

# Undocumented Student Action Week

Education and Career UndocuDreams Made Possible

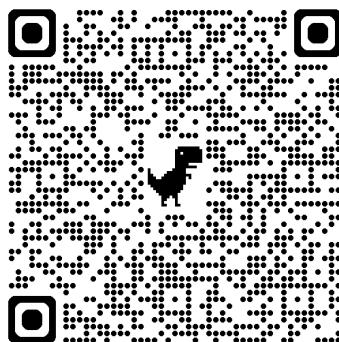


California Community Colleges

**USAW 2024**

**October 14 – 18, 2024**

**Social Media Toolkit**



**Theme: Education and Career: UndocuDreams Made Possible**

Undocumented students are an integral part of our community, and we believe that they are entitled to every opportunity to succeed. Community colleges play a pivotal role in providing these students with the education and resources they need to thrive. However, we recognize that many undocumented students continue to face significant barriers to employment and financial stability due to their immigration status. This year's USAW theme focuses on leveraging our collective power to create meaningful change. We remain confident in our ability to develop innovative strategies that will foster educational and career opportunities for all students, regardless of their background. We are eager to work together to build a more inclusive and equitable system that opens the doors of success to all. Together, we can empower undocumented students to realize their full potential and achieve their dreams.

**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 14 – 18, 2024**

Daily webinars 9-10 am PST on October 14-17

In Person Conference at Woodland Community College on October 18, 2024

Registration details: <https://californiacommunitycolleges.eventbrite.com/e/undocumented-student-action-week-tickets-53a7-4283-a45e-ffe63008ca1c/summary?tm=6iss01sViSJ0CsYB15jKsvEOfLmPQsxUcY6RNBm35M&locale=en-US>

## 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 related to equity, implicit bias, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- 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.
- [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): Understand the laws and responsibilities that

### 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 to 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

### 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 to ensuring that they are aware of any challenges that need to be addressed.

### Resources

- [How Can Your College or University Protect and Support Undocumented Students?](#) (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.
- [Resources for Undocumented Students](#) (Chancellor's Office): Includes programs and services for undocumented students to assist with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [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.

### Actions to Take

- Meet with your local state and Congressional representatives and urge them to support policies like a comprehensive pathway to citizenship. 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

### Resources

- [Inclusivity Poster](#) (Immigrants Rising): Provides opportunities for classroom discussions 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.
- [Need to Know: Biden's Final DACA Rule](#) (United We Dream)
- [Directory of Major Immigration Developments and Recommendations](#) (Presidents' Alliance): Contains an overview of some of the key recommendations, proposals, and developments that occurred or were transmitted during the first 100 days of President Joe Biden's administration.

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

## Federal Advocacy

*Ways to use the federal advocacy platform:*

- Request a meeting with your congressional representatives and urge them to support these policies
- Utilize this platform to guide your talking points
- Contact [GovRelations@ccco.edu](mailto:GovRelations@ccco.edu) if you have any questions or need support

### Issue

[11 million](#)<sup>1</sup> undocumented immigrants have spent most of their lives in the United States (U.S.) in search of a better life. They are the backbone of this country's workforce, yet they face resistance from anti-immigrant groups and have limited access to resources necessary for a decent and dignified life.

California is home to [20 percent](#)<sup>2</sup> of the undocumented student population—1 in 5 undocumented students enrolled in higher education is enrolled at a California higher education institution. As the largest and most diverse system of higher education in the country, the California Community Colleges serves a substantial number of undocumented students pursuing a postsecondary degree. We envision a higher education system that is more equitable for all Californians across the state, no matter what a student's background may be.

### Protect DACA & Create New Pathways For Citizenship

Created in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided many opportunities for undocumented individuals. Undocumented individuals eligible for DACA are protected from deportation and receive legal work authorization for two years, consistent upon self-renewal. However, frequent legal challenges to the program have prevented new applicants from benefiting and risk the program's existence altogether.

