

Undocumented Student Success Week

Together in Purpose, Grounded in Belonging



California Community Colleges

Undocumented Student Success Week 2025

October 13-17, 2025

Institutional Advocacy Toolkit

THEME: TOGETHER IN PURPOSE, GROUNDED IN BELONGING

This year's theme, Together in Purpose, Grounded in Belonging, calls on institutions, educators, and policy leaders to take bold, equity-driven steps in designing systems that affirm students' identities, empower their educational and career journeys, and uplift entire communities.

Goals:

- Raise awareness about challenges faced by undocumented students
- Discuss local, statewide, and federal solutions
- Build a strong, collaborative ecosystem for student success
- Break down silos and promote a unified campus approach

DATES: OCTOBER 13-17, 2025

Undocumented Student Success Week

*Together in Purpose, Grounded in
Belonging*

October 14, 2025

Keynote Speakers

9:20-10am



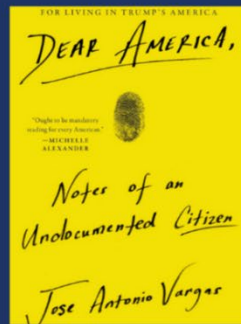
Sonya Christian

11th Chancellor of the
*California Community
Colleges*



Jose Antonio Vargas

Author of *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, *Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist*



California Community Colleges

When: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento
2001 Point W Way, Sacramento, CA, 95815**

State Advocacy-Institutional Supports

Ways to use this institutional advocacy platform

- Utilize any of these examples and strategies at your campus.
- Share with your campus staff and colleagues! Discuss ways you can create or scale any of these strategies to support your students.
- Utilize the content to update your website, brochures or other materials where students access resources.
- Create spaces for students and/or staff for dialogue.

COLLABORATION IS ALLYSHIP: HOW CAMPUS LEADERS CAN SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS

This resource includes information and best practices that you can leverage to improve and streamline the undocumented student experience. The California Community College system enrolls the largest population of undocumented students of any segment of public higher education. When undocumented immigrants can pursue their career and professional goals free of institutional barriers and discrimination, they are able to reach their educational goals and, in turn, contribute to the improvement of their communities and our economy. Supporting all students, regardless of their status, is core to the California Community Colleges mission.

ADDRESS UNIQUE NEEDS OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

All faculty, staff, and administrators must develop a shared understanding of the unique needs and challenges that our undocumented students continue to face, especially as the fate of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program remains uncertain. Most of our undocumented students do not have DACA status. This recognition is critical to understanding the lives and experiences of our undocumented students, many of whom are shut out by income generating opportunities and temporary protections that DACA offers.

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Stay informed. Utilize and communicate the availability of training modules within the Vision Resource Center.
- Help your colleagues on campus stay informed by hosting Ally trainings for faculty, administrators, and staff. These trainings also allow spaces for staff to engage in dialogue about structures and practices that may be hindering access for undocumented students.

- You may be working with students who are seeking to transfer. Develop partnerships with other educational institutions and community-based organizations in your region to discuss opportunities for creating streamlined transfer experiences for students.
- Develop clear policies that contain shared expectations for engaging with undocumented students. These policies should also summarize California's sanctuary laws (i.e., SB 54), data protections, and other legislation intended to expand higher education access and professional careers among

RESOURCES

[Top 10 Ways to Support Undocumented Students](#) (Immigrants Rising): Concrete suggestions and specific resources educators can use to strengthen the support they provide for undocumented students.

[California Community Colleges Toolkit: Unlocking the Potential of Undocumented Students](#) (Chancellor's Office): Provides practical strategies in giving support to the trauma that refugee/migrant students may experience.

[An Updated Checklist for Campuses to Support Undocumented Campus Members](#) (Presidents' Alliance): Includes strategies for campuses to move beyond DACA and recognize that many undocumented students are not DACA students.

[Know Your Rights](#) (United We Dream): Use these resources to learn about your rights and express them in case you have an encounter with an immigration official.

[Protecting Student Data in California](#) (Immigrants Rising): Provides information and strategies for secondary and postsecondary educators, practitioners, and institutions to better protect students' information in accordance with state and federal laws.

[Mental Health-Undocumented Students](#): Provides a three-step approach to supporting undocumented students in a concise manner.

[Undocumented Student Campus Resources Interactive Map](#) (Campaign for College Opportunity): Offers information about campus centers for undocumented students, support programs, website address with relevant information, and contact information of undocumented allies/liaisons in postsecondary education settings.

INFORMATION SHARING, PARTNERSHIPS, AND COLLABORATION

It can be difficult to keep up with all the information, news, and policies regarding undocumented students. Students are counting on us to mobilize and respond to their unique challenges and having the most up-to-date, accurate information related to undocumented students is essential. Providing wrong information to students can have serious consequences. Below are some recommendations to take to help ensure timely flow and sharing of information between campus staff and students. These recommendations can also help you build stronger partnerships across campus and within your community – a key strategy to building ecosystems of support.

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Sign up for newsletters and listservs to receive the latest news, research, and information related to undocumented students. These tools can be useful in your discussions with other campus departments.
- Host a town hall with students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community stakeholders (including locally elected officials) to discuss how best to support their undocumented population.

