**Support our BC DREAMers**

Who are our DREAMers?

* ***Undocumented students*** are defined as people who entered the United States without legal immigration status or who overstayed their authorized time allotted (Storlie & Jach 2012).
* It is estimated that 2 million of the 12 million undocumented immigrants are children (Gonzales, 2009).
* An estimated 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools each year; however, only about 7,000 to 13,000 enroll in college (Perez, 2009); that is only 5-10 percent of undocumented population enrolling in college after high school compared to the national average of 66 percent (Rincon, 2010)
* Of the estimated 65,000 undocumented students who graduate high school each year, “about two-thirds are of Latino descent, and 40% live in California” (Perez, 2009, p.xxv).

Recent Changes for our DREAMers

* **Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540), 2001**
  + A law allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition for public colleges and universities.
* **The California Dream Act, 2011**
  + California Assembly Bills 130 & 131 are laws that increase access to financial aid for undocumented students attending four-year universities and community colleges in California.
  + Those eligible for AB 540 are eligible for AB 130 & 131.
  + CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES: Board of Governors Fee Waiver, Community College Institutional Scholarships, Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOP&S)
* **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), 2012**
  + “Deferred Action”: the Department of Homeland Security has deemed the individual a low priority for immigration enforcement and has chosen to exercise its discretion and not deport the individual.
  + Benefits of DACA include eligibility for a driver’s license, work permit, Social Security number, and temporary relief from deportation
  + Deferred action is/does **NOT** permanent, a pathway to citizenship, or extend to family members.

What Barriers Still Exist for our DREAMers?

* Dramatic Shift in Self-Image and Identity
  + Usually discover status late in high school
* Feelings of Blame, Stigma, and Discrimination
  + Undocumented youth face higher levels of stress and depressionthan their native peers.
* Fear of Contact and Deportation
  + Fear of exposure for self and family
* Personal Loss and Distance
  + Are not able to travel outside the U.S. for family
* Vulnerability and Exploitability
  + Often are taken advantage of in the workplace

What can we do to support our DREAMers?

**DO NOT**

* make assumptions about who is undocumented
* ask youth to self-identify

**DO**

* make resources and services available to all youth
* modify intake forms to be undocumented youth friendly
* identify central staff members to be the contact person on services for undocumented youth.
* keep up to date applicable legislation, policy, college and applicable information
* Be sensitive: Be conscious of your language and projections
  + Illegal, alien, criminal
* Be encouraging: to advance their education and seek networks

Resources

* IDEAS at UCLA
  + <http://ideasla.org/index/>
* Educators For Fair Consideration
  + <http://e4fc.org/home.html>
* BC Dreamers
  + <http://bcdreamers.wordpress.com/>