Serving Undocumented & DACA-mented Students at UNM

Celestina Torres - CEP
Victor Ortiz – Financial Aid
Alejandro Mendiaz – El Centro
Armando Bustamante – El Centro
Who [Not What] Are Undocumented students?

- Illegals Aliens Vs. Undocumented
- High school graduates ...not criminals
  - Estimated 65,000 Students a year (MALDEF, 2012).
- Regular citizens trying to get an education
- Some didn’t have a choice to be undocumented
- They are part of the campus community...whether you know it or not.
- Federally guaranteed an American K-12 education but not higher education (Plyler v. Doe, 1982).
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

**What DACA IS and ISN’T**

- IS a 2 year deferral of deportation
- IS a mean for applying for a work permit
- IS a way for recipients to request to leave the US for educational, employment, or humanitarian purposes
- IS NOT a lawful immigration status
- IS NOT a pathway to legal permanent residency or citizenship
- IS NOT a right to apply for federal financial aid
- IS NOT the DREAM ACT
Senate Bill 582 (2005) & UNM

Allows students in-state tuition & state funding regardless of their documentation status if:
1.) Attended at least one year of secondary education in New Mexico and
2.) Graduated from a New Mexico high school or received their (GED) certificate in New Mexico

UNM does not discriminate in the admissions process based on immigration status.

Students have to fill a paper application for admittance to UNM and not provide a social security number

UNM accepts paper FAFSA to provide institutional funding
Gatekeepers & Undocumented Students

**Bad Gatekeepers** – Have information and keep others out or doesn’t want to gain the information.

**Good Gatekeepers** – Have information and helps out on an individual level follows the rules.

**Allies** – Has information and shares it openly as well as advocating for policy changes within and outside institutions.
Our Goal at El Centro

- Be allies
- Educate others about DACA/undocumented student rights
  - Drop the I word
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL4ruTyc9FHOXlwi7XW1kF424I4wRPGRo8&time_continue=69&v=K4KObY2tqe4
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6GcPft7mqU&list=PL4ruTyc9FHOXlwi7XW1kF424I4wRPGRo8
- Provide access to all students regardless of documentation status

NO HUMAN BEING IS "ILLEGAL"

DROP The "I" Word!
Panel Discussion & Contact Information

Celestina Torres  
stiney@unm.edu

Victor Ortiz  
vortiz31@unm.edu

Alejandro Mendiaz  
amendiaz@unm.edu

Armando Bustamante  
abustam1@unm.edu

El Centro de la Raza @ UNM  
505-277-5020