RESOURCES

- [Inclusivity Poster](#) (Immigrants Rising): Provides opportunities for classroom discussion on what it means to have an inclusive and welcoming campus and classrooms for immigrant students regardless of their background
- [Developing a Strong Undocumented Student Task Force on Your Campus](#) (Immigrants Rising): Includes tangible steps to develop an effective undocumented student task force, or strengthen an existing one, in order to create meaningful institutional changes.
- [Empowering Undocumented Students: A Guide for Career Services](#) (Fwd.us): Includes suggestions for policies, programs, and trainings that colleges and universities can implement to best support the needs of undocumented students on campus.
- [Dreamers Project Final Report](#) (James Irvine Foundation): This report serves as a road map to help colleges institutionalize support for DACA recipients and those students with no immigration status.

ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY ADVOCACY

Campus engagement in local, state, and federal advocacy is encouraged. Policymakers appreciate hearing from their campus leaders to learn what is working and what is not. As an ally, you are in a unique position to elevate the inspiring stories of undocumented students with elected officials and call on your representatives to support undocumented student success. Community colleges are constituents of our elected officials, and your voices are instrumental in ensuring that they are aware of any challenges that need to be addressed.

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Meet with your local state and Congressional representatives and urge them to support policies that uplift and empower undocumented students. Invite students to join these meetings with you.
- Create messages or public statements in support of undocumented students and reaffirm your campus support. Remind students that college is free and accessible to them, regardless of their immigration status.
- If you have not done so already, consider creating a task force dedicated to examining undocumented student experiences. Invite students to be on this taskforce.

- Spotlight examples of how undocumented students and alumni strengthened their futures, our community, and nation. These stories inspire others, and they are examples of how good policies and

For more information regarding these resources, please email AB540@cccco.edu. We also encourage you to contact your local undocumented student support program or resource center.

Archived Webinars

Below are archived webinars for Undocumented Student Success Week.

2024

- [Supporting Undocumented Students in Uncertain Times: Addressing Challenges and Fostering Allyship](#)
 - Description: Join the Student Senate for California Community Colleges for a webinar exploring many of the barriers undocumented students encounter—from financial aid limitations and legal vulnerabilities to mental health struggles—and examine how colleges, faculty, and peers can take concrete steps to support and uplift these students.
- [Unlocking Financial Aid Opportunities: Maximizing State Financial Aid Programs](#)
 - Description: This session provides a comprehensive overview of financial aid for undocumented students in California, highlighting recent updates and ongoing challenges. It covers the latest changes to the CA Dream Act Application (CADAA), eligibility criteria, and financial aid policies, using data from the California Student Aid Commission's "Renewing the Dream" report.
- [Pathways to Belonging: Understanding Naturalization and Lawful Permanent Residency in the U.S](#)
 - Description: This session explains the distinctions between obtaining lawful permanent residency (often referred to as obtaining a Green Card) and naturalization, the process leading to U.S. citizenship. It offers insights into the step-by-step process of applying for citizenship. Additionally, the webinar covers the myriad benefits and protections afforded to U.S. citizens, highlighting the tangible and intangible advantages of naturalization.
- [Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Culturally Competent Mental Health Care Access in the Undocumented Community](#)
 - Description: This session explores the unique challenges faced by undocumented students and professionals in accessing culturally competent mental health care and navigating workplace barriers. Panelists share insights on improving

representation, advocacy, and holistic support for the undocumented community, offering strategies to foster resilience and well-being.

2023

- [Cultivating Belonging for Undocumented Students in Teaching & Learning Spaces](#)
 - Description: Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) faculty panelists discuss elevating pedagogical, counseling, and mentoring practices, as well as institutional structures/programs which welcome undocumented students and help them feel a sense of belonging.
- [Advocacy in Action: Strategies for Local, State and Federal Advocacy](#)
 - Description: This webinar provides an overview of the various forms of on-campus and off-campus advocacy to advance undocumented student success. Presenters will also offer a framework for how campus leaders can engage in undocumented student advocacy at their local campus.
- [Championing Equity through AB 540: Increasing Access for Undocumented Students](#)
 - Description: Learn about the new groundbreaking, systemwide AB 540 FAQ. This first-of-its-kind tool will allow more effective implementation of this important tuition equity policy across all public higher education systems in California.

2022

- [Collaborative Ecosystems that Support Undocumented Students](#)
 - Description: This webinar provides an overview of the various forms of on-campus and off-campus advocacy to advance undocumented student success. Presenters offer a framework for how campus leaders can engage in undocumented student advocacy at their local campus, and the importance of state and federal policies that eliminate barriers, prioritize affordability and access, and create the conditions for unconditional belonging and ultimately – student success.
- [Centering the Undocumented Student Experience Through Campuswide Collaboration](#)
 - Description: Campus stakeholder collaboration into a students' educational journey and their goals to achieve a degree, credential or transfer to a four-year university is essential. These silos can sometimes be hidden but their effects are clearly visible in a student's experience. Recent policy reforms have been designed with the intention of breaking down silos and fostering greater campus collaboration. This webinar provides participants with an overview of recent policies that inform a supportive ecosystem that supports undocumented student success and will provide a framework for how they can create an ecosystem of unconditional belonging for students.