



SACRAMENTO STATE

Dreamer Resource Center (DRC)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

6000 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819
River Front Center
916-278-7241

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Executive Summary

The Dreamer Resource Center (DRC) is unique in that in order to provide the services it offers; it requires the commitment of an entire community—the campus community but also the Sacramento community at large. Most of the services offered by the DRC are possible through the generosity of individuals' and organizations who give their time and resources to support our students. For the past two years, the Dreamer Resource Center at Sacramento State has focused on providing access to higher education opportunities for undocumented high school, transfer & graduate students, and those with mixed status families on creating a campus culture of knowledge and sensitivity to the issues faced by this population and to increase their retention and graduation. Our programming and services utilize approaches to help students overcome the unique challenges that get in the way of achieving academic, personal and professional excellence due to immigration status.

The Dreamer Resource Center at Sacramento State has played a vital role in the lives of undocumented students and mixed-status family's students this past academic year given the political climate the country is undergoing. In its three year of establishment, the Dreamer Resource Center has increased its impact on its student's life by enhancing its services as well as beginning new programs and events that help students achieve their dream of a college degree.

In partnership with seven local non-profit organizations, the Dreamer Resource Center offers free immigration legal consultations to undocumented students, students with mixed status families, family members, staff, faculty and anyone in need of this service. Over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year, the immigration clinic served 269 students, faculty/staff, and their families. Moreover, another programming offered is Dream Dinners, which is an opportunity for staff, faculty, administrators and alumni to host undocumented and mixed-status family students for a dinner or lunch in their home or on-campus. During this academic year, 20 Dream Dinners (or Lunches) were hosted and 80 students participated in this activity. Another service offered is the Emergency Grant, which helps students remain in school when the completion of their college education is threatened by financial circumstances that are out of their control. Funding for the program comes from the help of generous donors like many of you here today. In this academic year, 32 student emergency grants were disbursed and \$26,738 dollars were awarded to undocumented and mixed-status students.

In Fall 2017, Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) saw the need faced by undocumented students and gave \$10,000 dollars to the Student Emergency Grant Fund. This brought stability at a time where everything seemed uncertain to many of us. In November of 2017, the Dreamer Resource Center hosted its second Annual Keeping the Dream Alive conference here at Sacramento State providing professional development to those serving

undocumented students. The conference contributed to the Student Emergency Grant Fund by bringing together over 100 different organizations and higher education institutions and over 400 attendees. In March, as we approached the DACA renewal deadline, the Renaissance Society sent out a letter to their 2000 members asking them to donate to assist students with the \$495 renewal fee. The response was overwhelming. This past April, the Dreamer Resource Center partnered with the Latino Alumni Chapter for their third Annual Gala de Oro. The Recognition Gala brought together Latino Sacramento leaders, community members, and Sacramento State alumni who have made a positive impact in their area of expertise. A portion of the revenues also supported the Student Emergency Grant. More recently, the Well at Sacramento State donated the 5K Fun Run proceeds to the DRC. The campus community chose the Dreamer Resource Center out of 5 programs. One hundred percent of the funds are going to the Emergency Grant.

Lastly, a Dreamer Experience Seminar is offered which is designed to enhance and foster the academic and personal success of incoming first year and transfer undocumented students, students from mixed-status families, and other students that identify with this community. This academic year, the seminar serviced a cohort of 51 students. However, the Dreamer Resource Center serves beyond these 51 students. This academic year alone, the Dreamer Resource Center served over 300+ students through direct services and over 700 through our activities and events.

The Dreamer Resource Center provided its students with an array of programming and services to support their college endeavors during the current turmoil of political climate. These services and programming are vital importance to enhancing student learning and success, as well as promoting a strong university identity. All programming and services were able to increase student engagement while also offering opportunities for students and staff to come together to build community.

Staffing

Dr. Viridiana Diaz - Assistant Vice President, Strategic Diversity Initiatives
Vacant - Program Coordinator

Background of the Hummingbird



The Dreamer Resource Center adopted the image of the hummingbird because it is a symbolic representation of the unwavering energy that undocumented students exhibit in pursuit of their dreams, despite the many obstacles they face. Hummingbirds, which are known for being able to overcome many daunting challenges during their migration journeys, are the embodiment of endurance and perseverance. Like hummingbirds, undocumented students redefine the possible by accomplishing the seemingly impossible. They do not stop at the face of economic, immigration, or social barriers, but instead remain persistent. Lastly, the circle is a reminder of the welcoming and safe space that is available to undocumented students at the Dreamer Resource Center at Sacramento State. Thus, the hummingbird honors the lived experiences of immigrant students at Sacramento State and celebrates their tenacity and determination to succeed.

Mission and Goals

The mission of the Dreamer Resource Center is to make the dream of a college degree a reality for undocumented students and students with mixed-status families at Sacramento State. The goal of the center is to help students overcome the unique challenges that get in the way of achieving academic, personal and professional excellence.

