

# 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>
- \* 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

# College Essays/Personal Statement

- 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.)



# FAFSA

- 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”

# FAFSA

- \* 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.

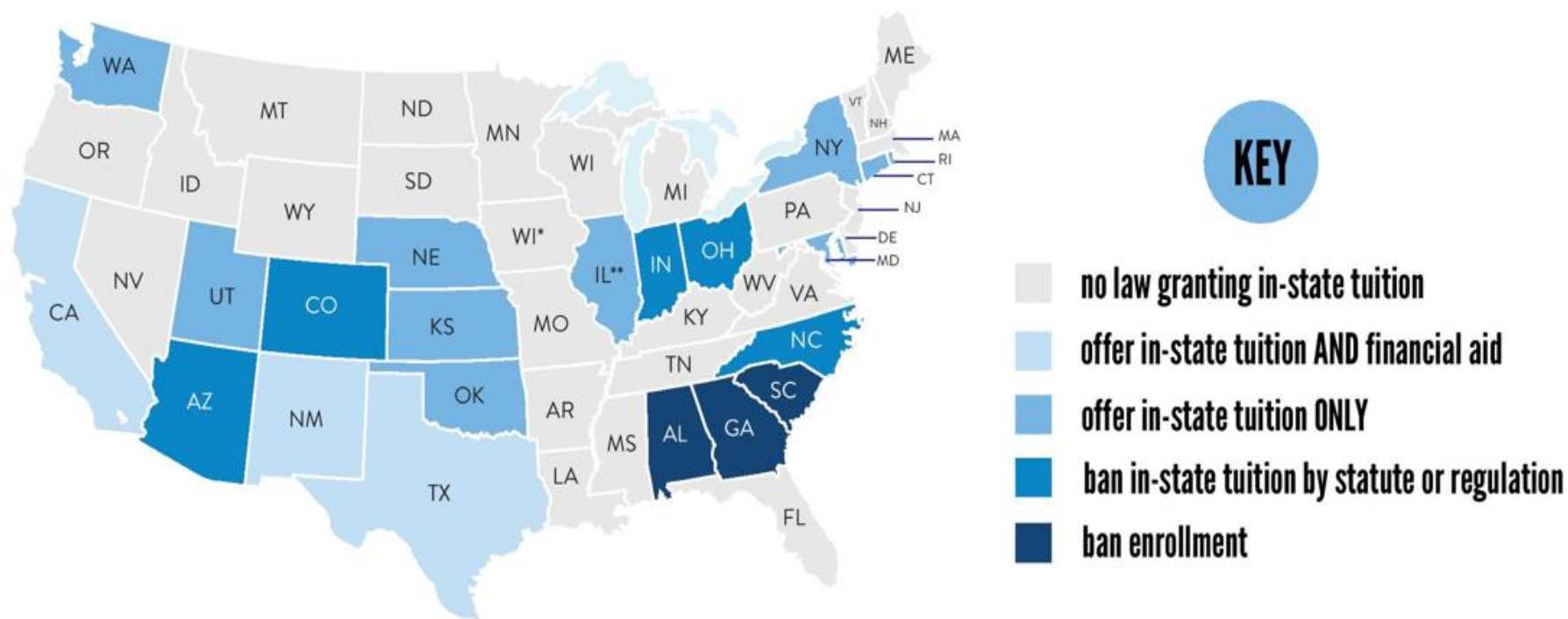
# Parents

- 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

# Institutional Money

- \* 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

† Olivas, Michael. "Dreams Deferred: Deferred Action, Prosecutorial Discretion, and the Vexing Case(s) of Dream Act Students." William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal. 21.463 (2012): 463-547. Web. 17 Jan. 2013.

# 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

# Strategies Used to Lower 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](http://www.iacac.org/undocumented)
- \* National Immigrant Justice Center:  
[www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org) or (312) 660-1370
- \* Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF):  
[www.lafchicago.org](http://www.lafchicago.org) or (312) 341-1070
- \* Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR): [www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org) or (312) 332-7360
- \* Chicago Public Schools:  
[www.chooseyourfuture.org/college/undocumented-students](http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/college/undocumented-students)
- \* Illinois Dream Fund  
[www.illinoisdreamfund.org](http://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

# Case Studies





# 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)

# Aurora University

## Application Process

- \* 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

### Citizenship Information

Primary Citizenship

Dual Citizenship

Residency Status  U.S. Permanent Resident

Social Security Number - If you are planning to file the FAFSA, your social security number is required  (omit dashes) [Privacy Protection Policy](#)

### Race/Ethnicity

Colleges and universities are asked by many groups, including the federal government, accrediting associations, college guides, and newspapers, to describe the ethnic/racial backgrounds of their students and employees. In order to respond to these requests, we ask you to answer the following two questions. [View Definitions](#)

I prefer not to respond

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Yes

No

Regardless of your answer to the prior question, please check *one or more* of the following groups in which you consider yourself to be a member:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Non-resident Alien
- Unknown
- White



# 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.

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Provide your Social Security number (SSN) or your Tax Identification Number (TIN), if one was assigned by the IRS. If you do not have a SSN or TIN, you may still complete this application and enroll in Oakton courses—please leave the field blank. The SSN/TIN are used to meet federal reporting requirements. All Oakton students are assigned a unique Student ID number to identify their Oakton student records.

Veteran  Yes  No If yes, list branch of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. citizen?  Yes  No If no, what is your status in the U.S.?  Amnesty, Parolee, or Refugee

Green Card Holder  I-20 (F-1 Visa) applicant  Visa and Type \_\_\_\_\_  Undocumented

# 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

# What can YOU do...

- \* 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
  - Update College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students-  
<http://www.iacac.org/undocumented/admission-policies/>
  - Fundraising

# Scholarships

## Scholarship Search Engines

- \* [cappex.com](http://cappex.com)
- \* [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)
- \* [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)
- \* [scholarshipexperts.com](http://scholarshipexperts.com)

## Illinois Dream Fund

- \* [illinoisdreamfund.org](http://illinoisdreamfund.org)

## Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

- \* [icirr.org](http://icirr.org)

## Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling

- \* [iacac.org](http://iacac.org)

## Educators for Fair Consideration

- \* [e4fc.org](http://e4fc.org)

## DDRL Scholarship Fund

- \* [ddlrscholarship.org](http://ddlrscholarship.org)

## Act on a Dream

- \* [actonadream.org/resources/scholarships](http://actonadream.org/resources/scholarships)

## Get Ready for College

- \* [getreadyforcollege.org/pdfGR/ScholarshipsUndocumented.pdf](http://getreadyforcollege.org/pdfGR/ScholarshipsUndocumented.pdf)

## Illinois Latino Council for Higher Education (ILACHE)

- \* [jotform.us/ilachescholarship/ILACHE\\_Scholarship\\_2014-2015](http://jotform.us/ilachescholarship/ILACHE_Scholarship_2014-2015)

## Latino College Dollars: Scholarships for Latino Students

- \* [latinocollegedollars.org/](http://latinocollegedollars.org/)

## LINC Telacu

- \* [Telacu.com/site/en/home/education/applications.html](http://Telacu.com/site/en/home/education/applications.html)

## Migrant Scholarships

- \* [migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/index.htm](http://migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/index.htm)

## International Education Financial Aid

- \* [iefa.org/scholarships](http://iefa.org/scholarships)

## Hispanic Scholarship Fund

- \* [latinocollegedollars.org](http://latinocollegedollars.org)

# Scholarships Continued

## **Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF)**

- \* [salef.org/#/](http://salef.org/#/)

## **DACA Eligible Scholarships**

- \* [roybalallard.house.gov/UploadedFiles/DACA\\_Eligible\\_Scholarships.pdf](http://roybalallard.house.gov/UploadedFiles/DACA_Eligible_Scholarships.pdf)

## **Hispanic Scholarship Guide (USHLI)**

- \* [ushli.org/student/scholarship\\_guide.php](http://ushli.org/student/scholarship_guide.php)

## **Dr. Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders**

- \* [ushli.org/student/scholarship.php](http://ushli.org/student/scholarship.php)

## **Scholarships Chicano Organizing & Research in Education-Que Lleva Café Scholarship**

- \* [ca-core.org/que\\_llueva\\_cafe\\_scholarship\\_program](http://ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe_scholarship_program)

## **College Guide for Undocumented Students**

- \* [bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide/](http://bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide/)

## **Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus foundation (ILLCF)**

- \* [illcf.org/](http://illcf.org/)

## **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund**

- \* [maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/resources/](http://maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/resources/)

## **10,000 Degrees List of Scholarships for Undocumented Students**

- \* [10000degrees.org/students/scholarships/undocumented-students/](http://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](http://eastbayconsortium.org/index.php?s=92)

## **Harvard University Act on a Dream Scholarship List**

- \* [actonadream.org/resources/scholarships/](http://actonadream.org/resources/scholarships/)

## **Selected Funding Opportunities Open to Non-US Citizens**

- \* [iup.edu/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=56807](http://iup.edu/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=56807)