**Supporting Undocumented Students Transition to College**

**Bridge to Employment**

**14 December 2017**

**Oscar D. Teran, Esq. Director of the** [**DREAM Center**](http://dreamers.uci.edu/) **at University of California Irvine**.

*The DREAM Center at UCI is dedicated to serving the AB540 and undocumented student population through advocacy, guidance, and support. The programs and services are designed for students to achieve academic, personal, and professional excellence. Oscar is an attorney with over 9 years experience working for underserved populations, with an extensive background working on university campuses with student organizations.*

**DACA** is a big issue for undocumented students right now. A timeline:

* Program created in 2012 by Obama admin—did not provide status to undocumented students, but gave them protection from prosecution. Narrowly created; lots of people excluded. Approx. 800,000 recipients of DACA, but numbers are dwindling
* June 2017—10 Attorney Generals threatened to sue Trump admin unless DACA rescinded
* Sept 5, 2017—DACA rescinded. 2-year phase out. On Sept 5, no new applications going forward. If you had current DACA that expired before or on March 5, 2018, could renew if submitted by October. There have been a lot of issues processing and receiving them.
* There is a customer service line through [US Citizenship and Immigration Services](https://www.uscis.gov/) (USCIS) in which people can inquire about status (1-855-448-6903, see [FAQ page](https://www.uscis.gov/archive/frequently-asked-questions#renewal%20of%20DACA))
* March 6, 2018—people will begin to lose DACA. Thousands a day, will lose ability to study or work and freedom from deportation. Lose ability to plan for future

**Changing immigration landscape—**Under Obama admin, ICE was limited in enforcement activities by memos. Had to target violent criminals, certain areas off-limits. Trump admin has rescinded these memos and given ICE more discretion on who to target, and no limits on where operations could proceed.

* 40% uptick in ICE arrests since these memos have been rescinded
* Deportations themselves have slowed, thanks to court system and advocates efforts.
* Places where arrests have changes. Big ICE effort at courthouses—people arrested while they work on legal issues. ICE has begun to pick people up at hospitals as well

This Background is important as you’re working with students because students, DACA or no, are dealing with this. If students themselves aren’t subjects of enforcement, family and friends are.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**—program that allows individuals from 10 countries (El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen) to stay on basis that home countries are not safe. List is being revised. Several countries being taken off—Liberia and Sierra Leonne removed; Honduras and Nicaragua will be removed in 2019. This will affect 100s of 1000s of people in US who will lose protection, and must decide whether to return or stay here illegally. Haiti is on list temporarily, for 6 months while admin decides it’s permanent status.

**Mixed status family**—some children or parents are documented while others are undocumented. Very common; majority of families at UCI Dreamers are mixed status. They really need to be engaged in **emergency planning**. If you’ve got parents undocumented but students are citizens—what happens if parents are deported but kids stay?

* [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](https://www.ilrc.org/) (ILRC) a national organization based in San Francisco has an emergency planning kit people can use.
* Basic of emergency planning—what happens to children? Are arrangements made to bring children back? If children stay, who will act as guardians?
* Also important to emergency planning--Practical things. People with chronic diseases need to have medication stockpiled. Will not have access in detention. Important identity documents must be easily accessible, etc.
* Critical that these families know their rights—lots of resources on youtube.

[**ILRC Red Card**](https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards)—Good tool for undocumented students or mixed status families--a card that shows on one side rights, and another that says what to say when speaking with ICE.

**Tips for Talking to students:**

* **Don’t force revelations of anything**. If you think someone is impacted, let someone reveal that on their own. Very hard issues to talk about. Students are fearful, distrustful—not easy for them to reveal.
* **Don’t assume anyone might be impacted just because of where they’re from or what they look like.** Folks that receive DACA are very diverse—not just Latinx. One of most significant groups were Asian-Pacific Islanders. UCI has very diverse group, and it’s important not to make any assumptions.
* **Make clear in a general sense that you’re an ally, that you care, that you’re a resource.** Find subtle ways to indicate you’re an ally. Butterfly is a symbol; have a pin or something and this will allow students to pick up on the fact you care.
* **Do not give advice. Incredibly complicated area of law; small decisions have huge impacts.** Advice can end up harming. Give referrals rather than advice. One is [United We Dream](https://unitedwedream.org/), which has a national clearinghouse of resources. [ILRC](https://www.ilrc.org/), previously noted. Also [National Immigrant Law Center (NILK)](https://www.nilc.org/) and finally [Catholic Charities of America](https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/efforts/immigration-refugee-services)—nationwide network made of individual units that take on immigration advocacy. One of best providers of free legal services.
  + Locally there will be advocacy groups and legal non-profits. Try googling for these.
  + 20% of undocumented people have an option to get status; imperative they find out what these are from experts.

