

# Sharing *the* Dream

*Supporting Undocumented Students Everywhere*



**Northern Illinois University**

Barsema Hall • DeKalb, Illinois

**#sharingthedream2019**

**O**n behalf of the Illinois Association for College Admissions Counseling, the Inclusion, Access, and Success Committee, and the Sharing the Dream Conference Committee, we welcome you to the 5th Annual Sharing the Dream Conference. We are thrilled to be able to come together once again in the common pursuit of access and support for undocumented students.

The monarch butterfly has become an emblem in support of undocumented immigrants because it is representative of the beauty in migration. Every year, millions of monarchs follow patterns of migration established through ancestral routes. It is a phenomenon incomprehensible to scientists given that multiple generations are reproduced within a single year of flight and the course remains a natural instinct to new generations. When faced with harsh conditions they survive by forming colonies with the outermost group protecting those in the interior. There is something to be learned about the duty and responsibility that the outside butterflies have accepted in their task to protect the ones within.

Although the diaspora is best known for its patterns across North America, the monarch's range extends worldwide. Undocumented immigrants, too, come from a variety of places, identify with a myriad of experiences, and exist in intersectional spaces. Today we call on you to listen, learn, and engage. We encourage you to think critically of the role you play in providing access and safe spaces within your environment. We hope to provide you with tools and resources to create those spaces if they do not currently exist.

The ability to dream is not restricted to only individuals with formal status in the United States, nor is it halted by the creation of borders and walls. We thank you for actively engaging in protecting, defending, and empowering undocumented populations in pursuit of their dreams by attending today's conference. Together we can empower our students to pursue dreams and continue their life with dignity in the United States. We also extend our eternal gratitude to Northern Illinois University and everyone who helped make this conference possible.

Special thanks to



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# Sharing *the* Dream



## Agenda

**7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast**  
**Atrium**

**8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Welcome**  
**Auditorium**

**Sandy López**, *Undocumented Student Support Coordinator, Northern Illinois University*  
**Lisa Freeman**, *President, Northern Illinois University*

**8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Keynote**  
**Auditorium**

**Amalia Pallares**



Amalia Pallares is Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost for Diversity at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). In this capacity she oversees UIC's seven Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change, as well as multiple initiatives for student, faculty, and staff

inclusion and equity in the Office of Diversity. Her books include "Family Activism: Immigrant Struggles and the Politics of Non-Citizenship"; "Marcha: Latino Chicago and the Immigrant Rights Movement" (co-edited with Nilda Flores Gonzalez); and "From Peasant Struggles to Indian Activism: the Ecuadorian Andes in the Twentieth Century."

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. WORKSHOP SESSIONS I**

**UndocuQueer Students of Color**

**Auditorium**

**Dra. Aurora Chang**, *Assistant Professor and Program Chair, Loyola University Chicago*

This session will focus on the intersectional experiences of UndocuQueer students. We will focus specifically on the ways in which UndocuQueer students define their identities, the opportunities and challenges they face, and how they navigate educational systems, policies, and practices. We explore the forms of agency that UndocuQueer students employ in their daily lives and discuss ways in which educators can support their personal and educational trajectories.

**Understanding Immigrant Mental Health**

**Room 231**

**María Ferrera**, *Associate Professor, DePaul University*  
**Virginia Quiñónez**, *Director, Educational Effectiveness, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology*

Learn about the mental health challenges associated with being undocumented. In this session, participants will learn how to support students and families currently experiencing mental health issues and/or trauma associated with their undocumented status.

**CIELUS Scholarship Fair for Undocumented Students**

**Room 127**

**Jesus Magaña**, *Executive Director, Mind+Hand*  
**Joanna Maravilla**, *Refugee & Immigrant Student Advocate, Chicago Public Schools*  
**Miguel Saucedo**, *Director of Strategic Partnerships and Special Populations, Chicago Public Schools*

Paying for college is a challenge for most, but especially challenging for undocumented students. Come hear how a group of organizations came together to initially discuss fundraising strategies and the challenges that accompany them and ended up creating the inaugural scholarship fair for undocumented students, along with the accompanying breakout sessions on drafting a strong scholarship application and how parents can support their students.

