

POLICIES, BEST PRACTICES, AND RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

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Agenda



- Mini Quiz
- Why is this important?
- Policies/Statutes/Legislation
- Illinois' Landscape
- Who is an undocumented student?
- Best Practices

Why does it matter?

- Research has shown that the number one barrier for unauthorized students attending higher education is a lack of financial resources to cover the costs. As a result, most unauthorized students will begin at a community college but never finish a four year degree due to the inability to finance their education¹. Less than 10% of unauthorized high school graduates pursue college immediately after high school¹.

Policies, Legislation, Executive Orders

- Plyler v. Doe – 1982
- DREAM Act – 2001-Present
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- In-State Tuition (HB60) – 2003
- Illinois DREAM Act – 2011

Plyler v. Doe (1982)

- UNDER FEDERAL LAW, ALL STUDENTS – REGARDLESS OF CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCY – ARE ENTITLED TO AN EDUCATION

*The U.S. Supreme Court case *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) prohibited states from denying undocumented children a public K-12 education. According to the ruling, denying them that education would create a “**lifetime of hardship**” for undocumented children and a “**permanent underclass**” of individuals. However, nowadays, a high school diploma may not be sufficient.*

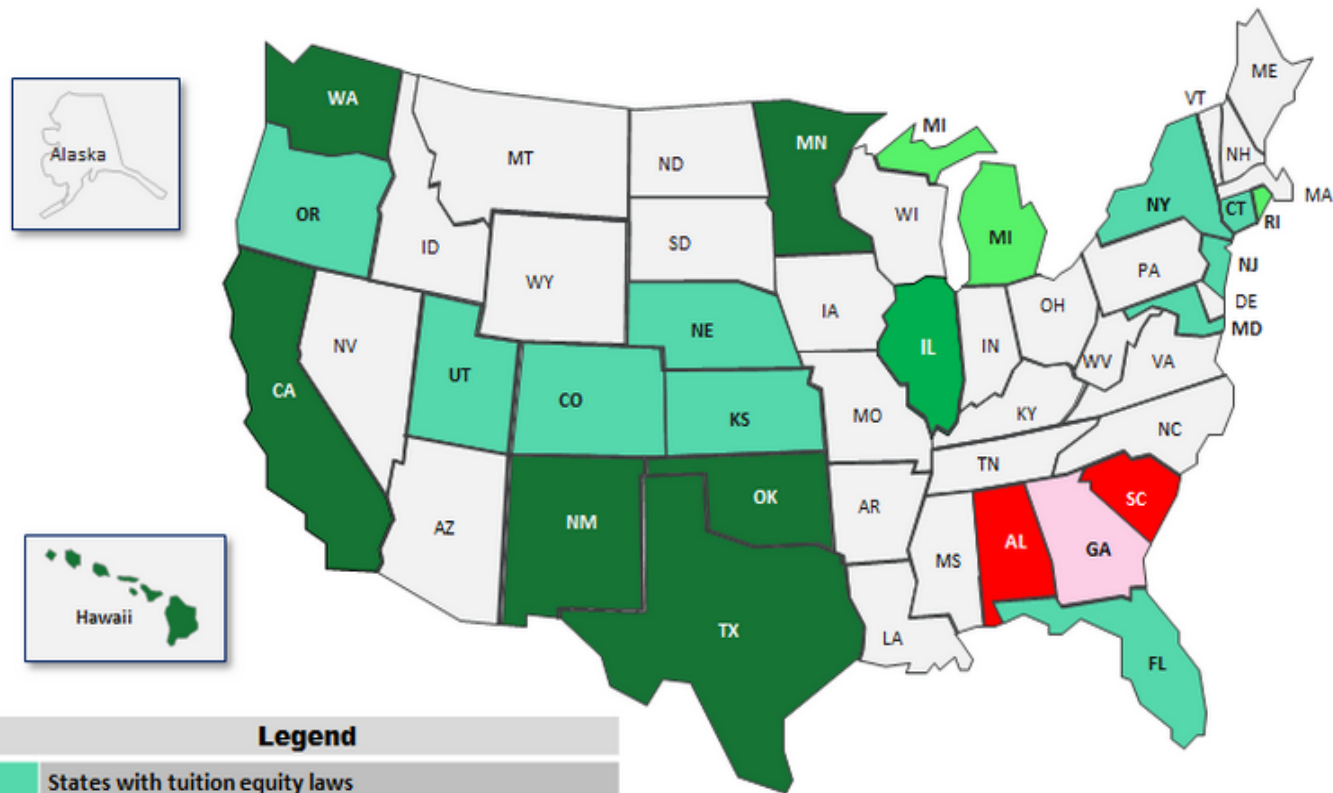
Source: [http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1981/1981_02_1500)

