Undocumented and DACAmented Students

Best Practices to Support Undocumented Students
Objectives

- Understand the current struggles undocumented students face
- Share updates on current policies affecting undocumented students
- Learn best practices to support undocumented college students
- Brainstorm initiatives to support undocumented students around Oregon
- Learn from our lesson learned about funding a DREAMers Resource Center at PCC Rock Creek
DREAMers Experience in the U.S.

“Dreamer” Student Experiences include...

- First generation immigrant/student
- Mixed status family – deportation
- Legal status depending on the US laws/climate
- Instability due to status or work
- No access to driver licence or ID (undocumented students only)
- Underpaying jobs or “jobs under the table” (undocumented students only)
- Anxiety, depression, and stress
- Not eligible for FAFSA or federal funded programs such as TRiO, HEP or CAMP
Studies have found that undocumented students at public and private four-year institutions are less likely to complete their bachelor’s degrees on time than are U.S. citizens.

Many undocumented young people first become aware of their immigration status when they near their high school graduation.

Many high school students don’t have support and counselors are unable to help because counselors help hundreds of thousands of students every year, many of these professionals are unaware of or lack the training to navigate the specific barriers faced by undocumented students.
Undocumented students in Oregon

According to USCIS as of Sep 2017

- 800,000 - individuals who were ever granted DACA
- 690,000 - active DACA recipients
- 10,200 DACA recipients in Oregon
  - 2,300 Salem
  - 6,200 Portland–Hillsboro
- Average Age
  - 23.8
- Gender
  - 52.6% Female
  - 47.4% Male
- Country of Origin
  - 79.4% from Mexico
  - 3.7% Salvador
  - 2.6% Guatemala
Current Policies Affecting Undocumented Students

- DACA
  - Rescinded by President Trump
  - Current court order
    - If government does not come up with a better explanation within 90 days, the administration’s order to rescind DACA will be vacated and DHS must accept and process new DACA applications and renewals
  - Advanced Parole

- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
  - Cancelled - Nepal, Nicaragua, Salvador, Haiti, Sudan, Syria, Libya

- Oregon Licences
  - Bill 4111 allows current DACA recipients and those with temporary protected status who have existing Oregon driver's licenses to renew those licenses while Congress debates how to move forward

- Tuition Equity

- Funding
  - The Ford Family Foundation's Scholarship, ORSAA, Oregon Promise
• Create Open and Welcoming Environments
  ○ Build a supportive and welcoming institutional environment for undocumented students
Provide Services and Resources to Help Guide Undocumented Student

- Develop services and resources that specifically support undocumented students
- Share information about DACA with students, families, and the community
- Be transparent by openly and proactively advertising the ways in which your institution supports undocumented students
- Communicate and Demonstrate Support for Undocumented Youth
  - Message publicly that your institution supports undocumented students and their rights to a high-quality education
● **Provide Peer-to-Peer Support and Relationship-Building Opportunities**
  ○ Create opportunities for undocumented youth empowerment through peer groups and other tools
- **Build Staff Capacity and Knowledge of Relevant Issues**
  - Provide high-quality training for all staff who engage directly with students so they are equipped to support undocumented youth
A DREAMers Resource Center is a place where undocumented students can go and get specific resources that are needed for them to continue college.

- **The DREAM Ambassadors**
  - Help run the center, create events, serve in committees, and advocate for DREAMers

- **The DREAM Project Mentoring Program**
  - Mentors - 2nd/3rd year college students
  - Mentees - 1st year college students

- **DACA Renewal Assistance** - $495

- **Legal assistance**
  - Know your rights, DACA Renewals, legal advice

- **DREAMers Fundraising Gala**

- **EMPOWERMENT!**
Brief History

● Brought awareness by supporting undocumented students
● Exposed students to different ideas and empowered them (Retreat)
● Initiated The DREAMers Gala
● Collaborating with orgs. that supported The Dream Project (a mentoring program that helps with tuition support)
● Advocated for a Website with resources for DREAMers
● Presented in front of faculty and staff to grow awareness
● DREAMers soon started advocating for themselves demanding for sanctuary institutions, a DREAM Center, permanent funding for the DREAMers Resource Center
● https://www.pcc.edu/resources/undocumented-students/
Questions?

Thank you for coming and keep up the good work!