



Funding Proposal:
Supporting Undocumented Students' College & Career Equity: Strategies for Success (SUCCESS)
National Convening
March 25-26, 2022, Swarthmore College, PA

Purpose: *The Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, TheDream.US, and Immigrants Rising will convene campus and student leaders from approximately forty public and private colleges and universities, together with policy experts and national advocates, for an inaugural conference hosted at Swarthmore College. Conference objectives include (1) sharing promising and transformative practices to support the educational and career equity outcomes for undocumented students; and (2) creating a sustainable, cross-state national community of practice for colleges and universities to support undocumented students.*

In the changing landscape of U.S. immigration policy, providing equitable access to higher education and careers for undocumented immigrant youth continues to present steep challenges. Given the uncertain future and limited scope of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)¹, there is an urgent need to develop more robust policies and practices that support undocumented students with and without work authorization. Public and private colleges and universities have developed a wide array of policies and programming to support the admission and retention of these students. To date, however, there have been few opportunities for a diverse group of public and private institutional leaders, student leaders, organizational advocates, and other key stakeholders to learn from each others' successes, identify and solve common challenges, and produce a sustainable network in which to share promising practices across states and institutional types. This national convening will meet this need by bringing key partners together in the short term for two days of workshops and conversations and in the long term by establishing communities of practice that can continue to shape and grow a sustainable network of support.

Host Partners in the Convening: The three organizational co-hosts for this convening represent the leading organizations supporting undocumented students in higher education, and Swarthmore College has generously agreed to serve as the convening's campus host.

¹ Close to 100,000 undocumented students graduate high schools in the U.S. annually (see: <https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/research/migration-policy-institute-fact-sheet-on-number-of-dreamers-graduating-from-high-school/>). Yet, it is estimated that less than half (181,000) of the 427,000 undocumented students enrolled in post-secondary education are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (see: <https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/research/undocumented-students-in-higher-education-updated-march-2021/>). On July 16, 2021, federal court Judge Andrew Hanen declared DACA unlawful. While he allowed for DACA renewals to continue, his decision has blocked approvals of new initial DACA applications.



- **Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration**

The nonpartisan, nonprofit Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration brings college and university presidents and chancellors together on the immigration issues that impact higher education, our students, campuses, communities and nation. We work to advance just, forward-looking immigration policies and practices at the federal, state, and campus levels that are consistent with our heritage as a nation of immigrants and the academic values of equity and openness. The Alliance is composed of over 500 presidents and chancellors of public and private colleges and universities, enrolling over five million students in 43 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico. The Alliance also leads and manages the [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#), and TheDream.US and Immigrants Rising are [Partners](#) in the Portal.

- **TheDream.US**

The nation's largest college and career success program for immigrant youth, TheDream.US has provided more than 7,500 college scholarships to DREAMers attending over 75 partner colleges in 19 states and Washington, DC. This work is grounded in the belief that all young Americans, regardless of where they were born, should have the opportunity to get a college education and pursue a meaningful career that contributes to our country's future.

- **Immigrants Rising**

Immigrants Rising empowers undocumented students to achieve educational and career goals through personal, institutional and policy transformation. For more than a decade and a half, Immigrants Rising has also partnered with postsecondary institutions to develop actionable guidance and produced varied resources for undocumented students and educators alike. Through its Catalyst Fund initiative, Immigrants Rising partners with 32 colleges and universities across California to provide grant funds, capacity building, and technical assistance for campus-based educators. Immigrants Rising's ongoing commitment is to work toward fostering sustainable policies, practices, and procedures which can lead to transformational institutional change in support of undocumented students.

- **Swarthmore College**, a sanctuary campus since 2017, is proud to host the inaugural SUCCESS convening. A residential liberal arts college committed to peace, equity, and social responsibility, Swarthmore is located outside of Philadelphia, PA on a beautiful 425 acre arboretum- campus.

Participants: We anticipate approximately 150 participants, comprised primarily of cohorts of up to 3 stakeholders (to include one immigrant student leader and one senior campus leader) from 40 public and private institutions, including community colleges, liberal arts colleges, public



and private research universities, faith-based institutions, HBCUs, HSIs, MSIs, and more. The majority of invited institutions will have demonstrated track records of effective, forward-looking, and innovative resources for undocumented students in higher education. Ten institutions that have demonstrated a clear interest to grow their current practices and have promising goals will also be invited. In addition to these campus representatives, each of the host partners will bring a team to the convening and invite key partners in this work.

Immediate and Longer-Term Impacts: Over the course of two days, senior campus leaders, students, faculty, staff, organizational partners, and legal and policy experts will come together to share practices and to strategize how these practices can be replicated on their own campuses as well as by postsecondary institutions throughout the country. The convening will also feature a public facing event with keynote speakers on the “State of Play” for undocumented students, the broader undocumented population, and immigration reform in the U.S. This event will be open to the Swarthmore campus as well as the greater-Philadelphia community.

Keynote speakers and workshops will highlight proven practices for supporting undocumented students throughout their college/university careers, from admissions through post-graduate planning. Institutional representatives will be invited to share innovative techniques via poster presentations, workshop facilitation, and structured opportunities for networking. Workshops will feature three focal topics for students and campuses--*Breaking Down Financial Barriers*, *Pursuing Post Graduation Pathways*, and *Supporting Personal and Academic Thriving*--and will be developed to meet the needs and priorities of invited campuses. In the immediate term, these conference activities will provide invitees with peer benchmarking, evidence of success, and legal frameworks to implement supportive policies on their own campuses. In addition, the opportunity to strategize and share with like-minded campus leaders and students will begin the crucial work of building a sustaining national network for policy changes.

Conference proceedings and the webinars, policy briefs, and toolkits produced as part of the workshops will be disseminated via the [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#), which will be used to generate sustained communities of practice for campuses to engage, network, and learn. Core to the Portal's mission is to provide stakeholders with the information and tools they need to support immigration policies that expand access to higher education, degree completion, and postgraduate career success. The Portal will enable us to ensure that the convening's impact is sustained, and partners and participants will be able to use the platform to ramp up their work, connect with each other, and share resources and effective practices in response to changing policies within states and at the federal level. In the longer term, building communities of practice will support increased college and career access for undocumented students and increased social and economic mobility through a college education and widened income opportunities.



Your Gift

While campuses will be asked to cover travel expenses for their participants, we are seeking donors to underwrite the overall costs of this invitation-only conference for participants, who will represent a diverse range of public and private institutions. The overall budget for the two-day convening, including participants' accommodations, meals, honoraria for speakers, convening preparation, registration, and operations totals approximately \$100,000. This figure takes into account the in-kind contributions committed by Swarthmore as well as the commitment by the co-host organizations to cover the participation costs of their staff. The \$100,000 will also enable the organizers to contribute to travel costs for those institutions that are particularly under-resourced.

Your generous gift will ensure that a diversity of institutional representatives can attend this convening without the burden of financial barriers. All donors who contribute at one of the following premium tiers or above will be recognized at the Presidential reception following the keynote event and in conference materials.

Premium Gifts	Amount	Supports
Bronze (2 options)	\$10,000	Keynote speaker event, honoraria and travel costs --or-- Presidential reception following the keynote event & dinner for 150
Silver	\$15,000	Lodging for all student conference participants
Gold	\$30,000	Travel scholarship for all attendees with financial need
Platinum	\$40,000	Primary funder of the convening's costs, including meals, accommodations of all (non-student) campus participants, conference materials and website etc.