[1989/1981/1981_02_1500](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1981/1981_02_1500)

Federal Legislation

- Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM Act) was first proposed in 2001.
 - Pathway to citizenship if they complete 2-years of college or the military
 - Only a project, still not legislation
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR)
 - Fast-track pathway to citizenship for those with DACA

National Landscape



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – (DACA)

- Arrived in the United States before **turning 16**;
- Have not left the United States since January 1, 2010 (*starting in February 18, 2015*)
- Currently in school; **graduated from high school**/college or obtained a GED; or are honorably discharged veterans;
- Have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, multiple misdemeanors, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety;
- Were under the age of 31 on June 15, 2012 (*will be removed as of February 18, 2015*); and at **least 15 years old at the time of filing**;

In-State Tuition – Illinois

- The 2003 HB60 legislation (also known as Acevedo Bill) provides In-State Tuition to residents of the state of Illinois, so long as the student:
 - graduates from a high school within the state of Illinois;
 - attends school in Illinois for at least 3 years;
 - completes an affidavit stating that he/she will file an application to become a permanent resident of the US at the earliest opportunity to do so.

Undocumented Immigrants in Illinois

- Illinois has set a goal to increase the percentage of the Illinois workforce who hold high quality college credentials to 60% by 2025. Of the estimated 100,000 undocumented immigrants enrolled in two and four year institutions in IL, 78% are juggling work, family and school. Nearly two-thirds have incomes below 200% federal poverty level.
- The Obama administration has already deported more than 2 million immigrants since 2008. It is projected that he will deport 97,000 more immigrants. Within the ILDF online application in 2013-14 (Special Circumstance section) 37% of applicants stated a family member was in deportation proceedings or had already been deported.
- An estimated 13,000 undocumented students in IL will graduate from high school in 2015. An estimated 7 % will financially be able to attend a community college. Financial assistance is said to be the greatest barrier for accessing higher education for this population. Federal Aid is not and cannot be awarded to undocumented immigrants due to policy and legislation.
- Over 500 undocumented students in Illinois completed a FAFSA with their DACA social security number in 2013-14. Wrongfully accepting these funds is a federal offense and students place themselves in danger of deportation.

Illinois DREAM Act – Legislation

- As stated in the appendix of the legislation of the Illinois Dream Act: Within the P-20 educational pipeline mandatory professional development on working with undocumented immigrants and families in Illinois. Institutional best practices in admissions, financial aid and tuition procedures, are to be made public knowledge to prospective applicants.

