# Undocumented Students and Higher Education

Keeping the Dream Alive!

#### Under Current Law...



Undocumented students are guaranteed a free k-12 public education under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment pursuant to the 1982 U.S Supreme Court decision, Plyer v. Doe.

Federal Law does **Not** prohibit admission of undocumented students to public universities and colleges.



## Dreamers and Education in the U.S

- Are undocumented students allowed to attend college?
- Am I required provide a Social Security Number (SSN)?
- What happens when/if the school finds out about my status?
- Would you recommend students to share their status?

### Social Security Number



- While many applications ask for a Social Security Number (SSN), there is no legal obligation on the part of the university to require students to prove it.
- What should I do then?
  - Leave this section blank.
  - Common Application has special direction for DACA recipients.
  - Do NOT provide a false SSN or ITIN:
    - States and/or federal laws make it a crime in some circumstances to use a false SSN - which may qualify as identity theft.

## Will my school report me to DHS?

 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does NOT require a college to determine a student's immigration status or to report it if it comes to light.\*

\*Exception: in the case of a person who came on an international student visa, the school is required to report the termination of a student's academic status, which may possible impact her/his nonimmigrant status.



## Tips for College

- Give yourself time
- KNOW YOUR APPLICATION DEADLINE!
- Research fee waivers for the application!
- Stay put for the letter of acceptance or rejection. If you don't hear back, contact the university, you may have some missing documents!
- Acceptance letters have deadlines, you might need to confirm attendance!
- DREAM big, aim HIGH!

## Preparing for college – Students and Parents

#### Parents and Students should work together to:

- Make a list of possible schools to attend
- Create a financial plan
- Become familiar with college support programs
- Make appointments with programs/admissions department
- Look for scholarships

#### Parents should know:

- Students can finish college, however, it may take longer to graduate
- Do not be afraid to ask or encourage your child to ask high school counselors/college advisors questions
- There are many undocumented students who have succeeded

#### Counselors cannot report you

## Preparing for college: Understanding 2-Years vs. 4-Year Institutions

### Community College 2-Year Institution

#### **City Colleges**

In-District Tuition can range from an estimated \$64 - \$100 per credit hour
Out-of-District Tuition can range from an estimated \$190 - \$275 per credit hour

Annual Tuition for a Full-Time student: \$1,920 - \$3,000 In-District \$5,700 - \$8,250 Out-of-District

#### **Private 2-Year Colleges**

Tuition can range from an estimated \$250 - \$350 per credit hour

Annual Tuition for a Full-Time student: \$7,500 - \$10,500

### College/University 4-Year Institution

#### **Public University**

- •In-State Tuition can range from \$7,362 to \$12,240 per year
- •Out-of-State can range from \$15,000 to \$27,000 per year

These figures are based on full-time enrollment

#### **Private University**

•Tuition can range from \$16,000 to \$38,000 per year

These figures are based on full-time enrollment



## Affording/Paying for College

- Do undocumented students qualify for federal financial aid?
- Do undocumented students qualify for in-state tuition in NJ?
- What about private scholarships?
- State financial aid?



## **FAFSA**

- Undocumented students do not qualify for federal financial aid.
  - This includes FAFSA
- Federal law does NOT prohibit states from providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants.
- Some institutions may require DACA students to complete the FAFSA to qualify for institutional aid.
- As of January 2014, undocumented students in New Jersey are eligible to qualify for in-state tuition due to the passage of the New Jersey Dream Act.

### What is the New Jersey Dream Act?

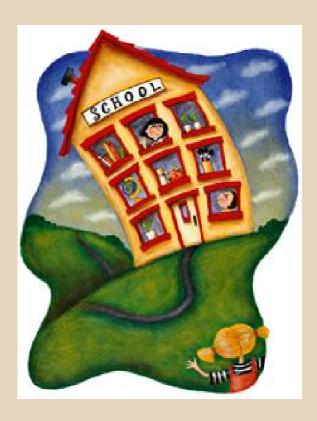
- Attended a NJ high school for 3 or more years.
- Graduated from a NJ high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in NJ.
- File an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize her/his immigration status, or will file an application as soon as she/he is eligible to do so.

• YET, even with the NJ Dream Act, undocumented students are not eligible to qualify for state financial aid (ie: EOF, TAG, NJSTARS)

- So, now what?
  - Certain colleges & universities may offer both merit-based scholarships and other scholarships to undocumented students.
  - There are some scholarships that do not require a social security number.

## Okay. I am a DACAmented student in school... what can I do?

- •Can I legally work?
- •Can I study abroad?



## This is when DACA comes into play.

- DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- Under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), undocumented students can apply for and obtain employment authorization.
  - You can legally work under DACA.

- DACAmented students can travel outside of the US for study abroad programs given the following:
  - Application for advance parole is granted.
    - USCIS stated it will grant parole for "humanitarian, education, or work purpose."
    - In its January 2013 updated guidance, USCIS explicitly stated that educational purposes include semester abroad programs and academic research.

#### **DACAmented and Careers**

Can undocumented immigrants with DACA apply for government positions (federal and state)?

Depends on requirements

NEVER claim to be a US citizen specially in the i-9 form which actually goes back to USCIS

Work study- cannot enroll in a work study but you can certainly get a job with DACA at your school

#### Additional DACA Resources

#### The USCIS website:

www.uscis.gov

Own the Dream Campaign and DACA resources:

www.weownthedream.org

Download Pocket DACA on your mobile phone



National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) hotline: Call 855-DREAM-31

#### Financial Aid Resources

TheDream.US: <a href="https://www.thedream.us">www.thedream.us</a> (RU-N & ECC)

Educators for Fair Consideration: www.e4fc.org

United We Dream: <a href="http://unitedwedream.org/">http://unitedwedream.org/</a>

My Undocumented Life: <a href="http://mydocumentedlife.org/">http://mydocumentedlife.org/</a>

Latinas United for Political Empowerment (LUPE):

http://www.lupenj.org/programs/