



We are grateful for the 2016-17 NCHEA grant support for “Undocumented Realities”. The following activities derive from our objectives stated in the grant and helped us assess CSUSM, MiraCosta, and Palomar’s efforts to structure support for undocumented students in our higher educational systems.

Palomar College Activity – *Indivisible: Love Knows No Borders*

The film *Indivisible: Love Knows No Borders* was screened three times during the 2016-2017 academic year at Palomar College’s main campus. This film focuses on the lives of three undocumented young people who were brought into the U.S. as children, who have been separated from their families by deportation, and are currently fighting to reunite with their loved ones. For more information about this film, please visit <https://www.indivisiblefilm.com/>. Each screening was followed by light refreshments and a panel discussion on the audience’s impressions of the film and a general discussion on the challenges that undocumented immigrants face daily.

At the first screening on September 15, 2016, approximately 20 faculty and staff were in attendance. Following the film, the audience had the opportunity to have a brief Q&A with the film director, Hilary Linder via Skype. This added an extra level of appreciation for the film and its message of support for our undocumented immigrant population.

At the second screening on December 6, 2016, approximately 20 faculty, staff, & students attended. Pre-film testimonials from two students, Blanca and Mario about their experiences and challenges as undocumented immigrants living in this country were shared. Being able to hear their stories first hand touched the audience emotionally in a significant way.

The final screening held on May 6, 2017, was attended by approximately 50 Palomar students. A post film discussion included testimonials from an undocumented student (Norma), and a faculty member (Martha Martinez) who was undocumented for a period of 5 years while she attended college. We also were able to hear from MiraCosta College faculty Edward Pohlert speak about the importance of getting involved, and how to become an ally to undocumented immigrants.

Based on post film discussions and individual comments from members of the audience, the film was very well liked and the message of support and inclusiveness towards our undocumented immigrant community was very well received. Additionally, faculty have requested the opportunity to showcase the film in their individual classrooms throughout the semester, continuing the momentum to create dialogue and raise awareness.

CSUSM Community Legal Clinic

CSU San Marcos was the location of a well-attended immigration clinic for students, faculty, staff, and community members on February 3, 2017. NCHEA, the National Latino Research Center, M.E.Ch.A., S.T.A.N.D., and Alliance San Diego sponsored the event. Lawyers from the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium, Amezola Legal Group, and Jacobs & Schlesinger Expert Attorney Services provided free legal advice to over 70 people about their immigration cases. These sessions were conducted in English and Spanish as needed and provided community members with pertinent and current information related to applying for citizenship, and concerns about detention and deportation.

MiraCosta College – Educational Seminar

MiraCosta College sponsored a couple of activities that included a professional development workshop and a book talk. The professional development workshop on August 18, 2016 was part of the Academic Senate's Diversity, Equity, Cultural Competency Committee annual conference geared towards faculty and staff. This workshop featured undergraduate and graduate student panelists, case scenarios, national and statewide policy facts, and interactive activities between workshop participants. Over 50 people attended and were given a post workshop survey that elicited comments ranging from; ***"In the 8 years that I've been a faculty member, this workshop was the most intense learning experience I've been a part of."*** and ***"I'd like to see more of these types of workshops that enhance my cultural competency."*** As a follow-up to our workshop on November 3, 2016, we sponsored a Book Talk with local scholar Dr. Marisol Clark-Ibáñez from CSUSM. Her recent publication, Undocumented Latino Youth: Navigating Their Worlds is a gripping narrative that entails students moving through the educational pipeline K-12/Higher Education. Her collaborator/co-presenter, Ms. Alma Ruiz-Pohlert is an elementary school teacher in San Marcos. Over 50 people were in attendance that consisted of a majority of college students and some faculty and staff. A vivid presentation with follow-up questions and comments lent itself to an engaging format. In addition, all students in attendance were provided with the actual book from the financial contribution of a supportive benefactor. More workshops and activities are being planned for 2017-18 as a result of the recommendations garnered from participants from both activities.

Tri-Campus Activity - Open House/Retreat

Our meeting of NCHEA colleges contextualized as a tri-campus retreat on June 2, 2017 elicited valuable information that positions us for the future. Over 50 participants across three campuses attended. Within the day's agenda, we held several activities that assessed our organizational progress in working for undocumented students. The State of Affairs portion of the retreat started with campus breakout sections. Grant team leaders prepared summaries in advance of the retreat. Participants from each college met for 15 minutes to review summaries of each campus' achievements, challenges, and future ideas related to support for their undocumented/AB540/DACAmented students. As a follow-up, each college presented their summaries which included contributions from retreat attendees who had specialized knowledge or experiences. A large-group discussion followed with ideas about possible ways to move forward with student advocacy based on the specific sets of factors affecting each campus.

We found that each campus has made significant progress this past academic year in terms of its advocacy for undocumented students. All of the specific accomplishments cannot be enumerated in this summary report. However, some common themes that emerged across our presentations were;

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1. Core groups of faculty, staff, and administrators are working together on each campus to transform campus culture and practices to a more inclusive foundation for our students (e.g., Dreamkeepers at MiraCosta College, The Alliance for Latinos and Allies for Student Success at Palomar College, and the National Latino Research Center at CSUSM). At the community college level these groups are tightly integrated, while at CSUSM there are multiple groups working across campus on behalf of undocumented students and are often doing so independently of one another. In part, these differences are related to the organizational structure and size of each campus.
2. At MiraCosta College and CSUSM, there have been Academic Senate resolutions passed to support undocumented students.
3. Palomar College and CSUSM have dedicated AB540 taskforces and all three schools have Senators who are working on behalf of undocumented student advocacy.
4. All three campuses have websites that have recently been developed or revised to provide information to students and their families about the resources each campus has to support undocumented and AB540 students.
5. Students from all three campuses are mobilized to help change campus culture around the issues that affect them. At CSUSM, there is a student group organized around undocumented student issues, STAnD, and at Palomar and MiraCosta, MECHA is one of the groups that organizes around these issues and other related ones.
6. All campuses organize numerous events and trainings that included NCHEA-funded film screenings and discussions, scholarly talks, workshops, and collaborative events, such as legal consultations with immigration attorneys and trainings co-hosted with community organizations such as UURISE, AllianceSanDiego, and the Amezola Legal Group.
7. All campuses have had mobilization efforts related to resist Border Patrol visits and the desire to protect our students from the possibility of being surveilled and detained by agents on our campuses.

Although much has been accomplished, participants noted that there are still challenges that each campus face in centralizing and streamlining services and support for our students. We found differences in institutional support on each of the campuses. At the Cal State University, the Chancellor's interest in undocumented student support has set up a culture in the CSU that has resulted in support for such endeavors by the CSUSM President. The highest levels of administrators have been included in staff and faculty task forces to address AB540 issues. At the community colleges, the statewide system support from the Chancellor is strong, however there are 114 community college districts interpreting and implementing various degrees of support for undocumented students. This makes the path of institutional change different than it currently is in the CSU.

All three campuses see a need for bringing students, faculty, staff and administrators together in coalitions that will strengthen and inspire one another. In addition, all three campuses would like to have a central resource center on their campus for undocumented students, but various political, monetary, and space issues make these centers hard to come by. We agreed that continued collaboration and discussions will help advocates continue their progress in these areas over the next several years.