**Nothing About Us, Without Us**

**Room 131**

**Diana Hernandez**, *Dominican Immigrant Student Collective, President, Dominican University*  
**Carlos Benitez**, *Dominican Immigrant Student Collective, Vice-President, Dominican University*

During this interactive session, undocumented students will reflect on their experiences as student leaders and advocates at Dominican University. They will also provide administrators and staff members with tips on how to be effective allies to undocumented students, who want to advocate for themselves and build partnerships with other students, faculty, and staff to be agents of change at their institutions.

**Sharing Our Dream Through Medicine**

**Room 133**

**Karen Villarroel**, **Byunghun Hyun**, **Jesus Zamora**, and **Boss Poiveng**, *3rd Year Medical Students, Loyola University Chicago–Stritch School of Medicine*

"I want to be a doctor"—a phrase often said by those interested in medicine, including DACA medical students, is often the start to a medical career. This session aims to shed some light into the medical career journey as viewed through the eyes of undocumented individuals pursuing careers in medicine before and after the development of the DACA program. Join us to learn more about how you and your institutions can help undocumented students become future physicians.

## 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. WORKSHOP SESSIONS II

### Creating a Financial Aid Process for Non-FAFSA Eligible Students

#### Auditorium

**Eric Ruiz**, Director for Undergraduate Admissions, University of St. Francis

**Luke Kerber**, Director of Graduate Enrollment, Aurora University

Undocumented students should work directly with colleges regarding their award letter packaging instead of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some colleges have developed their own form to better assess the ability of the family to pay for college. Come hear what the forms ask, where they're located, and how the colleges use it in their packaging.

### The Parent Perspective

#### Room 231

**Nadia Flores**, Chicago Regional Admissions Counselor, University of Illinois at Springfield

**Parent Panelists from Parent University, Center for P-20 Engagement**

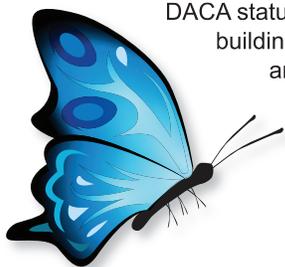
A panel of parents of undocumented students will share their experiences in assisting their children to navigate the college process. This is an opportunity to learn first-hand about a side that we do not always get to hear. Learn about these parents' decisions and experiences in assisting their children transition from high school to college.

### Advocacy Starts with the Student Voice

#### Room 131

**Leonor Wangenstein**, Academic Advisor and Director of Undocumented Student Initiatives, University of Notre Dame  
**Student Panelists** from University of Notre Dame, Holy Cross College, and Saint Mary's College

In this panel presentation, students from the University of Notre Dame, Holy Cross College, and Saint Mary's College share their stories of navigating the challenges and opportunities in access to and through college as students with undocumented and DACA status. Student narratives are foundational to building community, advocacy, equitable paths, and breaking down barriers altogether on our campuses. The presentation will begin with moderated questions and will allow ample time for discussion and questions from the audience.



### How Undocumented Student Clubs Fundraise and Build Support



#### Room 133

**Breigha Adeyemo**, Transfer Admission Counselor, Illinois Institute of Technology

**Evelyn Sánchez**, Professional School Counselor, Argo Community High School

Presenters will discuss student club fundraising by focusing on the Illinois Institute of Technology's Undocumented Student and Allies (USA) organization and what they do to raise money for the United Minds Inspiring Innovation (UMII) Scholarship (for eligible undocumented Illinois Tech students) and how they create a safe-space on campus. Attendees will also learn about Aurora High School's best practices on how to create a school coalition as well as to educate staff to create culturally responsive strategies to support undocumented students and their families.

### Faculty Support and Advocacy

#### Room 233

#### Northern Illinois University Faculty Members

Panelists will lead a discussion of research and pre-professional opportunities, mentoring, and additional ways that faculty members can provide support for students' academic experiences.

