

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm BREAKOUT 3 SESSIONS

3A: The Future of DACA

Heritage Room

Katherine Greenslade

Director of Immigrant Justice League Clinic
The Resurrection Project

Since its start in 2011, DACA has faced a number of legal challenges that have impacted the program's ability to accept new or renewal applications. As we await news of the most recent appeals, learn more about the current status of DACA and the possible implications and outcomes of the pending appeals.

3B: Uplifting The Voices of Undocumented Students: Stories of Success

Capitol Room

Cristina Castillo

Director of Undocumented Student Support
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

We often get lost in the struggle and trauma that unfair immigration policies affect our undocumented college students, but their resilience and determination convey the "Sí Se Puede!" Motto.

These are the lessons, struggles and successes of several undocumented students completing their undergraduate and master's degree.

3C: NIU's Undocumented Student Resource Center

Regency Room

Dra. Sandy López

Director of the Undocumented Student Resource Center
Northern Illinois University

Angélica Mendoza

Assistant Director
Northern Illinois University

As a result of Public Act 102-0475 (HB 3438), public institutions of higher education in Illinois are required to designate a person as an undocumented student liaison to assist both undocumented and mixed status students on their campuses. Northern Illinois University (NIU) dedicated an office with this charge in 2018 due to the mobilization and advocacy of the undocumented students of DREAM Action NIU. In 2022, the office became the first Undocumented Resource Student Center (USRC) in the state. The USRC is a physical space that offers wraparound services, such as inviting scholars and artists to speak about the experiences of undocumented individuals, mental health well-being support, scholarship workshops, and UndocuJoy events so our students can thrive and not just survive. The USRC also addresses exclusionary institutional policies and advocates at both the state and federal levels for our undocumented Huskies. This presentation shares best practices and lessons learned while honoring and centering undocumented students and those directly affected in all that we do.

3D: Advancing Support for Undocumented Students Through The Inclusion, Access, and Success Committee

Lupe Flores

Admissions Counselor
Northern Illinois University

Dave Marcial, P.h.D.

Dean of Enrollment Services
Moraine Valley Community College

The Inclusion Access Success (IAS) Committee is excited to share space with professionals interested in such topics related to improving practices and overall navigating the higher education landscape for students, colleagues and the community overall especially those from historically underrepresented backgrounds. The vision for Sharing the Dream Conference was a direct result of the work done by the IAS committee.

Join us during this session to learn about the history of IAS and future opportunities to develop ideas, including bringing to action research findings from a recent dissertation regarding admissions professionals as they support undocumented students in obtaining access to higher education in the State of Illinois.

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm CLOSING REMARKS

Sandburg Auditorium

Sara Espinosa

Manager, Training and Development
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Dra. Sandy López

Director of the Undocumented Student Resource Center
Northern Illinois University



Sharing the Dream Planning Committee

Committee Chairs

Alejandro Campos, University of St. Francis
Sara Espinosa, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Daniel Tamayo, Northern Illinois University
Jhonathan Vallecilla, Cornell College

Committee Members

Cristina Castillo, Southern Illinois University
Nadia Flores, HFS Chicago Scholars
Lupe Flores, Northern Illinois University
Mayra Lagunas, Northern Illinois University
Sandy López, Northern Illinois University
Angélica Mendoza, Northern Illinois University
Abel Montoya, Illinois Student Assistance Commission



Wednesday, May 18, 2023 • 7:30 am – 3:30 pm • #sharingthedream2023

Welcome to the 9th Annual Sharing the Dream Conference! We thank this year's conference host, Northern Illinois University (NIU), for their continued support and for hosting the conference once again. The Sharing the Dream Conference planning committee and NIU staff have worked tirelessly to put together another great conference for you this year, the first one in person since 2019. While we understand there are repercussions and challenges still stemming from the pandemic, we are happy to see you back in person. We welcome and thank you for joining us today as we continue to work towards making Illinois a safer space for our undocumented communities.

The past few years exposed numerous challenges faced by the immigrant community but also highlighted the resiliency of undocumented people to survive. As you participate in today's conference, we challenge each of you to be critical of your role as an advocate for undocumented students and consider how you center the realities that our undocumented communities have lived.

Although we have come very far, there is still much work left to be done. Our goal is that this year's conference will equip you with additional tools and resources needed as you engage this work. Today's sessions will highlight immigration policy updates, best practices from higher education practitioners, and the importance of highlighting mental health in our spaces. Most importantly, this conference will highlight and center the voices of our undocumented students. We will hear directly from them about the challenges and experiences they have faced while navigating the higher education space.

Time and again the experiences of undocumented students and undocumented professionals are highlighted as references, but their contributions remain obscured. While we are grateful for presenters and organizers alike, we would like to acknowledge the continuous work and achievements of undocumented folks in advancing access to higher education.