**Dina Mansour, Outreach Coordinator,** [**New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice**](http://www.njimmigrantjustice.org/)**.**

*The New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice is a statewide membership-based coalition that creates and achieves policies in New Jersey that welcome and support immigrants to become rooted economically, politically and socially within the state. Dina holds a Masters of Law in Human Rights from University College London, and has over 3 years experience working in legal advocacy.*

**New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice** is a statewide coalition of organizations. Includes faith-based, labor, grassroots, committed to immigrant rights. Broad and diverse membership.

Several organizations in New Jersey that sites may look at:

[**American Friend Service Committee**](https://www.afsc.org/)—Old, established advocacy organization with an [immigrant rights program](https://www.afsc.org/key-issues/issue/defending-immigrant-rights) in NJ that’s very comprehensive. Legal and other services

[**Make the Road New Jersey**](http://www.maketheroadnj.org/)—Immigrant Rights group based in Elizabeth New Jersey, which has a college readiness program that may be useful.

[**Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center**](https://www.windofthespirit.net/)—Group of Dreamers working in an org that provides community organizing and advocacy, legal services, and health and safety initiatives.

[**The Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, INC. (LALDEF)**](http://laldef.org/)— a grassroots nonprofit organization formed to defend the civil rights of Latin Americans and facilitate their access to health care and education, as well as to advance cross-cultural understanding in the Mercer County area.

[**El Comite de Apoyo a Los Trabajadores Agricolas (CATA)**](http://cata-farmworkers.org/about-us/)—Agricultural Workers center, working on DACA issues as well.

* These groups all have readiness programs and support programs in New Jersey. Have been doing joint actions since the end of DACA. Good orgs to plug into if you are interested in advocacy.
* Couple of groups working on access to financial aid.
* See[**a complete list of NJ Alliance’s partner orgs**](http://www.njimmigrantjustice.org/immigration_advocates_near_you)

**NJ Alliance offers** **a train the trainer**—trains leaders in how to run “know your rights” workshops. Dina does this anywhere in New Jersey.

**Ideas to think about when making a program accessible to undocumented students:**

* **Language Access Programs**—language lessons to allow parents to interact with volunteers/teachers/etc/
* **Emergency planning for families**—Relates to some of Oscar’s points; this includes things like power of attorney. Great resources to provide.
* **General access to information**—folks very aware of what’s going on, but need good information and resources. Legal sources support and referrals. New Jersey legal services based in Edison. Many recommended attorneys on [njimmgrantjustice.org](http://www.njimmigrantjustice.org/)
* **Fair and Welcoming Policy Package**—Kind of like “Sanctuary,” but feel this word is a misnomer. ICE allowed anywhere, but often dependent on local information and resources. Trend of folks not accessing social services because of it. Fair and Welcoming Policies are policies at any level that protect students from deportation. So policies like having managers greet ICE officers and having a room only accessible

**Questions from the Audience:**

**How can programs help undocumented students fund their higher ed?**

* Complicated picture of accessing student higher ed—very state specific.
* Several private universities have made commitments to fund undocumented students’ education. If you’re in a state where public universities cannot offer much, private universities may offer a good alternative.
  + Assumption is often that private schools are unobtainable due to cost. But programs at these schools that have made pledges can offset this
* [**Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)**](http://www.e4fc.org/home.html) maintains [lists of scholarships](http://www.e4fc.org/scholarshiplists.html) available to undocumented students, and other resources.
* UCI also maintains a [scholarship list](http://dreamers.uci.edu/scholarships/)

**Is there a list of private schools?**

* No real list of schools, many U’s have made commitment—Chapman, Claremont Colleges, others. Research the private schools in your area.

**Do NJ Alliance workshops and trainings charge have fees?**

* There are fees for non-members of coalition—charge $20 per person

**Closing:**

* Thanks very much to our speakers; everyone has learned a lot.
* FHI 360 will circulate notes and a recording when it’s ready.