HB3528 – Public Funding at Universities

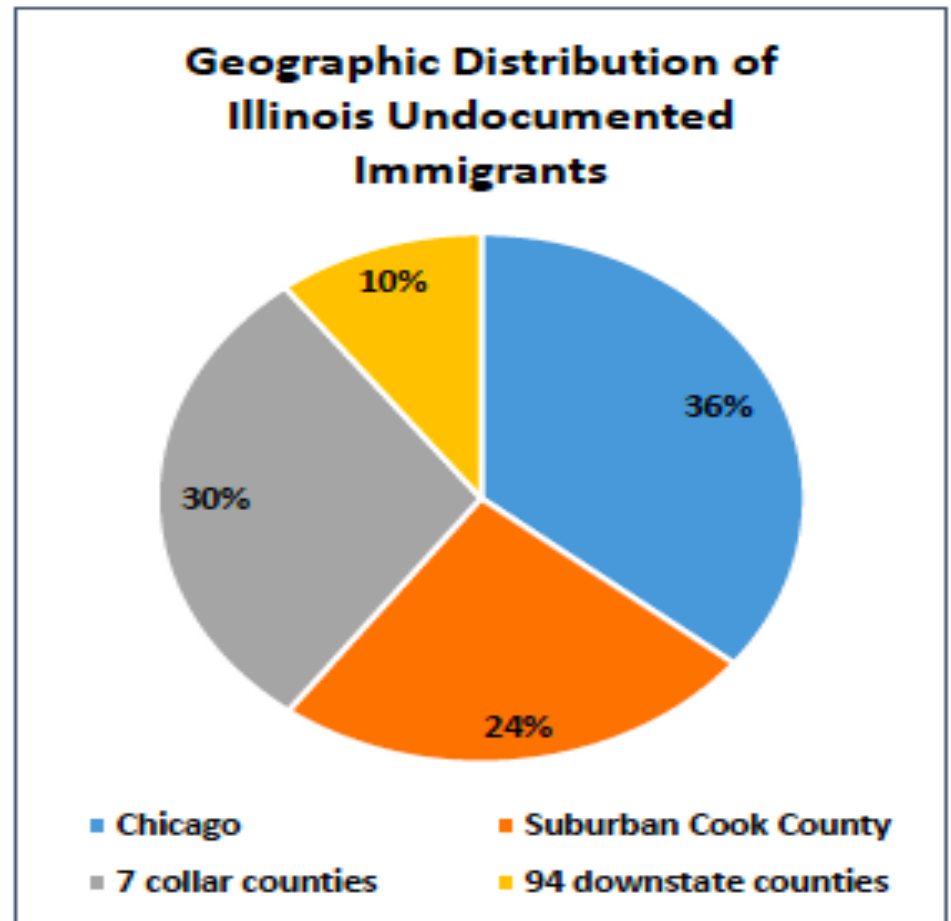
- Currently, universities are legally not allowed to give any public funding to undocumented students
 - i.e. merit aid, tuition waivers, departmental scholarships
- This legislation would give universities the ability to give financial assistance
- Passed out of the Higher Learning Committee by a 10-5 vote

HB3534 – Professional Licensing

- Amends the Department of Professional Regulation Law
- If an individual meets all State requirements for licensures/certification & can legally work in the US, they cannot be denied on the basis of their immigration status.

State of Illinois – Population Distribution

- **Illinois** - Roughly 511,000 undocumented immigrants
- **Chicago** - 183,000
- **Suburban Cook** – 125,000
- **Collar Counties** (DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will) – 151,000
- **Downstate** (94 counties) – 53,000



Age Distribution – Illinois

- 58,000 **under the age of 18** in Illinois
- 19,000 **under the age of 18** in Chicago

Age distribution of Illinois undocumented population				
	Number (share) under 18	Number (share) age 18-24	Number (share) age 25-44	Number (share) age 45 or older
Illinois	58,000 (11%)	78,000 (15%)	298,000 (58%)	77,000 (15%)
Chicago	19,000 (10%)	28,000 (16%)	106,000 (58%)	29,000 (16%)
Suburban Cook	15,000 (12%)	17,000 (14%)	72,000 (58%)	21,000 (17%)
Collar counties	18,000 (12%)	21,000 (14%)	91,000 (61%)	21,000 (14%)
Downstate 94 counties	7,000 (13%)	12,000 (23%)	28,000 (53%)	6,000 (11%)

Quick Facts

- 41,000 have a high school diploma but **never attended college**
- 10,000 **attended college** but don't have a degree
- 21,000 **completed at least** an associate's degree

