2019 Immigrant Integration Summit
Into the Light: Undocumented Students and Their Families in Higher Education

See Power Point Presentation

Moderator: Cenia Martinez

Speakers: Basti Lopez (Santa Ana College), Dr. Oliver Lopez (Chapman University), Oscar Terran (UCI Dream Center).

- Undocu Voices Centered Activity
- “1.5” generation- immigrants that come as kids or whose parents recently immigrated
- Resiliency- recognizing our privileges
- 47.7% of OC’s foreign-born population are currently attending college or graduate school
- OC’s immigrant population is more educated and economically productive than other counties in CA
- Tuition has skyrocketed since 1989
- Undocumented students do not receive financial aid
- 40% of undocu children live below federal poverty level vs. 17% native born
- Difficult for people to understand they have to buy-in for higher education with loans
- Federal Law excludes immigrants from accessing basics of life
- Fear of deportation of loved ones
- Decreased cognitive components, impulse control, memory
- Internalized NO’s: People self-selecting out of opportunities
- Campus climate as a barrier: No one understands you neither at home or on campus
- Universities have become focal points in culture wars- barriers to programs (if working), internships (lack of SSN)
- Support Networks within higher education are based on limited grant funding and have no set continuity.
- SAC- Free tuition opportunities
- Ally training by Dr. Elena Macias- CSULB
- 4hrs giving the historical and legal perspective
- Institutional Barriers
- Involvement by staff, faculty, and expanding to students

Needs:

- Undocu Scholarship Program: Providing resources and workshops with an educational & Community focus
- Confusion with DACA vs. AB 540/CA Dream ACT- ensuring there is proper knowledge of existing programs while transitioning from high school to college.
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- Structurally educate staff & create a culture of mass knowledge about CA Dream ACT as well as FAFSA
- Actions: Google Dr. Elena Macias from CSULB as she provides framework for Ally Training and has helped SAC’s training