California Community Colleges

Dreamers Project

Strengthening Institutional Practices To Support Undocumented Student Success

A collaborative effort between the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO), the Foundation for California Community Colleges (Foundation), and Immigrants Rising, the Dreamers Project lays the groundwork for a longer-term program and initiatives needed to meet undocumented students’ needs. The project includes a landscape analysis undertaken through an online survey of community colleges and four regional meetings, as well as guidance from an Advisory Group and a final report submitted to the CCCCO.

In the full finalized report, the Foundation and Immigrants Rising present identified, shared challenges in serving undocumented students. Recommendations about how to better serve undocumented students, paired with promising practices underway, are provided for implementation at the individual, group, and institutional levels to create systemic change that benefits California.

For questions about the Dreamers Project, contact:

Iris Aguilar
Senior Director, Equity and Community Impact
iaguilar@foundationccc.org

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In partnership with

California Community Colleges

50,000-70,000

Estimated Undocumented Students Enrolled At California Community Colleges
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINDING</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINDING Inadequate ability to outreach to undocumented students and protect student data</strong></td>
<td><strong>RECOMMENDATION Improve identification, student data protection, and outreach</strong></td>
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| Reduce equity gaps in undocumented student enrollment by building pathways that increase service awareness and reduce fear. | - Institutionalize methods to effectively conduct outreach to current and incoming undocumented students.  
- Promote an inclusive and welcoming campus through the usage of multilingual signage.  
- Ensure at least one college webpage with key undocumented student resources. |

| **FINDING Insufficient institutional support/campus-wide trainings** | **RECOMMENDATION Increase staff training and support** |
| Ensure all CCC personnel are adequately trained to build institutional practices that promote compliance with California state laws and educational codes. | - Institutionalize consistent and up-to-date training for faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees to ensure the necessary knowledge, competency, and skills to effectively serve undocumented students. Include for new employee onboarding.  
- Require trainings as part of onboarding process for new employees to adequately support undocumented students and ensure cultural competency. |

| **FINDING Need for better access to financial support** | **RECOMMENDATION Improve access to financial support for all undocumented students** |
| Increase undocumented students’ ability to receive all financial aid and scholarships for which they are eligible. | - Guaranteed trainings for all front-line enrollment staff regarding in-state tuition & CA Dream Act eligibility.  
- Interdepartmental trainings and increased communication between admissions, financial aid, and outreach staff.  
- Implement Educational Code 76140-76143, Article 9, to allow Non-AB 540/SB 68 students to pay resident fees, if enrolled for 6 units or less.  
- Create a dedicated scholarship fund through innovative fundraising.  
- Ensure campus scholarships are open to all undocumented students. |

| **FINDING Need for increased student engagement and direct services to increase student retention** | **RECOMMENDATION Expand strategies to promote student retention** |
| Promote undocumented student certificate or degree completion through increased opportunities for student leadership, as well as access to credible legal and mental health services. | - Develop and strengthen student leadership through undocumented student peer mentor programs.  
- Partner with local community-based organizations to provide undocumented students with access to credible legal services.  
- Require in-service trainings for campus mental health providers to ensure provision of culturally competent services for undocumented students, including trauma therapy. |

| **FINDING Need for definitive guidance from the CCCCO** | **RECOMMENDATION Ensure CCCCO’s statewide guidance and policy support** |
| Provide systemic oversight regarding equitable implementation of state laws, alignment with CCCCO initiatives, and sustained advocacy to improve all campus climates for undocumented students. | - Ensure adequate, dedicated, and sustainable staff, centralized within the system and spearheaded by the Chancellor’s Office, to ensure all campuses are compliant with state laws and education codes as well as promote undocumented student success.  
- Encourage and support procurement of dedicated and sustainable funding for undocumented student programming through Supplemental Allocation, equity funds, private grants, etc.  
- Standardize the CCCApply application process regarding citizenship including clarification of software requirements to inform potential students about AB 540/SB 68 eligibility. |