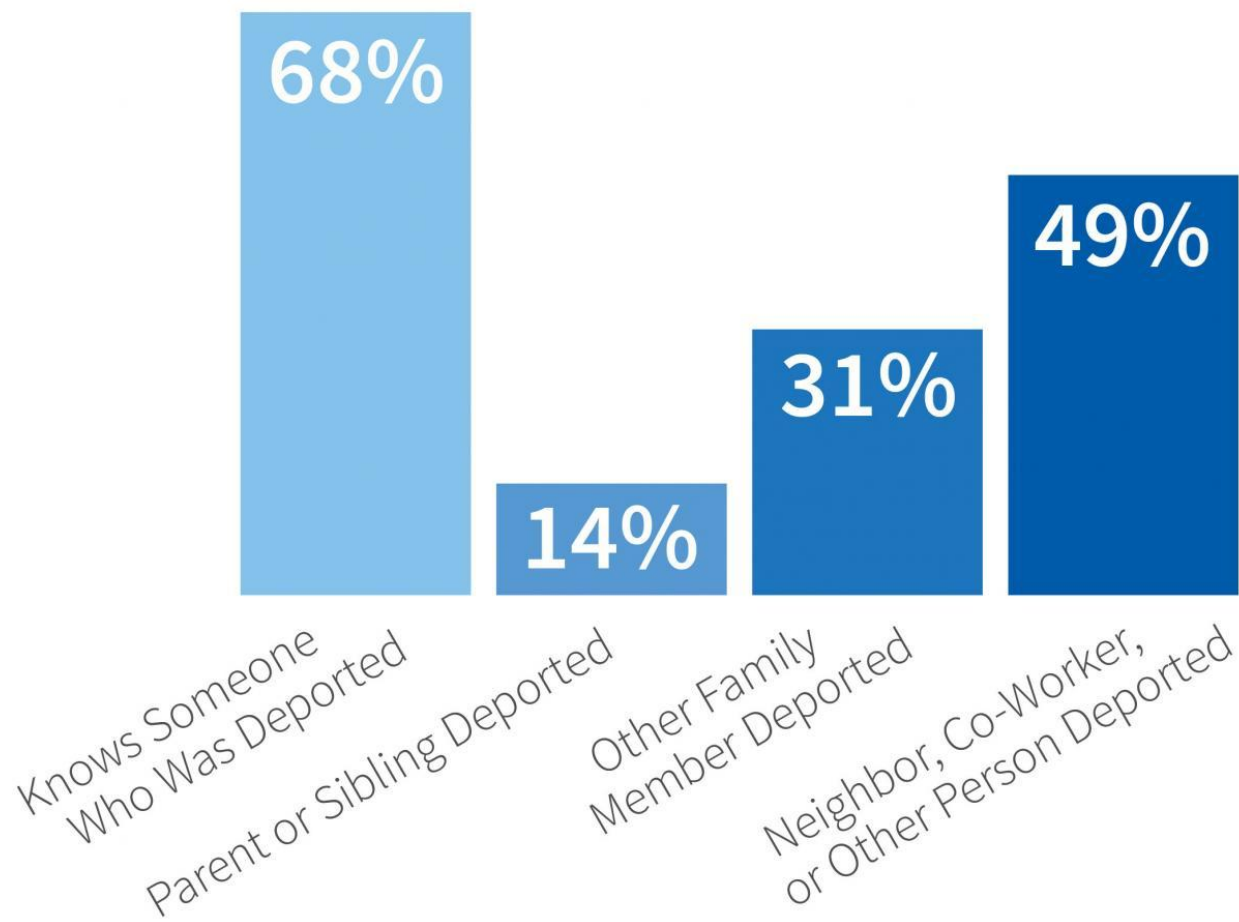
Educational attainment among Illinois undocumented immigrants						
	Undocumented persons 25 years old or older	Did not attend high school	Attended high school, no diploma	Completed high school, no college	Attended college, no degree	Completed at least associate's degree
Illinois	375,000	113,000	63,000	109,000	29,000	61,000
Chicago	135,000	43,000	21,000	41,000	10,000	21,000
Suburban Cook	93,000	27,000	13,000	29,000	8,000	17,000
7 collar counties	112,000	35,000	22,000	30,000	9,000	16,000
Downstate 94 counties	34,000	9,000	6,000	9,000	3,000	7,000