Currently, there are approximately [408,000](#)<sup>3</sup> undocumented students enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions, but only 34% of them are eligible for DACA or are current program recipients. Under DACA's current eligibility criteria, only individuals who have continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007, and came to the U.S. before reaching their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, are eligible to apply. However, [most](#)<sup>4</sup> of today's undocumented college students began to reside in the U.S. after 2007. For example, an undocumented high school graduate who was born in 2007 and came to the U.S. in 2010, at age 3, would not be eligible for DACA because of the June cutoff date, despite coming to the U.S. before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. By 2025, no undocumented high school graduates will be eligible for DACA because of this June cutoff date.

Most undocumented students in higher education, as well as current undocumented high school students seeking to pursue higher education, lack protection from deportation and are barred from legal authorization to work. Congress must pass legislation to protect DACA and create pathways to citizenship for these students.

### President Biden's June 18th Affirmative Relief Executive Order

The Biden administration announced an [executive action](#) on June 18, 2024, allowing undocumented individuals married to U.S. citizens to obtain lawful permanent residence without having to depart from the U.S. while they await the processing of their case. Beginning on August 19, 2024, eligible individuals were able to apply for this process. In the same statement, President Biden also outlined measures for some DACA recipients and other

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/07/22/what-we-know-about-unauthorized-immigrants-living-in-the-us/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.presidentsalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Undocumented-Students-in-Higher-Education.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.presidentsalliance.org/undocumented-students-in-us-higher-education/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fwd.us/news/undocumented-high-school-graduates/>

undocumented individuals to qualify for certain employment-based nonimmigrant visas if they have graduated from a U.S. higher education institution. The policy's progress is threatened by ongoing and prospective litigation.

### Quote

"Millions of immigrants have made crucial contributions to the United States, only to be met with a broken system that shuts the doors on them," [said Senator Warren](#). "Expanding the registry pathway to citizenship for people who have lived in this country for years will provide the stability and opportunity they deserve."

### Call to action: Passing Comprehensive Immigration Reform

We urge Congress to pass [H.R. 1511](#) and [S.2606 – Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929](#). These measures seek to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section 249 states that individuals who have entered the U.S. before January 1, 1972, can adjust their non-citizen status to lawful permanent resident status if they fulfill specific requirements. While this provision has not been amended since 1986, [H.R. 1511](#) and [S.2606](#) seek to update Section 249 by removing the current January 1<sup>st</sup> date and instead establish a rolling eligibility date. This would allow today's undocumented students and individuals who have lived in and contributed to the U.S. for many years to access this pathway to permanent status and citizenship.

We urge Congress to pass [S.365](#) - Dream Act of 2023. The Dream Act bill would allow DACA recipients and other individuals who can fulfill [certain<sup>5</sup>](#) eligibility requirements similar to those for DACA, including having entered the U.S. as minors, to obtain lawful permanent resident status. Currently, [71 percent<sup>6</sup>](#) of undocumented students enrolled in higher education institutions across the nation arrived to the U.S. before the age of 17, which would make most of them eligible for U.S. citizenship through S. 365.

We urge Congress to pass [H.R. 16](#) - the American Dream and Promise Act of 2023. This bill would allow DACA recipients and other individuals who fulfill certain eligibility requirements like those for DACA, to obtain conditional permanent resident status. Additionally, this bill would create a streamlined procedure for DACA recipients to directly obtain lawful permanent residency status, bypassing the need for conditional permanent residency.

### Why supporting undocumented students matters

Granting undocumented individuals the opportunity to obtain lawful permanent residency or a pathway to citizenship would have a significant impact on the U.S. economy. It is estimated that providing these individuals residency would bring [\\$121 billion to the economy annually and \\$35 billion from taxes](#).

Paid experiential learning, fellowships, and entrepreneurship opportunities are highly critical to a student's career development. However, they require work authorization. To develop a stronger economy, Congress must create pathways to employment for undocumented students.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/dream-act-overview>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.presidentsalliance.org/undocumented-students-in-us-higher-education/>

## Sample Social Media Posts

### Post 1: Announcing USAW

**Facebook:**  Mark your calendars for the eighth annual Undocumented Student Action Week: October 14 – 18, 2024! This week is packed with professional development sessions for staff, and inspiring workshops that foster a sense of belonging for undocumented students. Stay tuned to learn more!