The program is anchored by the three primary goals:

1. Provide access to higher education opportunities to undocumented high school, transfer, and graduate students, and those with mixed-status families.
2. Create a campus culture of knowledge and sensitivity to the issues faced by undocumented students and students with mixed-status families.
3. Increase retention and graduation of undocumented students and students with mixed-status families by addressing their unique academic, personal and professional needs in a supportive and safe environment.

Services and Programming

Immigration Clinic

In partnership with local non-profit organizations, the DRC offers free immigration legal consultations to undocumented students, students with mixed-status families, family members and/or any student in need of the service. Immigration attorneys are available every Friday.

Student Emergency Grant Fund

The grant helps students remain in school when the completion of their college education is threatened by financial circumstances that are out of their control. The DRC Student Emergency Grant is administered by the Dreamer Resource Center in accordance with applicable University rules and policies. Funding for the program comes from the help of generous donors. Eligible students with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA, in good academic standing, AB540 eligible and with a short-term financial hardship are able to be granted up to \$1,500.

Dreamer Ally Training

The training is designed for staff, faculty, student employees and others who work with undocumented students at Sacramento State. The training provides an overview of the federal and state policies that impact the lives of undocumented students, knowledge of the conditions experienced by these students, activities to reach a greater understanding on how to address these needs, and tools to become allies and advocates during the student's college journey and beyond. The training has been revised to reflect recent state and

federal policy updates. The training is now available for outside community partners in need of the training.

Dreamer Experience Seminar

The seminar is designed to help undocumented students, students from mixed-status families, and other students that identify with this community navigate college as an undocumented student. The course accomplishes the following:

- Introduces students to the functions and resources of the University
- Provides an opportunity to interact with other fellow students and staff from the Dreamer Resource Center on a regular basis
- Builds a community of academic and personal support
- Provides a space for students to explore the various aspects of their identity
- Provides ways to use personal stories as a means to enact change in their immediate and larger communities

Dream Leader Internship Program

The Dream Leaders Internship Program (DLIP) is a year-long (fall and spring) program designed to promote and foster the development of undocumented students and students from mixed-status families through peer-to-peer mentoring, professional development, and relationship building. The internship provides interns with the opportunity to gain a meaningful professional experience by acquiring valuable leadership skills while gaining general knowledge about undocumented students in higher education. Interns participate in weekly on-campus resource training, admissions/outreach, tutoring/mentoring, retention intervention, and coaching/advising support for Sacramento State students. Dream Leaders are trained to assist students with their academic adjustment and personal acclimation to college and the Sacramento State campus. Each intern coaches 6-8 students each semester.

Dream Dinners

This activity is an opportunity for staff, faculty, and administrators to host students for dinner (or lunch) in their home or on-campus. Dream Dinners reinforces the inclusive nature of our campus in a welcoming, caring and intimate way. The goal of the activity is to connect students, particularly those new to campus or to the University community and help them build a network of support while engaging in safe and empowering dialogue.

Dream Connections

Dream Connections is a support group intended to provide a space for meaningful interaction and connection amongst undocumented students, students with mixed-status families, and allies at Sacramento State. The group will meet on a weekly basis on Friday's.

Let's Talk

Let's Talk is a program for students to drop-in and informally talk with a counselor. These mini consultations allow students to ask questions and address everyday concerns. The counselor available at the DRC office is a certified Dreamer Ally and has experience working with undocumented students and students from mixed-status families. It is offered once a week.

Expert Policy Briefings

Policy Briefings bring to campus policy experts to provide students, staff, and faculty with a policy overview on state and federal policies that have recently passed, failed, or are being considered and how these may impact undocumented students and their families.

Consortium for the Advancement of Dreamers (CAD)

CAD is dedicated to advance the academic and professional success of undocumented students and students from mixed-status families in California. The consortium provides a platform for administrators, faculty, staff, counselors, teachers, and other educators in K-12, community colleges, and institutions of higher education, as well as non-profits to share best practices, expertise, and resources to better address the needs of undocumented students and students from mixed-status families. The consortium meets quarterly.

Undocu-College Success Workshops and Webinars

The workshops increase knowledge on how to navigate college successfully by addressing topics unique to the academic, professional, and personal needs of undocumented students (e.g., healthcare, graduate school). The workshops are made available in webinar format to increase access and allow students and community members to join without physically attending.

Annual Keeping the Dream Alive Conference

The conference is designed to enable educators to become agents of change in their respective institutions. Through the sharing of knowledge, expertise and emerging practices, the conference introduces approaches to help institutions transform existing environments into sensitive and inclusive spaces where undocumented students and students with mixed-status families are supported, empowered and encouraged to reach their maximum potential. It is offered once a year.

