UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS DESERVE ACCESS TO HIGHER-ED

Presented by Karina, Alondra & Frida
WHO ARE WE?

Non-profit organization in Tucson, Arizona who works to make higher education more accessible to all regardless of immigration status.
## GOALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doing your job</th>
<th>Providing passive support</th>
<th>Being an active accomplice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Meets professional obligations in working with Undocumented students</td>
<td>• Aware of the inequities faced by Undocumented students</td>
<td>• Seeks institutional and policy change</td>
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<td>• Understands tuition policies</td>
<td>• Shares opportunities for them in college &amp; professional contexts</td>
<td>• Supports collective strategies and adopts progressive administration changes</td>
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<td>• Uses inclusive language</td>
<td>• Makes an effort to stay updated on policies and issues impacting Undocumented students</td>
<td>• Challenges existing barriers and creates new opportunities for Undocumented youth</td>
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<td>• Knows how to refer Undocumented students to other informed resources</td>
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AGENDA

Main Goal: Help you understand how to actively support Undocumented students and to create nurturing environments

1. Community Agreements
2. Terminology & Policy
3. Navigating Higher-Ed While Undocumented
4. Become an active supporter for Undocumented students
COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

1. Raise your hand for questions
2. Be present: try to refrain from checking emails and doing other tasks as much as possible
3. Step up, step back: be mindful of taking up too much or too little space
**TERMINOLOGY**

**Undocumented**: Undocumented refers to people who are not U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents of the United States, who do not hold a visa to live/work/go to school. Some Undocumented folx do have visas that have not yet expired, but they are visas that do not allow someone to live and work in the United States (for example a 6 month tourist visa).

**Dropping The I-Word**: "Illegals" is a racially charged slur used to dehumanize and discriminate against immigrants and people of color regardless of migratory status. The I-word is shorthand for "illegal alien," "illegal immigrant" and other harmful terms.
TERMINOLOGY AND POLICY MULTIPLE CHOICE

A  B  C
WHAT DOES D.A.C.A STAND FOR?

A. Dream Act College Acceptance
B. Dream Arrival Citizenship Act
C. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
CORRECT ANSWER

C. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

**DACA-mented:** A term used by some Undocumented individuals who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).* This term serves to identify the unique access, opportunities, and resources afforded to DACA recipients that are still inaccessible to most of the Undocumented community (e.g. drivers licenses, SSN, work permit, in-state tuition in some states).

*Note: This refers to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program established by the U.S. government to provide temporary legal status to certain young people who were brought to the U.S. as children and meet specific criteria.
TRUE OR FALSE: THE TERM DREAMER IS INCLUSIVE TO ALL UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH

A. True
B. False
B. False

**DREAMER:** This word was introduced during the time that youth organizers began advocating for the DREAM Act in 2001. At the time, it was used to refer to the Undocumented young people who were leading the movement. From national to local levels, lobbying groups, advocates and the media began to select high-achieving immigrant youth to become the face of advocacy to appeal to institutions and legislators. This created the “DREAMer narrative,” which set a high bar for Undocumented youth to be seen as worthy of relief, education and/or status to live in this country.
TRUE OR FALSE:
UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A. True
B. False
CORRECT ANSWER

B. False

**International Student:** Many colleges and universities consider any student born outside of the U.S. to have “international status.” Undocumented students are not international applicants because the experience of navigating higher education as an international student is unlike that of Undocumented students. Many Undocumented youth hold expired visas and/or do not qualify for a visa. While some institutions may refer Undocumented students to International Student Centers for support, these can be unsafe spaces for Undocumented students as these offices are required to report to federal agencies when student visas expire.
WHAT IS A MIXED STATUS FAMILY?

A. Refers to families of individuals with varying college/university degrees
B. Refers to families of individuals with varying immigration statuses
C. Refers to families of individuals with varying ethnicities
B. Refers to families of individuals with varying immigration statuses

**Mixed Status Family:** Refers to families of individuals with varying immigration statuses including, but not limited to, Undocumented, DACA recipient, US citizen, U Visa, Legal Permanent Resident. Over sixteen million people living in the United States are in a mixed status family (Center for American Progress, 2017).
"Proposition 300 states that Arizona university students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, or who do not have lawful immigration status, are not eligible for ______ or financial aid that is/are funded or subsidized by state monies."

A. Private scholarships
B. In-state tuition
C. On campus jobs
CORRECT ANSWER

B. In-state tuition

**Proposition 300**: Policy approved on November 7, 2006, prohibits undocumented students from accessing standard in-state tuition at the state's public colleges and universities.
THE 150% TUITION RATE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACCESSIBLE TO UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS WITHOUT DACA

A. True
B. False
CORRECT ANSWER

B. False

150% Tuition Rate: The Arizona Board of Regents Policy 4–202 was implemented in 2015 to permit only Arizona high school graduates with lawful presence in the U.S., such as DACA recipients, to pay a 150% non-resident tuition rate if they are not available for in-state tuition. In September 2019, the Arizona Board of Regents expanded Policy 4–202 to allow the state's undocumented students without DACA to access the 150% non-resident tuition rate.
Our higher education journey

Alondra
Pima Community College Student

Karina
Arizona State University
2020 Graduate
NAVIGATING HIGHER ED WHILE UNDOCUMENTED

• 2,000 Undocumented students graduate from Arizona high schools each year (98,000 nationally)
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- 2,000 Undocumented students graduate from Arizona high schools each year (98,000 nationally)
- About 5-10% of Undocumented students pursue higher education, and far less successfully graduate with a degree
- In Arizona, 9,000 students or 2% of all enrolled students in higher education institutions are Undocumented (2018 Data)
Undocumented students are often referred from office to office in what is known as the “ping-pong effect.”

This means that a student may reveal their status and ask for help several times and still not receive the support they need.
What barriers do we create in our schools that put limitations on Undocumented and DACA students?

What barriers do we create outside of school that put limitations on Undocumented and DACA students?
Cannot legally work
Cannot legally drive
No federal or state financial aid
Border patrol presence on campus
Exams to pass state credited programs
Discrimination

No access to post K-12 programs for students with special needs

No health insurance
Microaggressions
College access
Family separation
Scholarship access
Unsure future
Effort to conceal status
HOW TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

1. Unlearn and deconstruct the DREAMer Narrative
2. Listen to Undocumented youth and support them to create safe spaces on campus
3. Empower students to pursue leadership options within, or outside of, your institution
4. Respond to barriers by creating more opportunities
5. Connect students to community spaces outside of school
HOW TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- On November 8, 2022 Arizona citizens will be able to vote YES on Prop 308. This proposition is extremely important towards ensuring Undocumented students have access to equitable education.
- If passed, it will allow Undocumented students in Arizona to receive in-state college tuition when a student:
  a. Attended a school in Arizona for a minimum of two years and
  b. Graduated from a public school, private school, or homeschool in Arizona
PROP 308 KEY DATES

- October 11, 2022 - Voter Registration deadline
- October 12, 2022 - Early voting begins and ballots mailed
- October 28, 2022 - Last day to request a ballot to be mailed
- November 8, 2022 - Election Day: Last day to vote in person