



August 24, 2020

Dear Friends & Supporters of the President's Directed Scholarship,

I wanted to reach out to share with you the important work that you helped support through your gift to the [President's Directed Scholarship](#). Your generosity and commitment to supporting students with DACA status at the University of Arizona has afforded educational access to many students this past year. And for this, I cannot thank you enough!

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the President's Directed Scholarship distributed \$106,000 in scholarship awards to 33 students. These scholarship awards reduced the cost of tuition and fees from 150% to 100%, and in some cases additional support was provided. Each semester, a team of staff work together diligently to confirm eligible students and award them based on need and available funds. Your gift enabled these scholarship awards to be distributed without interruption, signaling to students that supporters of this fund were committed to their academic success and well-being.

And despite COVID-19 and its related challenges, 8 students with DACA status graduated from the UA during the Spring semester and several more are lined up to complete their degree within the upcoming year. Coupled with your own commitment to give, this past year a fundraising event was generously hosted by families within the community which yielded over \$11,000 in donations. We also partnered with the UA's annual workplace giving campaign to invite employees across the university to enroll in payroll deduction to support this scholarship fund, yielding nearly \$6,000 in additional support.

With gratitude to our [Immigrant Student Resource Center](#), scholarship funds are coupled with essential resources for students, including academic support, health and wellness resources, legal resources, campus events and much more. We know that many students find respite in knowing there are staff at the Center who are experienced in supporting students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

Although there is much to celebrate, we are seeing an increasing number of DACA students experience greater financial need because of the impacts of COVID-19 on their employment. Some have experienced loss of employment, while others have experienced intermittent loss of income when their places of employment close due to positive COVID cases. Recently I re-examined my own financial contribution to the [President's Directed Scholarship](#) and committed to give a bit more knowing that our students have a tough, yet potentially promising year ahead.

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your partnership in making these essential scholarship opportunities available. I hope that you and your loved ones are in good health and positive spirits.

Be well,

Marla A Franco

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