

Sacramento State - Division of Student Affairs Dreamer Resource Center Annual Report

Annual Report: 2025-2026

Subdivision Information

- **Subdivision Name:** Cultural Academic Resource Center (CARC)
- **AVP/Executive Director Name:** Dr. Chao Vang
- **Departments Included in the Report:**
 - Dreamer Resource Center

Executive Summary (1-2 pages max)

Overview of Key Accomplishments

- Collaborated on the Caminos Project with Dr. Rogers, on a \$500,000 Spencer Foundation grant; the proposal advanced to the full-submission stage.
- Launched Undocu-Ally Mandatory Training for all Management Personnel (MPPs) campus-wide through CSU Learn
- Provided 300 warm meals during 2025-2026 through community partner donations from Jacks Urban Eats, Pupuseria La Familiar, Dr. Rita Gallardo, and Dr. Rose Borunda.
- Celebrated the DRC's 10-year anniversary with the opening of a new, larger resource center location in Lassen Hall, resulting in 2,185 total student visits for the year.
- Expanded the DRC team with the addition of a Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, 4 College Corps fellows, a Faculty Scholar, an Academic Advisor, and a Student Services Liaison to support the holistic needs of undocumented and immigrant-background students.

Notable Initiatives, Partnerships, or Improvements

- Developed an Immigration Protocol Training, a dedicated immigration webpage, and portable protocol cards for campus-wide rapid-response preparedness.
- Partnered with CHIRLA to deliver 332 immigration consultations and Undocu-Knowledge Workshops to 200 participants — the highest numbers among NorCal CSU campuses.
- Launched Rooted in Resistance, a monthly group counseling series co-developed with The Well Student Health and Counseling, bridging mental health support for undocumented and mixed-status students.
- Collaborated with Financial Aid on CADAA renewal workshops, DRC staff training, and student case referrals.
- Partnered with Sac State Orientation to deliver Tu Camino a Sac State, a Spanish-language parent workshop embedded in every orientation session.

Impact on Students & University Goals

- The DRC's work directly advances the Sac State [2023–2028 Strategic Plan](#) imperative of Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (JDEIB) — specifically Activity 10:

expanding cultural center capacity through increased staffing and adequate physical space, achieved this year with the move to Lassen Hall.

- The integrated academic advising model supports the [Division of Student Affairs Activity 2](#) (coordinated academic advising with case management), operationalizing this priority for an underserved student population.
- Career readiness programming in partnership with the Career Center and Carlsen Center supports [Activity 18](#) (ensuring 80% of undergraduate students participate in a paid or credit internship prior to graduation by Fall 2028).

Major Challenges & Opportunities for Growth

- A key Coordinator position departure anticipated by August 2026 requires proactive succession planning and a hiring freeze exemption process.
- The sustained immigration policy climate created heightened student anxiety, driving demand for rapid-response programming, Know Your Rights trainings, and increased counseling referrals throughout the year.
- Assessment response rates varied across events; the center is developing more consistent long-term tracking practices to better capture longitudinal student impact.
- Dedicated physical space for immigration legal consultations and additional student workstation monitors remain outstanding infrastructure needs.

Departmental Successes & Accomplishments

Department Name: Dreamer Resource Center

Mission Alignment

- The mission of the Sacramento State Dreamer Resource Center is to provide assistance, resources, and knowledge to support members of the Hornet community. We strive to make the dream of a college degree a reality. Through comprehensive advocacy, emergency support, and community-centered programming, we create spaces where immigrant joy and resilience flourish.

Key Achievements

- Welcomed 1,263 visitors in Fall 2025 and 922 in Spring 2026 (2,185 total) in the new Lassen Hall location reflecting strong student uptake of the expanded space.
- Hosted 47 signature events and programs with a combined attendance of 1,357 participants, spanning workshops, healing circles, socials, career panels, and community celebrations.
- Conducted outreach at 25 events across campus and the greater Sacramento region, reaching 1,199 students at high schools, community colleges, and university fairs.
- Facilitated 23 Dream Connections sessions with 342 total student participants across the academic year (average ~15 per session).
- Launched the United Scholars Fellowship with 15 active participants receiving the Dream Incentive Grant, completing community service hours, attending monthly retention check-ins, and presenting a poster project at end of spring.

Student Testimonials

- *“The DRC has given me a better idea of my path at Sac State. I feel comfortable coming here to study and ask questions. It’s also a safe space for me to comfortably ask questions that I might be uncomfortable to ask. I truly appreciate the space and the sense of community.” — Dream Connections Participant*
- *“To find community and support within my campus itself has been the utmost positive experience I’ve had here. There’s people that are in my same exact boat and I’ve found reliability within them.” — DRC Student*

New or Improved Services/Programs

- **Integrated Academic Advisor** — On-site advisor providing dedicated academic support and planning for DRC students.
- **Student Services Liaison** — Assists students with holds, to-do list items, financial aid questions, and campus navigation.
- **Beyond DACA Career Pathway Series** — Faculty-led programming exploring alternative career pathways including graduate school, legal options, and professional development panels.
- **United Scholars Fellowship** — Cohort-model retention program combining community service, monthly check-ins, and a culminating poster presentation; 15 active participants in AY 2025–26.
- **Rooted in Resistance** — Monthly group counseling series co-developed with CARES and The Well; 65 students engaged in group counseling services this year.

Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Efforts

- The DRC operated as a culturally affirming safe space throughout a high-stress immigration policy climate providing healing circles, Know Your Rights trainings, and peer community-building that directly advance Sac State’s [JDEIB strategic imperative](#) and Activity 10 (expanding cultural center capacity).
- Undocu-Ally Mandatory Training institutionalized a campus-wide culture of informed allyship, creating safer environments for immigrant-background students to access services without fear.
- Dream Connections (342 participants), Journeys of Hope (58 attendees), Undocu-Grad (80 attendees), and the 10-Year Anniversary Celebration (150 attendees) built belonging and cultural affirmation, with community donors reinforcing that Sacramento stands with its Hornet Dreamers.

Partnerships & Collaborations

- **CARES & The Well Student Health and Counseling** — Co-developed Rooted in Resistance and a warm hand-off referral process for undocumented and mixed-status students facing financial hardship and mental health challenges.
- **Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)** — 332 immigration consultations and 200 participants in Undocu-Knowledge Workshops; DRC leads all NorCal CSU campuses in both metrics.
- **Financial Aid Department** — CADAA renewal workshops, DRC staff training, and student case referrals ensuring AB 540 students access all eligible financial aid.
- **Sac State Orientation** — Tu Camino a Sac State Spanish-language parent workshop embedded in every orientation day.

- **Career Center & Carlsen Center** — Co-facilitated career readiness workshops including Internships & Job Strategies, PWA Workshops, and the Undocu-Professional Panel.
- **UC Davis & Puente Program** — Counselor summit presentations and conference tabling extending DRC reach to transfer-bound students and regional high school counselors.

Assessment & Data Highlights

- Center Visits: 2,185 total (1,263 Fall / 922 Spring); weekly averages of 84 students/week in Fall and 61 students/week in Spring.
- Dream Connections: 342 participants across 23 sessions (~15 per session average).
- Undocu-Ally Training: 302 completions in AY 2025–26.
- Signature Events: 1,357 attendees across 47 events; highlights include Undocu-Knowledge Workshop Spring (103), Undocu-Grad (80), Immigrant Stories (200), and Admitted Student Day outreach (210).
- Outreach: 1,199 students reached across 25 events, presentations, and campus tours.
- Academic Advising (Spring pilot): 6 students served via Zoom; marketing and access expansion planned for Year 2.
- Center Renaming Survey: Students indicated preference for “Undocu Student Resource Center” (49 votes), “Undocu Success Center” (37 votes), and “Undocu Hornet Resource Center” (27 votes).

Strategic Priorities & Future Goals

Short-Term Priorities (Next 1-2 Years)

- Career Readiness Track: Formalize a partnership with the Career Center, Carlsen Center, and California Student Aid Commission to ensure AB 540 students have fellowship opportunities and are labor-market ready; supports [Activity 18](#) (internship participation goal of 80% by Fall 2028).
- Academic Advising Access & Marketing: Expand awareness and utilization of on-site advising at the DRC; aligns with [Activity 2](#) (coordinated academic advising with case management).
- Zoom Drop-In Hours: Implement virtual service access for commuter students, working students, and parents, building the DRC’s digital presence in its first full year in the new Lassen Hall location.

Long-Term Vision (3-5 Years)

- Undocu-Scholars Fellowship Cohort: Rebuild and expand the fellowship into a formal cohort model linked to an EDUC 199 course, deepening retention, belongingness, and academic community for AB 540-eligible students.
- Sustained Career Readiness Pipeline: Grow the Career Center and Carlsen Center collaboration into a year-long program guiding students from resume-building through offer negotiation, with attention to AB 540-specific labor-market barriers.
- Grant-Funded Scholarship Development: Secure grant funding for non-qualified scholarships to support fellowship and cohort programming.

Resource Needs & Support Requests

- Grant funding to develop non-qualified scholarships for fellowship and cohort programming.
- 2 additional computer monitors for DRC student workstation cubicles.
- Dedicated private space within or adjacent to the DRC for immigration legal consultations.

Assessment & Data-Driven Insights

Student Engagement & Success Metrics

- The DRC tracked student engagement through event surveys, weekly visit data, and post-program feedback across AY 2025–26.
- 302 Undocu-Ally Training completions | 1,357 event/program attendees | 342 Dream Connections participants | 1,199 outreach contacts | 65 group counseling participants.
- Dream Connections surveys indicated increased resource awareness, stronger sense of belonging, and high overall satisfaction among participants.
- Belonging Survey results reinforced peer connection and welcoming spaces as core student needs. A center-renaming survey showed student preference for “Undocu Student Resource Center,” informing future branding decisions.

Use of Assessment for Improvement

- Dream Connections scheduling was adjusted mid-year based on participation trend analysis; attendance and engagement improved following the schedule change.
- Student feedback on programming shaped future event planning, outreach priorities, and the emphasis on culturally affirming social events.
- Immigration policy changes were tracked in real time and used to rapidly update Know Your Rights content, protocol cards, and staff preparedness training.

Data Challenges & Needs

- Survey response rates varied across events, limiting full capture of participant feedback an ongoing challenge in high-volume programming environments.
- Current assessment primarily captures short-term experiences rather than longitudinal outcomes; developing long-term tracking is a priority for Year 2.
- The center would benefit from more consistent assessment protocols, higher survey participation rates, and dedicated tools for tracking semester-to-semester retention and service utilization.