Mixed-Status Households

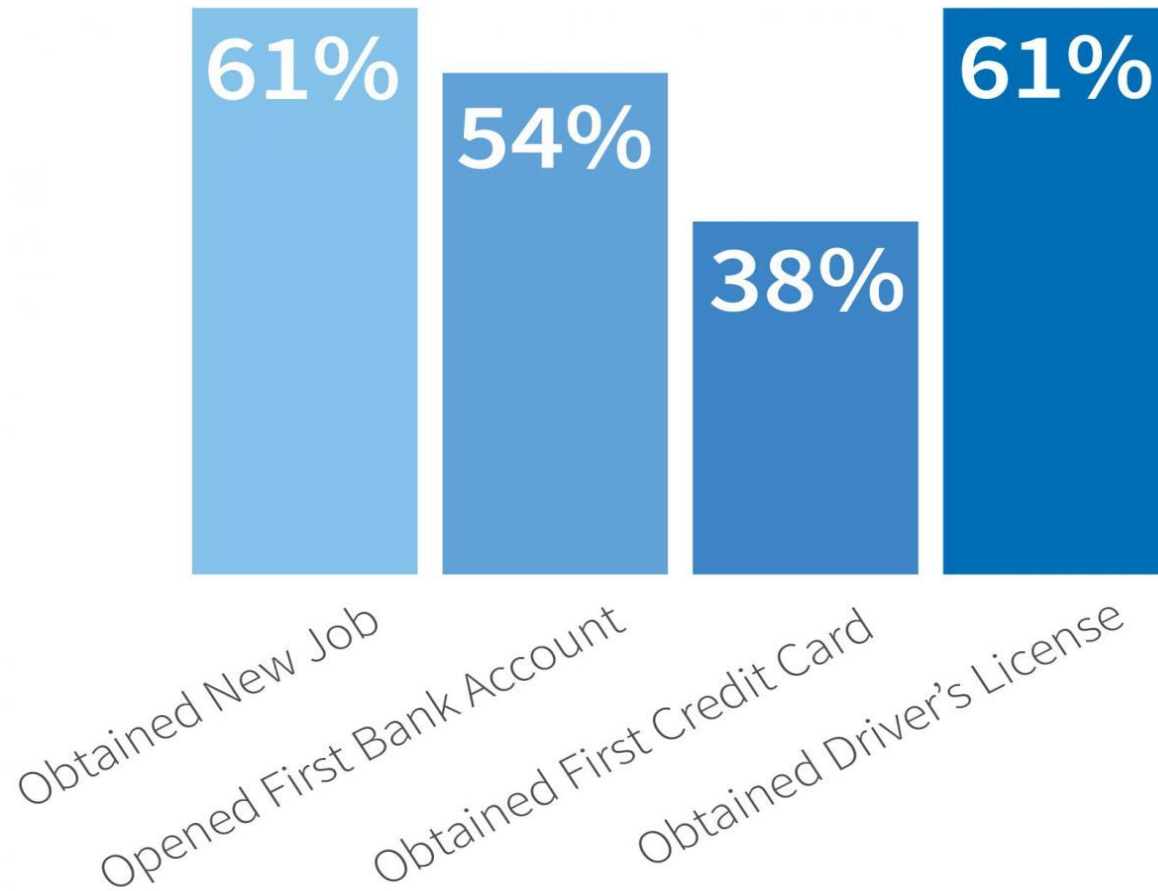
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Illinois households that include undocumented immigrants			
	Total households	Households with at least one undocumented member	Share of total households that have at least one undocumented member
Illinois	4,745,000	237,000	5%
Chicago	1,015,000	85,000	8%
Suburban Cook	904,000	59,000	6%
7 collar counties	1,130,000	69,000	6%
Downstate 94 counties	1,696,000	25,000	1%

DACA Recipients' Connections to Deported Individuals



Economic and Social Incorporation Since Receiving DACA



Who are undocumented students?

- The term “Undocumented Immigrant” refers to foreign-nationals who arrive in the United States one of two ways and reside in the U.S. long term without documentation.

The undocumented enter the country either:

Legally on a tourist, student or work visa, but overstay their visa after it expires.

OR

Without any form of documentation or without being inspected by an officer.

Who are NOT Undocumented Students?