### Suburban Community Resources

#### Room 127

#### Panelists from Family Focus, Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project, and PASO – West Suburban Action Project

In this session panelists from Family Focus (Aurora), Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project (Bolingbrook), and PASO–West Suburban Action Project (Melrose Park) will discuss their work within their respective communities. Panelists will discuss resources and services available to community members and ways in which we can become more involved with community-based organizations.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Networking  
Atrium

## 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSIONS III

### Immigration 101

#### Auditorium

**Irakere Picón**, Director of Legal Services, Illinois Business Immigration Coalition

Not everyone student's immigration status is the same. The immigration landscape can be varied and complex. Come learn the basics of immigration law and the options that students have or don't have.

## FAFSA Challenges: Eligible Students & Their Undocumented Parents

### Room 231

**Abel Montoya**, Director of Outreach Operations Illinois Student Assistance Commission

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

When parents are undocumented, filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can end up being more complicated than needed. Find out what you can do to help families avoid common mistakes, understand the process, avoid verification pitfalls, and position their children to receive the aid to which they are entitled.

## Student Activism and Allyship in Higher Education

### Room 127

**Northern Illinois University (NIU) Student Association**  
**DREAM Action NIU**

This workshop will discuss how students from DREAM Action NIU gained support from the NIU Student Association, NIU's student government. By educating the NIU community, undocumented students and allies gained support for, created, and passed a student referendum that will allow the Student Association to advocate for undocumented students at a statewide level and provide a path to create a scholarship with student fees. Students from both groups will talk about their experiences and provide a guide on how to create allyships with university departments to increase support for undocumented students at public institutions of higher education in Illinois.

## Cultivating Advocacy for Undocumented Students Through Ally Training

### Room 131

**Joe Saucedo**, Director, Department of Student Diversity & Multicultural Affairs, Loyola University Chicago

**Luvia Moreno**, Interim Director for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs & Director of Undocumented Student Resources, Northeastern Illinois University

Training and development is a means of disrupting systemic forms of exclusion and discrimination. Presenters from Loyola University Chicago and Northeastern Illinois University are responsible for facilitating ally training at their respective institutions. Participants seeking to develop and implement a similar training will learn about curriculum design, program implementation, and the impact of cultivating allies among students, staff, and faculty.

## How to be a Legislative Advocate

### Room 133

**Jennifer Sloan**, Regional Enrollment Coordinator, University of Cincinnati, Government Relations Committee Co-Chair, Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC)

IACAC's Government Relations Committee is to inform its members of pertinent public policy issues and upcoming legislation that affects counselors and students. The goal of this session is to provide attendees with tips and resources on how to contact their elected officials and how to be involved in advocacy efforts, particularly as it relates to issues pertaining to undocumented students.

**2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Snack Break**

**Atrium**

**2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Student/College Graduate Panel**  
**Auditorium**

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 and after college from a panel of current college students and 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.

**3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks**

**Auditorium**

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

**Sandy López**, Undocumented Student Support Coordinator, Northern Illinois University



## Sharing the Dream Conference Planning Committee

### Committee Chairs

**Jessica Avila-Cuevas**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Sara Espinosa**, Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
**Mayra Lagunas**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Elisabet Miramontes**, University of St. Francis

### Committee Members

**Breigha Adeyemo**, Illinois Institute of Technology

**Luis Alarcon**, Elgin Community College

**Oliver Camacho**, Northern Illinois University

**Alejandro Campos**, University of St. Francis

**Mike Dessimoz**, Illinois College Access Network

**Andriana Esparza**, Moraine Valley Community College

**Nadia Flores**, University of Illinois at Springfield

**Alicia Funes**, East Leyden High School

**Joel Johnson**, University of Oregon

**Sandy López**, Northern Illinois University

**Dave Marcial**, Golden Apple

**Abel Montoya**, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

**Faviola Tovar-Kallas**, Northeastern Illinois University

**Jhonathan Vallecilla**, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale