS# and Citizenship Status?
* How much will it cost over 4 years? (Think about each year!)
* What scholarships can I apply for? (Start early!)

What Students/Families don’t ask, and should...
College Application Process

- Need to apply during the same time as everyone else
- Most universities have one application
  - Should not fill out international application, since they require additional information/credentials not germane to student’s situation
    - Requires finances form
    - Requires signature of sponsor
    - Information is submitted to SEVIS for receipt of I-20 which is used for the F-1 visa, which is required to enter the US
- Contact the admissions office for clarification on application process
  - “Student is not a US citizen or US permanent resident”
  - “He/she does not currently have a valid visa”
  - If student has a valid visa, inform the college office what type of visa
  - Information is confidential
- Question about citizenship on application
  - Mostly for tuition purposes
  - Many applications have an “all other” category
College Application Credentials

- Need to submit the same materials as other students
  - Test score (ACT/SAT)
  - Transcript
  - Application Fee or Fee Waiver
  - Personal Statement
    - Way for Admission Committees to gather additional information
  - Interview
  - Letters of Recommendation
- Social Security Number (SSN) is not required
  - Applications will have a statement regarding SSN
    - SSN is used by colleges mostly for disbursing state and federal student aid
  - ITIN is only for tax purposes—it is **not** an SSN
  - Schools will give applicant a random identification number
Essays are an excellent manner for students to talk about their experiences and background

- “My parents immigrated to the United States when I was 2 years old.”
- “I was in the ESL/ELL program for my first three years after I came to the US.”

Can be used to explain extenuating circumstances

Does not need to get too detailed, but student should give enough information for admissions committee to make an informed decision.

Information is confidential
Admission Decisions

- Decisions are made on academic criteria
  - ACT/SAT
  - Class rank/GPA
  - Rigor of courses
  - Essays
- May 1 is national deadline by which students need to reply to offer of admission
  - Having an award letter in hand prior to May 1 is critical
  - Understanding costs after accepting offer (e.g., tuition deposit, summer registration fees, etc.)
• Student must be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen to qualify for financial aid from the Department of Education
  • **Having a SSN is not enough to qualify for financial aid**
  • Eligible non-citizens
    • US Permanent Residents
    • I-94 record showing: Refugee, Asylum Granted, Parolee, T-Visa, Cuban-Haitian Entrant
    • Holder of valid certification or eligibility letter from the Dept. of Human Services showing designation of “Victim of human trafficking”
DACA students

FAFSA: “If you are in the US and have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), . . ., select ‘No, I am not a citizen or an eligible noncitizen,’. You will not be eligible for federal student aid. If you have a Social Security Number but are not a citizen or an eligible noncitizen, including if you have been granted DACA, you should still complete the FAFSA because you may be eligible for state or college aid.”

- Not eligible for state aid in Illinois
- Causes confusion for students
- Should work with each individual college office
Do not Encourage FAFSA

* If FAFSA is filled out incorrectly...
  * Awarded aid that they would have to pay back
  * Financial Aid award would be incorrect
  * Legal ramifications
  * Effect ability for immigration reform

* Some states award state aid but students should consult individual colleges.
• Immigration status of parents does not matter for purposes of the FAFSA—eligibility for aid depends on student’s status

• Parent without an SSN needs to enter 000-00-0000 in the SSN section of the parent information

• Do not use an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)
  • It is NOT the same as an SSN
  • ITIN is used by IRS so that an individual without an SSN can fill out information on income tax forms

• Students that file electronically would need to submit the parent signature page through the US mail
Public universities/colleges in Illinois are not permitted to knowingly give state tax money to non-eligible citizens

- Money awarded to students who are not US citizens or eligible non-citizens must come from money that isn’t tax based

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
FINANCIAL OPTIONS for UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS by STATE

* Offered state tuition but rescinded in 2011

** Offers Dreamers Scholarship, but no financial aid

## Eligibility for Financial Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship Status</th>
<th>Federal Aid</th>
<th>State Aid (IL)</th>
<th>Institutional Aid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Citizen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Permanent Resident/Eligible noncitizen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes/No*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes/No*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-eligible noncitizen</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes/No*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Depends on institution
Strategies Used to Lower the Cost of Attendance by DACA students

- Saving money from work as a result of having a work permit
- Finding cheapest housing option, if living on campus
- Renting books or buying used books
- Finding cheapest method of transportation
  - Take public transportation if commuting
  - Buying bus/train tickets ahead of time if going away to college
- Not coming home every weekend, if living on campus
- Take advantage of free social activities on campus—free movie nights, speakers, campus activities—instead of going out
Being Proactive

- Create a budget
  - Avoid running out of money before the end of each term
  - Understanding how to balancing a checkbook
- Take a time-management workshop
  - Avoid working full time and going to college full time
- Seek out employment early during the semester
- Search for scholarships every year
- Re-apply for scholarships that were already received
- Work with college
Resources