DRC Fundraiser

The DRC hosts an annual fundraiser event where the proceeds help provide funding for financial assistance in the form of scholarships and student emergency grants, programming to strengthen services and support for students, and outreach efforts to promote access to undocumented students in high school.

DRC Scholarship

The Dreamer Resource Center (DRC) Scholarship is designed to help alleviate the financial uncertainty that comes along with being undocumented. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the DRC awards ten \$500 scholarships each year.

DRC Scholarship List

The DRC scholarship database maintains a list of scholarships that do not require proof of citizenship or residency status, and/or are open to AB 540 or undocumented students.

Individual Academic and Financial guidance and Referral

Staff and Dream Leaders at the DRC are trained to provide academic and financial guidance in both areas and/or refer students to individuals who have been certified through the Dreamer Ally Training.

Outreach and Admissions

Incoming first-year students and transfer students receive ongoing support through the admissions process as early as the start of their senior year and transferring semester through the Dreamer Resource Center. DRC staff assists and follows up with students to ensure that they are taking the right steps towards college readiness through support with the following processes:

- Cal State Apply
- CA Dream Act Application
- University documents

Along with any other questions or concerns students may have along the way.

Program Outcomes

This academic year, the Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs decided to align department goals with the university's goals, Student Affairs Divisional Goals, and Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes. The structure of this section will include the goals, the strategies to achieve those goals, and the outcomes.

Program Goal 1: The Dreamer Resource Center will provide access to higher education opportunities to undocumented students and students of mixed-status families.

University Strategic Goal: Enhance student learning and success

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Eliminate the achievement gaps through focus initiatives

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: Intellectual and practical skills

Standard of Achievement: Increase the number of students participating in the Dreamer Experience Seminar compared to prior year

The Dreamer Experience Seminar helps to enhance and foster the academic and personal success of undocumented students, students from mixed-status families, and other students who identify with this community. The purpose of the seminar are as follows:

- Introducing students to the functions and resources of the University
- Providing an opportunity to interact with students from similar backgrounds and staff from the Dreamer Resource Center
- Building a community of academic and personal support
- Creating a space for students to explore the various aspects of their identity
- Identifying ways to use their stories as a means to enact change in their immediate and larger communities

The Dreamer Experience Seminar (Ethnic Studies 98) was offered in both fall and spring semesters for the 2017-2018 academic year with an enrollment of 48 students in fall and 51 students in spring. In academic year 2016-2017, 17 students participated in the seminar. In this sense, the total number of students involved in the Dreamer Experience Seminar increased by 182% (from 17 to 48). Considering the fact that the program was designed to increase the wellbeing and success of our students, and that we were able to reach out to even more students than last year, it can be argued that we did an effective job of making our program even more inclusive. In the future, the program will continue to expand and create opportunities for more students.

Program Goal 2: Students who participate in the Dreamer Experience Seminar will persist and enroll for the next semester.

University Strategic Goal: Enhance student learning and success

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase graduation rates and decrease time to degree

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of Achievement: 90% of students enrolled in the Dreamer Experience Seminar will complete their first semester in good academic standing and will enroll for the next semester

The Dreamer Experience Seminar is designed to ensure the academic success of our student population. Specifically, the program focuses on making sure students persevere and obtain their degrees. The seminar accomplishes this with the combination of academic guidance, peer to peer support and access to all various educational events.

The effectiveness of our guidance system is reflected in the number of students that complete each semester in good standing, and continue pursuing degrees at Sacramento State. In the fall 2017 semester, out of 48 students enrolled, 42 students finished in good academic standing (88%) and 9 students finished with term honors of the Deans Honor List. Moreover, 45 of them enrolled for the spring 2018 semester (94%), 1 student graduated and 2 students due to unfortunate circumstances withdrew from enrollment. In the spring 2018 semester, out of the 48 students enrolled, 40 students finished in good academic standing (83%) and 12 students finished with term honors of the Deans Honor List. Moreover, 44 students enrolled for the fall 2018 semester (92%).

Table 1

	Fall 2017 Term GPA Average = 2.80	Spring 2018 Term GPA Average = 2.57
1.999 & Below	7 (14.6%)	9 (18.8%)
2.000 – 2.500	6 (12.5%)	8 (16.7%)
2.501 – 3.000	14 (29.2%)	15 (31.3%)
3.001 – 3.500	14 (29.2%)	9 (18.8%)
3.501 & Above	7 (14.6%)	7 (14.6%)

It is important to note, however, though the program ensures student success, outside barriers for undocumented students and mixed-status family students must be acknowledged. Overall, with nearly 90% of students in the seminar finishing the semester in “good academic standing.” The program has been very successful in assuring the success of undocumented students and mixed-status family student populations.

Program Goal 3: The Dreamer Resource Center will create a campus culture of knowledge and sensitivity to the issues faced by undocumented students and students with mixed-status families.

University Strategic Goal: Promote a strong university identity

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase student engagement

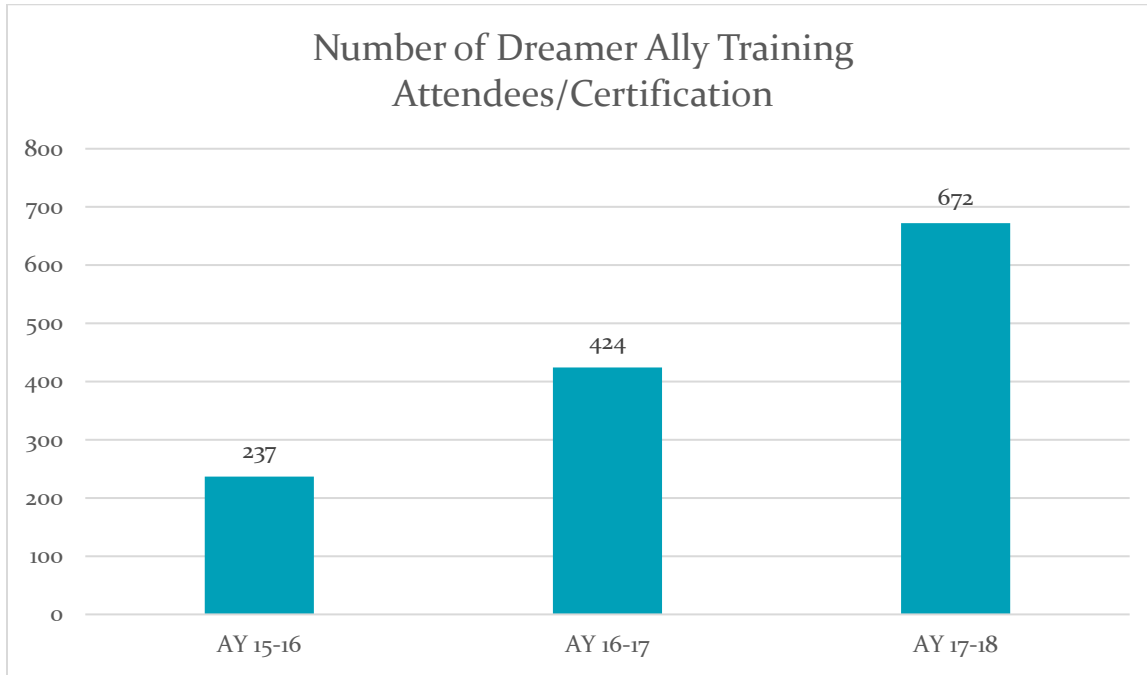
Baccalaureate Learning Goal: Personal and social responsibility

Standard of Achievement: 10% increase in the number of participants certified through the “Dreamer Ally Training” compared to prior year

The DRC offers Dreamer Ally Training for staff, faculty, student employees and others who work with undocumented students at Sacramento State. The training provides an overview of the federal and state policies that impact the lives of undocumented students. It also informs participants of the conditions experienced by this population of students, and provides activities to achieve a greater understanding of their unique needs. By combining these different components, the trainings promote a sense of shared university identity, and increase overall engagement on campus with diverse populations of students.

Over the course of the last two years, participation levels of Dreamer Ally Training sessions have increased exponentially. For example, in academic year 2016-2017, 424 participants received Dreamer Ally Certification. Though this was a major accomplishment for a relatively new program, a total of 672 participants attended our trainings and received certification this academic year. Working cohesively as a team, the DRC managed to increase training participation level by 58%. By increasing the number of training sessions, as well as through considerable promotion of our sessions, we were able to reach an even broader audience. By teaching people about the dreamer experience, we promote a sense of shared identity among students, staff and others.

Figure 1



Appendix A

Program Goals	What will be the standard of performance?	Program Outcomes
1. DRC will provide access to higher education opportunities to undocumented students and students of mixed-status families.	Increase in number of students participating in the Dreamer Experience Seminar compared to prior year.	182% increase (from 17 to 48) in student participation compared to prior year
2. Students who participated in the Dreamer Experience Seminar will persist and enroll for the next semester.	90% of students enrolled in the Dreamer Experience Seminar will complete first semester in good academic standing and will enroll for the next semester.	Fall 2017: 88% of students were in good academic standing; 94% of them were enrolled in Spring 2018 Spring 2018: 83% of students were in good academic standing; 92% of them were enrolled in Spring 2018
3. DRC will create a campus culture of knowledge and sensitivity to the issues faced by undocumented students and students with mixed-status families.	10% increase in the number of participants certified through the “Dreamer Ally Training” compared to prior year.	58% increase in the number of participants certified through the “Dreamer Ally Training”