- **Lawful Permanent Residents**

Those who are holders of a “green card”

- **Some VAWA recipients** (Violence Against Women Act)

Those married to or children of an abusive U.S. citizen or permanent resident

- **Refugee & Asylum, Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Conditional Entrant**

People who have been or fear they will be persecuted due to race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion

- **Victims of Human Trafficking**

Those who are holders of a T-Visa

- **Temporary Protected Status (not eligible for FAFSA)**

Immigrants from certain countries are granted this status if it is not safe for them to go back to their home country due to conflict

Mental Health & Other Challenges

- The risk of having an anxiety disorder is even greater for undocumented youth due to uncertainty over their future, fear associated with their status and the social stigma about being undocumented.
- Feeling stigmatized can also have a negative impact on self-esteem and may lead to depression.
- Barriers to Mental Health Treatment:
 - Fear of deportation
 - Lack of health insurance and reluctance in seeking medical care for fear that undocumented status will be revealed
 - Limited affordable resources within the community

Dual Identity & Dealing With Stress

- Undocumented students may not realize their status until they **face rites of passage that require an SSN**.
- Many of them need to balance education and employment.
- Many undocumented students experience high levels of stress regarding financial barriers and citizenship status. This stress, coupled with the fear of deportation, can lead to depression and anxiety.
- Many undocumented students have adult responsibilities, which include working to support their families.
- Please make students aware of school counselors, social workers, psychologists, free clinics, and crisis hotlines.

Best Practices & Internal Resources

- University-Wide:
 - Language – Dropping the I-Word
 - Visuals – “I Support Undocumented Students” or “DREAMer Zone”
 - Education – Staying informed about laws/executive actions/policies that affect the students

Best Practices & Internal Resources

□ Admissions

- Outreach efforts and institutional materials should include information on resources for undocumented students within the institution.
- A how to guide to navigate the application and financial aid process:
 - Clarity on application process – Undocumented Students are not to be processed as international students (they do not possess Visas or able to process through SEVIS)
 - Financial aid – merit vs. need-based scholarships/additional institutional aid
 - Additional resources – Scholarship guide, etc.

Best Practices Continued

- Financial Aid
 - Alternative forms to evaluate financial need and aid to be offered – NOT FAFSA!
 - What supporting documents are required to appeal for additional aid?
 - Identify a Financial Aid Liaison to directly work with these students and their families in understanding the families expected contribution (EFC).
 - Access to private scholarships offered as a continuing student

Two Year to Four Year Options

- From 2-Year to 4-Year
 - Majority start at 2-year colleges
 - Transfer partnerships
 - Transfer credit guides
 - Advising students

Best Practices & Internal Resources

- Academic Advising:
 - From 2-Year to 4-Year
 - CCC Star Scholarship
 - Part-Time vs. Full-Time
 - Financial Resources
 - Payment plans, institutional scholarships
 - Healthcare
 - All-Kids only available until age of 19

University Best Practices - Examples

- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Northern Illinois University
- Aurora University
- Loyola University – Chicago

Resources



www.iacac.org

College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students



<http://www.nasfaa.org/>

- *Undocumented Student Policies by State
- *State Financial Aid Programs
- *Advocacy, Policy & Research
- *Counseling Resources



www.chooseyourfuture.org

Tool kit and Resources for Undocumented Students and Allies

NATIONAL
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE CENTER

A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

www.immigrantjustice.org/

Provides direct legal services to and advocates for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. DACA clinics throughout IL.



www.iyjil.org

Led by undocumented organizers working towards full recognition of the rights and contributions of all immigrants.



EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION

<http://www.e4fc.org/>

*Scholars Program * Outreach Programs * Educational Materials*



ICIRR ILLINOIS COALITION
FOR IMMIGRANT AND
REFUGEE RIGHTS

<http://icirr.org/>

In partnership with member organizations the Coalition, works with immigrant & refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; and advocates on immigrant-related issues.



<http://www.illinoisdreamfund.org/>

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Sources



- Paral, R. (2014). “Illinois’ Undocumented Immigrant Population: Summary of Recent Research.”
- Gonzales, R. (2013). Preliminary Findings from the National UnDACAmented Research Project