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Special thanks to



Northern Illinois University



Sharing *the* Dream

7:30 am - 8:30 am REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
Duke Ellington Ballroom

8:30 am - 8:45 am WELCOME
Sandburg Auditorium

Sara Espinosa
Manager, Training & Development
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Dra. Sandy López
Director of the Undocumented Student Resource Center
Northern Illinois University

Dr. Lisa Freeman
President
Northern Illinois University



8:45 am - 9:30 am KEYNOTE
Sandburg Auditorium

Yosimar Reyes
Acclaimed Poet and Public Speaker

Yosimar Reyes is an acclaimed Poet and Public Speaker with a national following. Raised in East Side San Jose after migrating from Guerrero, Mexico, Reyes centers his work around themes of migration, sexuality, and culture. The Advocate named Reyes one of "13 LGBT Latinos Changing the World,"

and Remezcla included him on their list of "10 Up And Coming Latinx Poets You Need To Know."

9:30 am - 10:15 pm STUDENT PANEL
Sandburg Auditorium

Northern Illinois University students
(undergraduate, graduate, and alumni)

For undocumented students, challenges due to immigration status can impact various aspects of their postsecondary planning and application process and later influence their options post-graduation. In this session we will learn about life during and after college from a panel of current college students and recent college graduates. Panelists will discuss their personal path to a college degree and the challenges and successes they faced in starting their careers. They will also share advice on how counselors, educators, and advocates can better support their student's journey to college and beyond.

10:30 am - 11:30 am BREAKOUT 1 SESSIONS

1A: Cafecito Sin Azúcar
Heritage Room

Cindy Agustin
Director, Student Support Services
University of Chicago

Quintiliano Ríos Pérez
Interim Assistant Dean of Undocumented Student Resources & Student Care
Northeastern Illinois University

Joselin Cisneros
Education Fellow
The Kresge Foundation

UndocuProfessionals will share their collective wisdom to guide institutions and organizations on how to support undocumented students and professionals with the uncertainty of DACA. UndocuProfessionals will share how they are navigating their professions while DACA is at risk of being terminated, discuss the challenges with supporting a new generation of emerging undocumented professionals, and provide space for attendees to share and discuss best practices.

1B: Immigration 101
Capitol Room

Anita Maddali
Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Law
Northern Illinois University

With an ever changing immigration landscape, this workshop will give a general lay of the land on the current immigration policies that affect students as they pursue a postsecondary credential and potential paths to residency.

1C: Documenting Joy
Regency Room

Yosimar Reyes
Acclaimed poet and Public Speaker

In this writing workshop, participants will explore their cultural powers as well as how we can transform our narratives to stories of strength.

1D: Career Pathways for Undocumented Students
Illinois Room

Candy Marshall
President
TheDream.US

Melanny Buitron
Program Manager
TheDream.US

Dra. Sandy López
Director of the Undocumented Student Resource Center
Northern Illinois University

TheDream.US staff and graduate students
We have almost 20,000 undocumented students enrolled in Illinois colleges and universities today. These students are talented, diverse, and eager to pursue careers that will enable them to support their families and contribute to their communities. All they need is an opportunity.

Let's do a deep dive into how higher education and businesses can help support and prepare these emerging entrepreneurs. TheDream.US and a panel of its graduates will focus on effective practices that universities and businesses can take to support undocumented students in their career journeys. We will share inclusive career models for internships, experiential fellowships, and entrepreneurial education as well as resources to support undocumented students' career development.

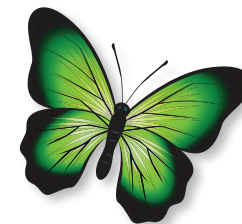
11:45 am - 12:45 pm LUNCH

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm BREAKOUT 2 SESSIONS

2A: The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid and Undocumented Students
Capitol Room

Abel Montoya
Director of Outreach Operations
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

ISACorps members have assisted qualifying undocumented students in applying for the state's Monetary Award Program (MAP) through the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, since it became available in January 2020; however, confusion often arises as to who should fill out the Alternative App versus the FAFSA, especially with blended status families. During this session, individuals will get an overview of the Alternative Application, learn about the differences between the Alternative App & the FAFSA, hear what mistakes we see families make, and how to be proactive with families to successfully submit the Alternative Application or the FAFSA.



2B: Nothing for us, about us, without us!
Regency Room

DREAM Action NIU Board Members

This session will share the history of DREAM Action NIU's decade of resistance on Northern Illinois University's campus. The undocumented student organization and allies began a movement and not a moment on NIU's campus that challenged inequitable practices. More importantly, it created visibility and support for undocumented students. Attend and learn about the shift in NIU's culture regarding undocumented students due to the advocacy of DREAM Action. Join these student activists to connect and continue the legacy of advocacy that resulted in an Undocumented Student Resource Center, funding that includes an emergency fund specifically for undocumented students, and other services that ensure institutions do not just enroll but truly serve undocumented students.

2C: Supporting the Mental Health Well-being of Undocumented Students
Illinois Room

Dana Rusch
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
University of Illinois at Chicago

Learn about the mental health challenges associated with being undocumented. Using their experience as a mental health provider and policy advocate, the presenter will share how you can support students and families currently experiencing mental health issues and/or trauma associated with their undocumented status.

2D: The Undocumented Americans: Book Discussion Session
Heritage Room

Mayra Lagunas
Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Services and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Northern Illinois University

Katy Saalfeld
Senior Associate Director, Admissions Recruitment and Outreach

Modeled after the NIU Common Reading Experience, this session will provide participants an opportunity to foster community, explore new perspectives, and engage in critical thinking about the humanity surrounding issues of immigration. In preparation for this session, we welcome you to purchase or rent *The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio.