



Supporting Undocumented Students Everywhere

Thursday, May 16, 2024 • 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM • #sharingthedream2024

Thank you for joining us for this milestone event as we celebrate a decade of commitment to empowering educators at the 10th Annual Sharing the Dream Conference. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have joined our community of learners. This year, we're thrilled to continue our mission of equipping professionals with the tools and knowledge to advocate for and support undocumented students on their path to higher education and beyond. Together, let's continue to foster inclusive environments where every student can thrive.

7:30 am - 8:30 am REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

Pat Sullivan Center (Rec. Center)

8:30 am - 8:45 am WELCOME

Pat Sullivan Center

Crystal Nazario-Macias

*Admissions Counselor
University of St. Francis*

Eric Ruiz

*Vice President of Admissions and Enrollment Services
University of St. Francis*

8:45 am - 9:45 am KEYNOTE

Pat Sullivan Center

Basia Ellis, PhD

*Associate Professor, Child and Adolescent Development
California State University Sacramento*

The Moment is Here: Transforming Lives with Undocumented Student Resource Centers

Since the enactment of House Bill 3438 on July 1, 2021, public institutions of higher education in Illinois have been mandated to appoint an Undocumented Student Liaison and encouraged to establish Undocumented Student Resource Centers. This legislative stride marks a pivotal moment in advocating for the needs of undocumented and mixed-status family students. In this keynote presentation, Dr. Ellis will discuss the transformative potential of these centers based on recent data gathered from California. Her talk will shed light on how supportive staff and services offered at Undocumented Student Resource Centers positively influence the psychosocial development of undocumented students by alleviating the impacts of undocumented stress cycles. By showcasing the tangible benefits observed in California, Dr. Ellis aims to inspire attendees to envision and champion initiatives tailored to the needs of undocumented students in Illinois.



Dr. Basia D. Ellis

Dr. Basia D. Ellis is a sociocultural psychologist and immigration scholar who holds the position of Associate Professor at California State University Sacramento. Her research has explored immigrant experiences amidst shifting global politics and immigration laws, with a focus on the lives of undocumented immigrants in Canada and the United States. From a psychological perspective, her work

has traced how undocumented immigrants navigate status-related challenges and develop unique forms of selfhood, agency, and well-being in precarious conditions. She also serves as Curriculum Chair for the Dreamer Resource Center on campus, where she actively supports students affected by undocumented status.

9:50 am - 10:50 pm STUDENT PANEL

Pat Sullivan Center

Student & Alumni Panelists

Amplifying student voices is a must when it comes to student advocacy. Student stories are a key piece that can help inform our work and practices. In this session, current college students and alumni panelists will share their experiences navigating the process to and through college and the challenges they faced in pursuing and starting their careers. Panelists will discuss their personal journey and share advice for the audience on how we can better support them and future students in our roles as counselors, educators, and advocates.

For the safety and comfort of our panelists, we request that you refrain from taking any photos during this session.

10:50 am - 11:50 am BREAKOUT 1 SESSIONS

Pat Sullivan Center

1A: Supporting the Mental Health and Well-Being of Students Impacted by Undocumented Status

Heritage Room

Basia Ellis, PhD

*Associate Professor, Child and Adolescent Development
California State University Sacramento*

The goal of this research-informed presentation is to help audience members better understand the experiences of undocumented and mixed-status family college students, as well as identify concrete ways to address these students' practical and psychological needs. In the first part of the presentation, Dr. Ellis will introduce the Undocumented Stress Cycle (USC) as a framework to better understand 'what it is like' to live with undocumented status. The second part of the presentation will build upon this knowledge to identify best practices for supporting students at various stages of the USC. By the end of the presentation, audience members will (a) develop sensitivity to the unique psychosocial experiences and needs of students impacted by undocumented status as well as (b) learn to support these students' agency and capacities for wellness even in challenging conditions.