- College Guide for Undocumented Students
  www.iacac.org/undocumented

- National Immigrant Justice Center:
  www.immigrantjustice.org or (312) 660-1370

- Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF):
  www.lafchicago.org or (312) 341-1070

- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR):
  www.icirr.org or (312) 332-7360

- Chicago Public Schools:
  www.chooseyourfuture.org/college/undocumented-students

- Illinois Dream Fund
  www.illinoisdreamfund.org
Undocumented Myths

- All are Hispanic
- Intimidated or shy about their status
- Because they have a SS# they are able to apply for financial aid.
- I’m a resident but my parents are undocumented so I can’t file FAFSA
- I am an international student
Undocumented Population 2014

Aurora University

- 2014-2015 Academic Year
- Estimated 2014/Fall First-Year apps = 23
  - 14 enrolled
  - 9 did not enroll
- Total enrolled = 30
  - 2014/Fall First-Year Apps = 14
    - all registered for Spring 2015
    - Returners = 16

Oakton Community College

- 2014-2015 Academic Year
- Estimated total= 150
  - (not all students disclose their status on the application)
Undocumented Applications 2015

Aurora University

* 2015 Fall Applications
  * Total = 29

Oakton Community College

* 2014 Applications
  * Total = 71
* 2015 Applications
  * Total= 55
* Estimated # (not all students check off box on application)
Some students put Citizenship as outside of US, others put US.

We ask them to check Permanent Resident and leave Citizenship blank, however some do not do this.

SS # should be left blank

DO NOT USE SS # from DACA

Currently AU does not have a Undocumented landing webpage
Oakton Community College
Application Process

- Application has a box for Undocumented.
- Just recently we have updated the application with DACA to identify those students.
- Students are now able to apply using 000-00-000 for SS# for online application.
- Currently OCC is working on a webpage for their website to guide undocumented students through the enrollment process.
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

* 2015 Oakton Community College is adding a “DACA” check box
Institutional Aid

Aurora University

- Two page document asking for families income and household size
- See document

Oakton Community College

- Currently no Financial aid form in process to identify undocumented students.
- Financial aid advisers refer undocumented students to scholarships that are available to them.
Road Bumps Encountered

- 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
  - How to count this population?
- Public or Internal forms/information
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
- Educate others to obtain buy in.
- Provide numbers and examples
- Be persistent
Creating a support group

Having a liaison and “Safe Zone” for undocumented students
  * Provide services like scholarship search, tax preparation, psy counseling, budget managing, class advising, etc.
  * Navigate them through college campus

Staying up-to-date

Way to count/track undocumented students

College website with contact info
  * Fundraising
Scholarships

Scholarship Search Engines
* cappex.com
* fastweb.com
* scholarships.com
* scholarshipexperts.com

Illinois Dream Fund
* illinoisdreamfund.org

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
* icirr.org

Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling
* iacac.org

Educators for Fair Consideration
* e4fc.org

DDRL Scholarship Fund
* dllrscholarship.org

Act on a Dream
* actonadream.org/resources/scholarships

Get Ready for College
* getreadyforcollege.org/pdfGR/ScholarshipsUn documented.pdf

Illinois Latino Council for Higher Education (ILACHE)
* jotform.us/ilachescholarship/ILACHE_Scholarship_2014-2015

Latino College Dollars: Scholarships for Latino Students
* latinocollegedollars.org/

LINC Telacu
* Telacu.com/site/en/home/education/applications.html

Migrant Scholarships
* migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/index.htm

International Education Financial Aid
* ieefa.org/scholarships

Hispanic Scholarship Fund
* latinocollegedollars.org
Scholarships Continued

Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF)
- salef.org/

DACA Eligible Scholarships
- roybalallard.house.gov/UploadedFiles/DACA_Eligible_Scholarships.pdf

Hispanic Scholarship Guide (USHLI)
- ushli.org/student/scholarship_guide.php

Dr. Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders
- ushli.org/student/scholarship.php

Scholarships Chicano Organizing & Research in Education-Que Llueva Café Scholarship
- ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe_scholarship_program

College Guide for Undocumented Students
- bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide/

Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus foundation (ILLCF)
- illcf.org/

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/resources/

10,000 Degrees List of Scholarships for Undocumented Students
- 10000degrees.org/students/scholarships/undocumented-students/

East Bay Consortium Scholarship Directory (For U.S. and non-U.S. Citizens)
- eastbayconsortium.org/index.php?s=92

Harvard University Act on a Dream Scholarship List
- actonadream.org/resources/scholarships/

Selected Funding Opportunities Open to Non-US Citizens
- iup.edu/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=56807