

Sharing *the* Dream

Supporting Undocumented Students Everywhere



Wednesday, May 18, 2022 • A Virtual Event • 9 am – 3:15 pm • #sharingthedream2022

Welcome to the 8th Annual Sharing the Dream Conference! This year we are excited to host this event at no cost to participants. We thank this year's conference host, Southern Illinois University (SIU) for their continued support and willingness to host this conference. Since 2020, current and former SIU staff have worked tirelessly to host the conference on campus.

While we would have loved to see you in person, we understand the challenges and repercussions still stemming from the pandemic and hope to see you all in person in the near future. The past couple of years have exposed numerous challenges that the immigrant community has faced but also highlighted the resiliency of undocumented people to survive. In light of that, we welcome and thank you for joining us today as we continue to work towards making 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 goal is that this year's

conference may equip you with additional tools and resources needed as you engage this work, ¡en la lucha! Today's sessions will highlight immigration policy updates, best practices from higher education practitioners, and the importance of highlighting mental health in our spaces. We will also hear directly from students about the challenges and experiences they have faced while navigating the higher education space.

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 and undocumented professionals are highlighted as references but their contributions remain obscured. As you go through today's sessions, we challenge each of you 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.

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Special thanks to



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

Sharing *the* Dream



9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Austin Lane
Southern Illinois University

Cristina Castillo
*Undocumented Student Advocate & Program Coordinator
for Hispanic/Latino Resource Center
Southern Illinois University*

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. SESSIONS I WORKSHOPS

Immigration 101

Irakere Picón
Immigration Attorney

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.

Be the Change Through Advocacy

Emily Tabeek
*Senior Admissions Counselor
Southern Illinois University*

Do you ever read news about state/federal education policy/funding decisions and wish that your thoughts, experiences or opinions were solicited before decisions were made? Most of us want to advocate for our students & institutions on the local/state/national level, but we don't know where to start! When it comes to college admissions and school counseling YOU are the expert. IACAC's Government Relations committee will teach you how to use your experiences to advocate for policy change.

Being an Unafraid and Unapologetic Accomplice: A Dialogue on How Faculty and Staff Can Support Students

Dr. Beth Hatt,
*Professor
Illinois State University*

Dr. Cynthia Taines
*Associate Professor
Northern Illinois University*

Dr. Simón E. Weffer-Elizondo
*Associate Professor, Sociology
and The Center for Latino & Latin American Studies
Northern Illinois University*

This session will provide a space for students, faculty, and staff doing advocacy on college campuses to share about their work, support one another, and provide information for students, faculty, and staff wanting to do more on college campuses.

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. SESSIONS II WORKSHOPS

Alternative Application & FAFSA Mandate

Sara Espinosa
*Manager, Professional Development
Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

While financial aid is now available to qualifying undocumented students in Illinois, the Alternative Application can be a complicated process to navigate. Learn more about the application as well as the newly implemented FAFSA Graduation Requirement for public high school students in Illinois and how undocumented students can meet this requirement.

Empowering Undocumented Student's Mental Health: A Multicultural and Social Justice Perspective

Oliver Camacho
*Doctoral Candidate, Counseling Ed. and Supervision
Northern Illinois University*

This session will review social justice and multicultural frameworks to strengthen the competencies of student support personnel (e.g., educators, school counselors, academic advisors college counselors, etc.) who work with undocumented students in high school and college. It will explore evidence-based theories and systems that participants can employ to support the social/emotional development of students. We will also address best practices for supporting diverse student mental health needs through the multi-tier systems of support (MTSS).

Not Everyone Has DACA

Susana Sandoval Vargas
*Legislative Staff Attorney
MALDEF*

Dr. Fernanda Campos
Doctor of Physical Therapy

Over the last 10 years, DACA has faced many legal challenges. While it provides temporary relief via employment authorization and stay from deportation for many, it is important to remember that it is not available to all. Participants in this session will learn about IL professional licenses, who is eligible, and how students and professionals who are not DACA eligible are impacted.

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. BREAK

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. SESSIONS III WORKSHOPS

Financial Aid and Pitfalls to Avoid with Tax Filing

Abel Montoya

*Director of Outreach Operations
Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

Paying for college can be challenging for anyone, but especially so for undocumented students. With many undocumented students in Illinois now eligible for the state grant via the Alternative Application, it is essential that students complete their financial aid application correctly and avoid certain pitfalls of filing (or not filing) a tax return. In this session, attendees will learn what pitfalls to avoid with filing a tax return and other issues that can prevent a student from receiving the financial aid to which they're entitled.

Best Practices & Resources for Undocumented & Mixed-Status Students

Sandy López, Ph.D.

*Director of Undocumented Student Support
Northern Illinois University*

Tanya Cabrera

*Chair
Illinois Dream Fund*

News about legislative changes creates confusion and anxiety for undocumented and mixed status households. This makes it more difficult for students to attend and successfully matriculate within institutions of higher education. With an estimated 427,000 undocumented students enrolled in institutions across the U.S. it is vital that we share resources and legislative updates with those directly serving this population. Within this session we will share recent legislative changes in Illinois, along with actions taking place at the national level. Through a collective effort the Illinois Dream Fund, will share best practices and resources for assisting, advocating, and closing equity gaps for undocumented and mixed status students at institutions of higher education.

Culturally Responsive Practices for Serving Undocumented Immigrant Community

Pamela Fullerton

*Professional Counselor, Clinical Supervisor, and Consultant
Advocacy & Education Consulting*

This session will educate and engage helping professionals in the process of supporting the undocumented population in equity minded counseling. Participants will engage in critical reflection of systems of oppression and implicit bias as they pertain to this special population, with a particular focus on educational and career implications. Participants will also gain an understanding and background of documentation status including key terms and laws pertaining to this population, evidence-based counseling theory and practices, and empowering clients through a collaborative partnership. Special attention will be paid to increasing advocacy and social justice skills.

The Importance of Self-Advocacy Skills in Undocumented Students

Cristina Castillo

*Undocumented Student Advocate & Program Coordinator
for 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.

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. STUDENT PANEL

Moderated by

Cristina Castillo

*Undocumented Student Advocate & Program Coordinator for
Hispanic/Latino Resource Center Southern Illinois University*

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 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 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
Alicia Funes, East Leyden High School
Faviola Kallas, Northeastern Illinois University
Mayra Lagunas, University of Illinois at Chicago
Sandy López, Northern Illinois University
Erica Manzo, Farragut Career Academy
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