1B: Earning a Wage as an Undocumented Professional

Auditorium (PAC)

Scarlet Mencia

*Founder
VOS Business Solutions, LLC*

Undocumented students face many challenges, money often being the biggest one. In this session, we will discuss resources available to help them cover costs, and how to obtain a job and/or paid internships during college. Additionally, we will overview what the workforce realistically looks like once they have graduated. The goal is to help allies and organizations better understand the difficulties students face and how to be at the forefront of advocating for fairer paid opportunities.

1C: Immigration 101

C300 (San Damiano)

Jeremy Lime*

Attorney

Law Offices of Jeremy Lime, PC

This session will provide an overview of an immigration system that no longer resembles the one that made the U.S. a “nation of immigrants”, and the punitive policies that force so many families into the shadows. Why are there so many undocumented students, and what can educators and other leaders do to help?

1D: Schooling Experiences of Ontario Youth with Precarious Immigration Status

Sue Manner Turk Theater

Arlo Kempf

*Associate Professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
University of Toronto*

Sarah Pole

*Director, Childhood Arrivals, Support and Advocacy Program
University of Toronto*

This presentation explores how having precarious immigration status affects school-involved youth, aged 25 and under in Ontario, Canada. The research focuses on social and academic engagement, academic success, and wellbeing. The research was conducted by University of Toronto (UofT) researchers and the Childhood Arrivals Support and Advocacy Program (CASA). CASA provides legal representation and advocacy for youth with precarious immigration status (YPIS) and helps them develop agency to support safe, secure, and chosen lives. The mixed-method research project was conducted as a partnership in which CASA clients, CASA staff, and UofT researchers collaborated to design, conduct, and analyze together.

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm LUNCH

Pat Sullivan Center

1:10 pm - 2:10 pm BREAKOUT 2 SESSIONS

2A: "Bridging Barriers: The Role of Liaisons in Empowering DACA & Undocumented Students"

Pat Sullivan Center

Joseph Thomas

Illinois State University

Jennica Rodriguez

Prairie State College

Pedro Nungaray

Harold Washington College

Christina Gutierrez

South Suburban College

Quintiliano Rios

Northeastern Illinois University

Join us for an insightful panel discussion featuring dedicated liaisons from various institutions of higher education who specialize in supporting DACA and undocumented students. Our panelists will share their expert knowledge and experiences

on creating inclusive educational environments and providing critical resources. They will address key challenges, innovative strategies, and practical solutions aimed at enhancing the academic and social integration of DACA & undocumented students. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with our experts, explore effective advocacy techniques, and learn how to better assist and empower this resilient student population. Whether you are a student affairs professional, academic advisor, or policy maker, this panel will equip you with valuable perspectives and tools to make a significant impact in the lives of DACA & undocumented students.

2B: Employment for All

Auditorium (PAC)

Alondra Dueñas

Student

Northern Illinois University

Luis Amezcúta

Student

Northern Illinois University

Geovanni Celaya

Student

University of Illinois Chicago

Uwimana Florence

Student

Northern Illinois University

The presentation will begin with a mindfulness exercise, creating a sense of peace as the topics we share can be stressful. Presenters will take a minute to thank the land and then go into a short and interactive informative presentation. Attendees will then join talking circles with one student leader as a facilitator. At the end of the presentation, we will return as a whole and share our ideas and the next steps for our call to action.

With the uncertainty of DACA and a growing population of students without work authorization, we are creating a Call to Action for institutions to audit career resources and services to serve the needs of Undocumented Students better. We understand the power of student advocacy and the importance of a collective voice within an institution.

Throughout the presentation, we will share important learning objectives regarding the current and specific needs of all undocumented students in their professional development, highlighting existing resources like fellowships, internships, and entrepreneurship guides.

2C: Supporting the Mental Health Well-being of Undocumented Students

C300 (San Damiano)

Dana Rusch

Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

University of Illinois at Chicago

Learn about the mental health challenges associated with being undocumented. Using their experience as a mental health provider and policy advocate, the presenter will share how you can support students and families currently experiencing mental health issues and/or trauma associated with their undocumented status.

2D: Black Migration to the U.S.

