



Community College Initiatives to Support DACA and Undocumented Students

Westchester Community College (WCC), Valhalla, NY

- The State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor and Board of Trustees and SUNY WCC's President Belinda Miles have shared their statements of support campus wide, and clarified that New York State in-state tuition remains intact for undocumented students
- WCC holds regular DACA information and pro bono legal clinics through its Welcome Center located at its Gateway Center.
- Bilingual counselors are available in its career advisement and mental health offices.
- Its Benefits Access Center helps immigrant students connect with support services in the community and on campus.
- The college has hosted a screening of the film, *Don't Tell Anyone*, and an immigration panel discussion in collaboration with its community partner, [Neighbors Link](#), to share facts and debunk myths pertaining to DACA and immigrant students. Immigrant students have also shared their personal stories at campus events.
- The college's Humanities Institute supports events, professional development, and curriculum development through the lens of the immigrant experience
Contact: Eileen McKee, Director, Welcome Center, Eileen.McKee @sunywcc.edu

Alamo Colleges District (ACD), San Antonio, TX

- ACD's Board of Trustees has shared a resolution in support of Undocumented Student DREAMers and at the request of Chancellor Bruce Leslie, formed the DREAMers Advisory Council (DAC), a district-wide, cross-departmental committee to coordinate campus resources and elevate the district's message of support.
- A clear protocol and specific procedures have been shared in the event that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials show up on campus.
- A comprehensive [DREAMer resource webpage](#) features information on DACA, FAQs, and connection to local and national resources.
- The district's community education and training centers actively encourage prospective DACA and undocumented students and their younger siblings to apply to its dual credit and early college/high school programs.
- Professional development is provided for academic advisors and financial aid counselors to help students navigate academic pathways and transition to four-year colleges or enroll in shorter-term training programs, depending on students' goals.
- Extensive community outreach and services are provided in collaboration with a network of community partners, including citywide Financial Aid Summits, legal clinics, and training sessions for counselors in school districts.
Contact: Carmen De Luna Jones, Head of DAC, mdeluna-jones@alamo.edu

Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Lexington, KY

- BCC's Latino Outreach and Student Services helped the Kentucky Community and Technical College System create a policy for Immigration and Custom Enforcement officials on campus. The policy is "Do not assist. Do not resist. Simply desist." There is one point person who is authorized to speak to immigration officials. College administrators and faculty have been trained to send any official to the designated person. However, no information will be given to immigration officials unless the officer has a named warrant or order signed by a judge.
- The college has worked with students to make sure their entire student file is marked as private.
- The college is holding a safe space, Café con Pan, once per month that includes community building activities, art therapy and food.
- With community partners the college has created an emergency fund to respond to the financial needs of students who needed help with DACA renewal and who might need support, pending any approval of legislation or extension of DACA.
- Dr. James Fenton, Associate Professor, ESL/Humanities and English Area Coordinator, and Erin Howard, Latino Outreach Director, have provided one-on-one academic advising and planning to DACA students to help them navigate forward.

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Bunker Hill Community College, Boston, MA

- The college has established a cross-departmental working group and increased access to information about admissions and financial resources available on BHCC's main website and added language to its scholarship page that all students are eligible to apply for BHCC scholarships regardless of status.
- Information sheets pertaining to admissions and financial resources disseminated at offices for new and current students and #UndocuAlly stickers identify individuals on campus that can support undocumented and DACA students. Bulletin board space on the main campus and Chelsea campus share information pertaining to undocumented and DACA students.
- Several college-wide professional development opportunities have been initiated including collaborations with student immigrant groups, a webinar, and KnowYour Rights Trainings in collaboration with Political Asylum/Immigration Representative (PAIR) Project.
- Student voices have been shared through one-on-one interviews and a student focus group presented during a professional development session.

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Dutchess Community College (DCC), Poughkeepsie, NY

- DCC, a SUNY college, has formed a cross-departmental Consortium for Undocumented Students to create a supportive environment for its most vulnerable students and address systemic issues to facilitate undocumented students' access and educational success at DCC, including revamping its application to clarify ability of undocumented students to be able to attend.
- The Consortium developed a [webpage](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/admissions/become_a_student/daca.html) with college resources and links to SUNY immigration resources and updates. http://www.sunydutchess.edu/admissions/become_a_student/daca.html
- A student-led initiative has created broader support networks among allies, DACA recipients, other undocumented students, community organizations, and four-year colleges.
- A college-wide webinar educated the campus community on current issues, an award-winning documentary, *DREAMers Among Us* was screened and followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers and film subjects, and a successful informational forum attracted over 100 attendees.

- The Consortium facilitated financial support for Adelante, a nonprofit that assists undocumented high school students interested in attending college.
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Miami Dade College, Miami, FL

- Each MDC campus has assigned financial aid and academic advisors to serve the unique needs of undocumented youth, including provisions for in-state tuition.
- MDC is also a founding partner of [TheDream.US](http://www.thedream.us), an organization of over 75 Partner Colleges that are committed to serving and graduating DREAMers. TheDREAM.US offers scholarships, leadership, mentoring, internship and community to undocumented youth.
- MDC has partnered with the Florida Immigrant Coalition to offer free information sessions on the renewal of DACA status. <http://www.thedream.us>
- Other corollary services may also benefit DACA students, many of whom face great socioeconomic stresses. Each campus has mental health counseling available to students, and many of MDC's campuses stock food pantries and partner with organizations like Single Stop USA, which provide referrals to community organizations and local resources to address the gamut of concerns associated with poverty, access to healthcare, food insecurity, housing, legal assistance, and so on.
- MDC also hosts community events that draw attention to this international issue, including, for example, the screening of the documentary film, *The Dream is Now*, which “seeks to raise awareness about the plight of undocumented youth in America and to push Congress for immigration reform.” The topic was also explored at the upcoming Miami Book Fair with a presentation by author Ali Noorani on his book, *There Goes the Neighborhood*, which follows the lives of twenty-two immigrant teenagers during the course of a school year. “While these activities may not directly benefit undocumented youth, they help keep their concerns fresh in the minds of thought leaders and decision makers, notes Malou Harrison, MDC President, InterAmerican and North Campuses.
Contact: Berta Fonte, Secretary to the Campus President, bfonte@med.edu

Other excellent models and resources from our Blue Ribbon Panel member colleges:

- LaGuardia Community College (Long Island City, NY) has an [Immigrant Support](http://ekstg.laguardia.edu/immigrationhelp) webpage, where students can obtain up-to-date DACA information and learn where they and their family members can get information and help. The page also includes statements of support from LaGuardia President Gail O. Mellow and City University of New York Chancellor James B. Milliken.
<http://ekstg.laguardia.edu/immigrationhelp>
- Palm Beach State College (Lake Worth, FL), through its [Global Education Center](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/globaleducation), supports and advises all immigrant students, including DACA recipients and undocumented students GEC has collaborated with several national and local advocacy organizations to support DACA and Dream Act legislation. <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/globaleducation>