

Sharing *the* Dream

Supporting Undocumented Students Everywhere



Wednesday, May 19, 2021 • A Virtual Event • 9 am – 3 pm • #sharingthedream2021

Welcome to the 7th Annual Sharing the Dream Conference! This year we are excited to host this event at no cost to participants. The past year has exposed numerous challenges that the immigrant community has faced, but also highlighted the resiliency of undocumented people to survive. It is that same resiliency with which we encourage all of you to join us today as we continue to make Illinois a safer space for our undocumented communities. Although we have come very far, we recognize that there is still much work left to be done.

Our hope is that through today's sessions, we may provide you with additional tools needed to equip you as you engage this work, ¡en la lucha! We will offer sessions that highlight immigration policy updates, discuss best practices from higher education institutions and community-based organizations, and the importance of highlighting mental health in our spaces.

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. Time and again the experiences of undocumented students are highlighted as references but their contributions remain obscured. As participants go through today's sessions, we challenge you each to be critical of your role as an advocate of undocumented students, and consider how you center the realities that our undocumented families have lived.

We also encourage all of you to be aware of and support HB3438 which is currently in the Illinois General Assembly. HB3438 would require that every public 4-year and 2-year institution create an undocumented resource center and liaison position, who will be tasked with providing support services including financial aid assistance, academic counseling, peer support services, psychological counseling, as well as referral and legal services. Though this is just one of many initiatives to make higher education more accessible, there are many other ways to support and contribute. The time is now to fight for a better tomorrow! We look forward to engaging with everyone in this pivotal moment in history.

Supported by



Special thanks to



Visit www.iacac.org/undocumented for more resources and to access the College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students.

Sharing *the* Dream



WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Sara Espinosa

*Manager, Professional Development
Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

Jhonathan Vallecilla

*Regional Admissions Counselor
Southern Illinois University*

Austin A. Lane

*Chancellor
Southern Illinois University*

Celina Villanueva

*Illinois State Senator
11th Senate District*

Roberto Valdez

*Senior External Affairs
Latino Policy Forum*

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. SESSION I WORKSHOPS

What Does Immigration Status Really Mean to You? How Can Your School/University Support DACA and Undocumented Students?

Rachel Haos

*Assistant Dean of Students
Alverno College*

In this interactive session, participants will have an opportunity to understand what it means to constantly navigate life while thinking about immigration status. Participants will also discuss ways to support DACA and undocumented students at their school and on their campus.

The RISE Act: Lessons Learned

Joe Freeman

*Director of College Counseling
Beacon Academy*

Steven Landgraf

*Manager of Illinois Recruitment
Michigan State University*

In this session, we will review the multi-year, multi-organization process that occurred in Illinois to expand state financial aid resources to undocumented students and others who do not qualify for Federal Student Aid. We will then discuss current practices in Illinois with the Alternative Application for State Aid and will share the lessons we learned with advocates from other states working to advance similar bills through their legislatures.

The Importance of Self-Advocacy Skill in Hispanic and Undocumented Students

Cristina Castillo

*Coordinator, Hispanic/Latino Resource Center
Southern Illinois University*

Latino college students are the fastest growing population in the United States. However, Latino educational attainment yields behind, and more so for undocumented students. This special population needs additional attention in the form of financial, emotional, academic, and cultural support in order to persist, thrive and succeed in higher education. This presentation is for school counselors. It will focus on providing them information and tools that work well with this underrepresented student population to help them increase Self-Advocacy skills, that will conduce them to increase self-efficacy, and self-empowerment to confidently navigate higher education.

Immigration 101

Rocio Becerril

*Attorney at Law, Immigration
Law Office of RSB*

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 college credential and potential paths to residency.

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. SESSION II WORKSHOPS

Career Counseling for Undocumented and Immigrant Student Populations

Pamela Fullerton

LCPC

Advocacy & Education Consulting, LLC

This session will educate and engage clinicians in the process of supporting undocumented and immigrant populations in equity minded career counseling. Presenter will share a variety of theoretical frameworks, creative approaches, and practical applications to support clinicians in gaining awareness of their own strengths and growing edges within this work. Participants should come prepared to engage in critical reflection of systems of oppression and implicit bias as they pertain to this special population and career implications.