B114 (Science Lecture Hall)

Fasika Alem*

Programs Director

United African Organization

The presentation, titled Black Migration to the US, will outline the patterns of Black migration to the US, provide an overview of the characteristics of the Black immigrant and refugee population in Illinois, highlight the experiences of being Black and immigrant, including those of undocumented youth and students, and draw attention to recent trends and needs.

2E: Financial Aid and the ITIN Application & Renewal Process

Sue Manner Turk Theater

Phyllis Cavallone

Executive Director

LadderUp

This workshop will include information on understanding what an ITIN number is and why it is used, particularly as it relates to financial aid. We will review considerations when filing taxes to reduce the likelihood of a verification. We will also outline the benefits of using a certifying acceptance agent (CAA) during the ITIN process.

2:20 pm - 3:20 pm BREAKOUT 3 SESSIONS

3A: Working with Secondary Trauma

C300 (San Damiano)

Ngozi Abandy Harris, LCPC

WOW Director of Program and Staff Development

Youth Guidance

Shykira Richards, MSW

WOW Director of Program Administration

Youth Guidance

Secondary Trauma, is the emotional stress that comes from hearing about the firsthand trauma experiences of another. Exposure to secondary trauma can impact college attainment. Research suggests that childhood trauma experiences can affect college graduation rates, reducing the likelihood of completion. The pervasiveness of secondary trauma among counselors and supportive professions can lead to negative implications, higher stress levels, and a toxic work environment, which may ultimately impact the support available to students and their educational outcomes. It is important to recognize the impact of secondary trauma and implement trauma-informed approaches in educational settings to support both students and educators.

3B: Empowering Undocumented Students Through Career Services

Auditorium (PAC)

Ali Procopio

Director of Education and Workforce

FWD.us

Alessandra Muñoz

Program Associate, Education and Workforce

FWD.us

When it comes to building their resume or embarking on their career path, undocumented students may face challenges and barriers due to their immigration status. This presentation will provide practical strategies and resources for career service center professionals to help undocumented students achieve their career aspirations. We will offer tips for how to tailor some of the typical support career service centers offer--such as networking, resume building, and interview preparation--specifically to undocumented students. We will also talk about identifying the assets and unique skills undocumented students bring when they embark on their career path.

3C: Supports for English Learners who are Undocumented

Sue Manner Turk Theater

Luis Narvaez

Associate Vice Chancellor

City Colleges of Chicago

Teresa Guia

Senior Dean

Richard J Daley College

What are the implications in supporting college access for undocumented students who are still developing their English language proficiency skills? How can they benefit from additional support, including free ESL Adult Education classes immediately after high school? Learn about supports for this population that the City Colleges of Chicago has created.

3D: Advocacy, Allyship, and Access: How to be an Undocumented Serving Institution

Pat Sullivan Center

Sandy Lopez, PhD

Northern Illinois University

Tanya Cabrera, M.Ed

University of Illinois at Chicago

The Illinois House Bill 3438, known as the Undocumented Student Liaison and Undocumented Student Resource Center, took effect at higher education institutions in the 2022-2023 academic year. While undocumented student liaison positions exist at public two and four-year institutions, we must identify, train, and collaborate across institutions to truly serve the undocumented and mixed-status students entering Illinois institutions of higher education.

Expanding on Dr. Garcia's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) servingness model, this session introduces a new framework: Undocumented and Mixed-Status Student Critical Serving. This new framework weaves together HSI servingness and UndocuCrit (Undocumented Critical Race Theory) to (re)imagine the best practices needed to intentionally serve this increasing student population.

Participants will be informed about the Illinois legislation and some higher education best practices. This interactive session will provide the opportunity to share amongst peers how their institutions are currently serving their students and provide a guide to how to become an Undocumented and Mixed-Status Serving Institution.



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Sharing the Dream Planning Committee

Committee Chairs

Crystal Macias-Nazario, University of St. Francis
Sara Espinosa, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Supported by



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Jhonathan Vallecilla, Cornell College

Special thanks to



Visit www.iacac.org/undocumented for more resources and to access the College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students.