

PDI Undocumented Students – Felipe Martinez, The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis

December 4, 2020

It's ok not to know. It's not ok not to try.

Undocumented in MO

- No driver's license, no health insurance, no work permit, double-tuition, no FAFSA
- Range of knowledge and helpfulness from college staff – can be unfriendly, hostile, unhelpful
- Very limited resources available on many college campuses (and high schools)

Higher Ed Policy in MO for Undocumented Students

- All public college and universities are required to charge the highest tuition rate possible to any student who does not possess citizenship or lawful permanent residency
 - o Also prohibited from offering institutional aid to any student who does not possess citizenship or lawful permanent residency

Undocumented – no immigration documents

DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – temporary protected status - provides protection from deportation and a temporary work permit

Everyone with DACA is undocumented, not everyone who is undocumented will have DACA

DACA today

- If you currently have DACA, you can apply to renew for 1 year
- If you do not have DACA you can not apply right now – only renewals are being processed

Not having documents or DACA does not stop a student from pursuing higher education

How can I show that I support undocumented students?

- Identify yourself as a supporter – include support in your messages to students
- Openly demonstrate your support of all students in every presentation
- Visible support in your workspace – flyers, stickers, posters,
- Talk about it with co-workers, friends, anyone
- Read, read, read – there are resources everywhere
- DO NOT ask students to educate you or share their story – they only share if they want to
 - o You don't need the whole story to help a student

Key elements of effective advising undocumented students

- Meet students where they are
- Honor their goals and encourage them
- Consider/Include family – be aware of a mixed immigration status family
- Long view – what is true today will not necessarily be true in the future

- Follow up is key
- Education is not linear – dreams don't expire
- Protect student/family privacy – get permission from student before advocating or sharing information about their situation

Key questions for every college to ask itself

- Do they admit undocumented students? Do they express this policy openly?
 - o Most schools admit undocumented students
- Is there enough funding available?
 - o Scholarships, institutional aid
- What is the tuition rate for undocumented students? Is it fair?
- What supports are in place?
- Point of contact? Who is it?
- Are all staff prepared to support all students through higher ed?

Colleges to look into - Missouri

- Private – higher cost, but has more aid available for students
 - o May have students fill out a paper FAFSA
- Public – look for out of state schools with “in state” tuition (SIUE, SIUC)
- Community college – high tuition, but cheaper than a 4 year public in MO, can be a way to get started and get a great transfer GPA

Resources

- My Undocumented Life – created by an undocumented grad student
- Immigrants Rising (formerly Educators for Fair Consideration)
- National Immigration Law Center
- United We Dream
- Migrant and Community Action (MICA) Project
- All these groups are on Facebook, Twitter, etc – follow them, sign up for newsletters, stay up to date

For students talking with you can make the difference – go on the journey of learning with them

Questions

Policy vs. law with tuition – the policy that Missouri public schools must charge the highest tuition rate is in the preamble of the Missouri Budget – schools that do not follow this policy risk losing state funding and aid

Lawful residence outside of citizenship – could include green card, refugee/asylum – someone who has documentation to be here

Private schools and funding – private schools in Missouri can accept and support undocumented students and still receive state funding like Access Missouri (not for the undocumented students, but for other students)

Career pathways that have limitations – be honest and clear with the student about these possible limitations (licensing, fingerprints, etc.), help them explore all options (another state with different laws, similar career paths, etc.), and support them in the next step of their education plan

Determined to go to a public 4 year in MO – private funding the only way to go – be honest, show the student the cost, help them look at all options

Maggie Brockmeyer, Rung for Women

Now accepting applications for women looking to move up in their career.

Membership Eligibility

Identify as a woman

21+ years

HSD/Equivalent

English Proficiency

6 months of employment history

6 months of stable housing

Personal income up to \$50,000

Ability to access South St. Louis City campus

Career goal

CHAT NOTES

00:22:36 Ashley June Moore: Registration for Spring PDI workshops
<https://stlouisgraduates.org/2020/07/16/professional-development-institute-2020-21/>

00:38:22 Beth Gandy: Could you help us understand the difference between policy and law when it comes to tuition rates and institutional aid?

00:39:25 Emily Lombardo: Love Alan Byrd!!

00:39:26 Mrs. Angieri HS School Counselor: what are examples of Lawful residence outside of citizenship

00:47:09 Reman Jabar: Also culturally, where they are not allowed to go way for college!

00:47:47 Robin Seuc - Parkway South High: Or live on campus

00:57:40 Kristin: Great Job Felipe Martinez!

00:58:13 Silvia Espinosa: Very informative, thank you Mr. Martinez

00:59:22 Kaitlyn Venta: One note on My Scholarship Central and undocumented students - the scholarship description will say if a student has to be a citizen. We do have some scholarships that require the student to be a citizen. If it does not have a citizenship requirement but does ask for a SAR,

contact me (kventa@myscholarshipcentral.org) or the scholarship provider for an alternative to the SAR. I am happy to talk to scholarship providers with any questions you or students may have

00:59:33 Ashley Richardson: Is that mo policy for ALL schools or just public schools that receive state money?

01:00:10 Ashley Richardson: So a private school that makes a daca plan and receives ACMO wouldn't jeopardize that right?

01:00:30 Ashley Richardson: access MO state grant

01:02:44 Ashley Richardson: GREAT, THANK YO

01:03:05 Pattonville HS Michelle Luraschi: When a student expresses interest in a career field that may/will have limitations due to requirements for licensure, fingerprinting, background check, etc. do you still talk with the student about these potential restrictions? Understand that we want to encourage student dreams and goals and they are long-term dreams, policies may change, etc. but what responsibility do we have to also be honest about limitations to work in some career fields? Looking for the balance in this conversation.

01:03:09 Helene Slinker: How can we best assist undocumented students who are very determined to go to a MO public college? Are private scholarships their only option for funding?

01:04:13 Emily Lombardo: I believe that there is a dreamer scholarship (not sure how it's funded) for STLCC that results in undocumented students paying in-state tuition. I have supported a student in obtaining this scholarship, but perhaps it's funded privately (which would be how they maybe get around the policy?)

01:04:48 Emily Lombardo:
<https://stlcc.edu/admissions/undocumented.aspx#:~:text=Dreamers%20Foundation%20Scholarships&text=The%20STLCC%20Foundation%20created%20a,scholarship%20to%20assist%20undocumented%20students.&text=Applicants%20must%20be%20admitted%20as,Louis%20Community%20College>.

01:05:00 Emily Lombardo: wow sorry that link is long/ugly. lol

01:05:27 Kristin: That is correct Emily. That scholarship is sponsored privately.

01:07:04 Robert Sagastume: Resources Nationwide/State Based

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/18p9OSILpSYanIoUC-gEbhVbRMYVUfw4wyrixa9ekGdc/htmlview?usp=sharing>