Supporting Our Dreamer Students

California Community Colleges Dreamers Project: Strengthening Institutional Practices to Support Undocumented Students

Presented By

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Agenda

• Introduction
• Undocumented Student Landscape
• Project Overview
• Report Findings & Recommendations
• Feedback
Enrolled Undocumented Students in CA Higher Education

- **CA Higher Education**: 74,000 - 87,000
  - **CCC**: 50,000 - 70,000
  - **CSU**: 10,000 - 12,000
  - **UC**: 3,800 - 5,000
Terminology

- Undocumented
- DACA (Federal)
- State Financial Aid (CA Dream Act)
- In-State Tuition (AB 540/2000/SB 68)
Project Overview

• CCCCCO, FCCC, Immigrants Rising
• Dreamer Advisory Group
• Comprehensive Survey
  - Over 200 valid responses from 111 colleges
• Four Regional Meetings:
  - Berkeley, Mt. San Antonio, San Diego, Fresno
  - 87 attendees from 50 colleges
• Final Report Published in February

Art created by Favianna Rodriguez
Statewide Trends

- Top Challenges
  - Financial Support
  - Legal & Mental Health Services
  - Identifying Students/Outreach
- Lack of institutional support
- Limited resources for non-AB 540 / non-DACA students
- Need for cross-campus collaboration
#1 Improve identification, student data protection, and outreach

Reduce equity gaps in undocumented student enrollment by building pathways that increase service awareness and reduce fear.

Sub-recommendations:

- Outreach and academic pathways at high schools, adult schools, career education programs, 4-year institutions
- Inclusive and welcoming campus through supportive signage, incorporate resources in catalog, class schedules, course syllabi
- At least one webpage with key resources for undocumented students
#2 Increase staff training and support

Ensure all CCC personnel are adequately trained to build institutional practices that promote compliance with California state laws and educational codes.

Sub-recommendations:

- Provide department trainings, especially for those that serve undocumented students
- Cross-campus learning and networking through ongoing regional meetings
- Promote systemwide digital hub to address training needs and share promising practices (Vision Resource Center)
#3 Formalize support for dedicated stakeholders, staff and space at each campus

Expand and formalize campus-wide support and retention of undocumented students through the creation of a task force, a dedicated position, and measurable benchmarks.

Sub-recommendations:

• Campus-wide task force
• Full-time position dedicated to undocumented student support
• Undocumented Student Program or Resource Center
#4 Improve access to financial support for all undocumented students

Increase undocumented students’ ability to receive all financial aid and scholarships for which they are eligible.

Sub-recommendations:

• AB 540/SB 68 Eligible:
  – Trainings for front-line enrollment staff regarding in-state tuition and CADAAA
  – Financial aid outreach materials that include verbiage “FAFSA or DREAM”
• Non-AB 540/SB 68 Eligible:
  – Campus scholarships open to undocumented students and/or dedicated scholarships through creative fundraising
#5 Expand strategies to promote student retention

Promote undocumented student certificate or degree completion through increased opportunities for student leadership, as well as access to credible legal and mental health services.

Sub-recommendations:

- **Student engagement**: Clubs, peer mentor programs, regular activities like storytelling workshops
- **Legal services**: Regular immigration forums like Know Your Rights workshops
- **Mental health services**: Partner with existing culturally-competent and low or no-cost mental health providers
#6 Ensure C CCCCO’s statewide guidance and policy support

Provide systemic oversight regarding equitable implementation of state laws, alignment with C CCCCO initiatives, and sustained advocacy

Sub-recommendations:

• Dedicated staff centralized within system, “Undocumented Student Champion”
• Declare annual Undocumented Student Week of Action
• Student engagement
Dissemination Plan

- Emails to ListServs within system: CEOs, etc.
- Emails to Groups: California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition, Catalyst Fund
- Informational Webinar on April 4th
- Regional Report-backs
- Presentation to Board of Governors in May
- Conference Presentations
- Press Release
Feedback

- Do the findings from the survey and regional meetings align with your college experiences?
- Do you have comments on the recommendations included in the Report?
- Do you have ideas and suggestions for dissemination of the Report, and engaging various stakeholders to implement the recommendations and promising practices?
- Are there specific activities your Association would be willing to sponsor/support to assist in dissemination of the Report?
Thank you!

For additional questions, please contact:

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