Participants will gain an understanding and background of documentation status including key terms and laws pertaining to this population, evidence based career counseling theory and practices, and empowering students through a collaborative partnership. Special attention will be paid to increasing advocacy and social justice skills.

Helping High Achieving Undocumented Students Expand Their College List

Jessica Rosenberg

Assistant Director of College Counseling
Schuler Scholar Program

Ellen Bakker

College Counselor
Schuler Scholar Program

Joana Sosa

Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Schuler Scholar Program

Too often, high achieving undocumented students assume that their only options for being able to afford to attend college is to stay local or apply to an ivy league institution. We hope that by sharing our experiences and research that you will be able to help your undocumented students who are high achieving realize they have more opportunities available to them than what they might first expect. We will share a list of schools with the best financial aid for undocumented students, tips for standing out in the pool, address the realities and challenges of traveling for college when undocumented, and walk through the benefits these colleges will provide your students.



Resources for First-Generation Undocumented Students

Cindy Agustin

Director of Community and College Engagement

Chicago Scholars serves thousands of first-generation college students from across Chicago through its 7+ year programming model. Over the past 3 years, we have supported scores of undocumented students through the college and financial aid process, securing internships, career exploration, and building their networks. As we have scaled in our approach, we have built training resources for our college counselors, mentors, and staff to better serve undocumented students. In this session, we will share best practices, lessons learned, and opportunities for future collaboration with other stakeholders.

Love Crosses Borders: An Overview of World Relief's Experience Serving Asylum Seekers

Peter Zigterman

Director of Immigrant Family Services
World Relief Chicagoland

This session proposes a discussion about the institutional resources and challenges in serving asylum seekers from the perspective of a social service agency. Presenter will draw on the practitioner's experience as WRC launched the Asylum Project in 2019 and since then have served over 50 clients from +20 countries

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. BREAK

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. SESSION III WORKSHOPS

Impact of DREAMers and Undocumented Students Access to Higher Education: Findings from Interviews with 33 DREAMers

Julia Albarracin, Ph.D.

Professor
Western Illinois University

Rebekah Buchanan, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Western Illinois University

Marcy Olague-Jamaica

Bilingual Admissions Counselor
Pikes Peak Community College

This session will share the findings from interviews with 33 DREAMers about their experiences with their high school counselors. Some ways on how to better reach out to DACA and undocumented students will be offered. Participants will work in groups to develop some actions to increase access to higher education of DACA and undocumented students.

Undocumented Student Mental Health in School and College Settings

Oliver Camacho
Counselor
Northern Illinois University

The Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health (CIMH) is a collaborative community based and research informed partners that includes counselors, educators, and social advocates. This session will cover background, history, social justice, and multicultural frameworks to strengthen the competencies of student support personell working with undocumented and refugee students. We will explore evidence-based techniques that participants can employ to support the social/emotional, academic and career development of students. We will also address best practices for supporting diverse student mental health needs through a multi-tier system of support in schools.

Family Well-being in the Current Immigration Context

Sarah Cartagena
Immigration Analyst
Latino Policy Forum

The purpose of this presentation is to provide issue education on current and proposed rules changes in immigration, and discuss how it affects the well-being of students, families and communities. Since the new administration has taken office, there have been several proposed legislative efforts and executive actions issued to begin to undo the harm caused during the last four years. This presentation aims to provide the public with accurate and timely information to ensure that community members are equipped to make informed decisions regarding their use of public benefit programs and well-being.

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. STUDENT PANEL

Student Panelists
Panel moderated by *Cristina Castillo*
Coordinator, Hispanic/Latino Resource Center
Southern Illinois University

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

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS

Jhonathan Vallecilla
Regional Admissions Counselor
Southern Illinois University

Alejandro Campos
Admissions Counselor
University of St. Francis

Sara Espinosa
Manager, Professional Development
Illinois Student Assistance Commission



Sharing the Dream Conference Planning Committee

Committee Chairs

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

Committee Members

Nadia Flores, Knox College
Alicia Funes, East Leyden High School
Celina Hernandez, University of Illinois at Chicago
Faviola Kallas, Northeastern Illinois University
Mayra Lagunas, University of Illinois at Chicago
Sandy López, Northern Illinois University
Abel Montoya, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Luis Narvaez, Chicago Public Schools
Rigo Padilla Pérez, Solorio Academy High School