**Twitter:**  Save the date: 8th annual Undocumented Student Action Week is back!  Join us from Oct 14-18, 2024, for empowering webinars & events, advocating for educational and career pathways for undocumented students. Stay tuned for more updates! #USAW2024

### Post 2: Announcing the theme

**Facebook Option 1:**  Did you hear? The 2024 USAW Theme is "Education and Career: UndocuDreams Made Possible" 

As the largest system serving undocumented students, community colleges play a crucial role to support their educational and career goals. This week of action, participants will learn about challenges to accessing employment, will discuss policy solutions, and learn about collaborative strategies to support undocumented student success. Stay tuned for updates! 

**Facebook Option 2:**  Did you hear? The 2024 USAW Theme is "Education and Career: UndocuDreams Made Possible" 

As the largest system serving undocumented students, community colleges play a crucial role to support their educational and career goals. In addition to systemwide webinars throughout the week and an in-person conference at Woodland Community College on October 18<sup>th</sup>, we encourage colleges to identify opportunities to discuss the challenges that students experience to access employment, discuss policy solutions, and collaborate with campus staff to support undocumented student success. 

**Twitter:**  DYK? The USAW 2024 Theme is " Education and Career: UndocuDreams Made Possible"  Join us in an action-packed week to discuss innovative policy and institutional strategies to support the educational and career goals of our undocumented students. Stay tuned for updates! 

### California Community Colleges does NOT share student status with Fed Gov

**Facebook:** As campuses gear up for Undocumented Student Action Week, we want to reaffirm our commitment to diversity and inclusion at California community colleges. That's why we do NOT share student status with the Federal Government. Your privacy matters to us and our doors are open to ALL students, no matter their citizenship status.

Together, we welcome all to a place where they can learn, grow, and thrive without fear. 

**Twitter:** We respect privacy so more doors can open. @calcommcolleges, we stand united in our commitment to inclusion. No student status shared with the Federal Government, so all are welcome to learn, grow, and thrive fearlessly. 

## **USAW Origins**

**Facebook:** Back in 2016, Undocumented Student Action Week emerged as a powerful response to challenges posed by the threat to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and the concerning sentiments towards immigrants, and now stands as a beacon of support. A permanent celebration, it advocates for policies empowering undocumented students. Join us in shaping a brighter future during #USAW2024!



**Twitter:** Born in 2016 from challenges to DACA, Undocumented Student Action Week now stands as a beacon of support. A permanent celebration, USAW advocates for policies empowering undocumented students. Join us in shaping a brighter future during #USAW2024!



## **Post 4: Cross-system collaboration**

**Facebook:** Our students deserve unwavering support from day one. We're committed to streamlining campus navigation and breaking down barriers. Because integrating undocumented student success across the board is vital.

This commitment isn't just for a week -- it's year-round. Let's eliminate obstacles and empower our students to reach new heights. 

**Twitter:**  Student support matters. @calcommcolleges, we're breaking barriers, and fostering success. Undocumented student empowerment is an everyday endeavor, not just for a week. Let's pave the way for their soaring journey! 

## **Post 5: Advocate and provide resources for undocumented students**

**Facebook:** Get ready to dive into a world of learning and advocacy during USAW 2024! This is your chance to join engaging webinars and workshops, gain invaluable information and resources, and explore diverse avenues of advocacy. 

Mark your calendars and get ready to expand your horizons! Together, we'll grow, learn, and make a positive impact for years to come. 

**Twitter:**  Dive into learning at USAW 2024! Engaging webinars, resources, diverse advocacy. Mark your calendars to expand horizons and create lasting impact. Let's grow and learn together! 

**Webinar 1: Supporting Undocumented Students in Uncertain Times: Addressing Challenges and Fostering Allyship**

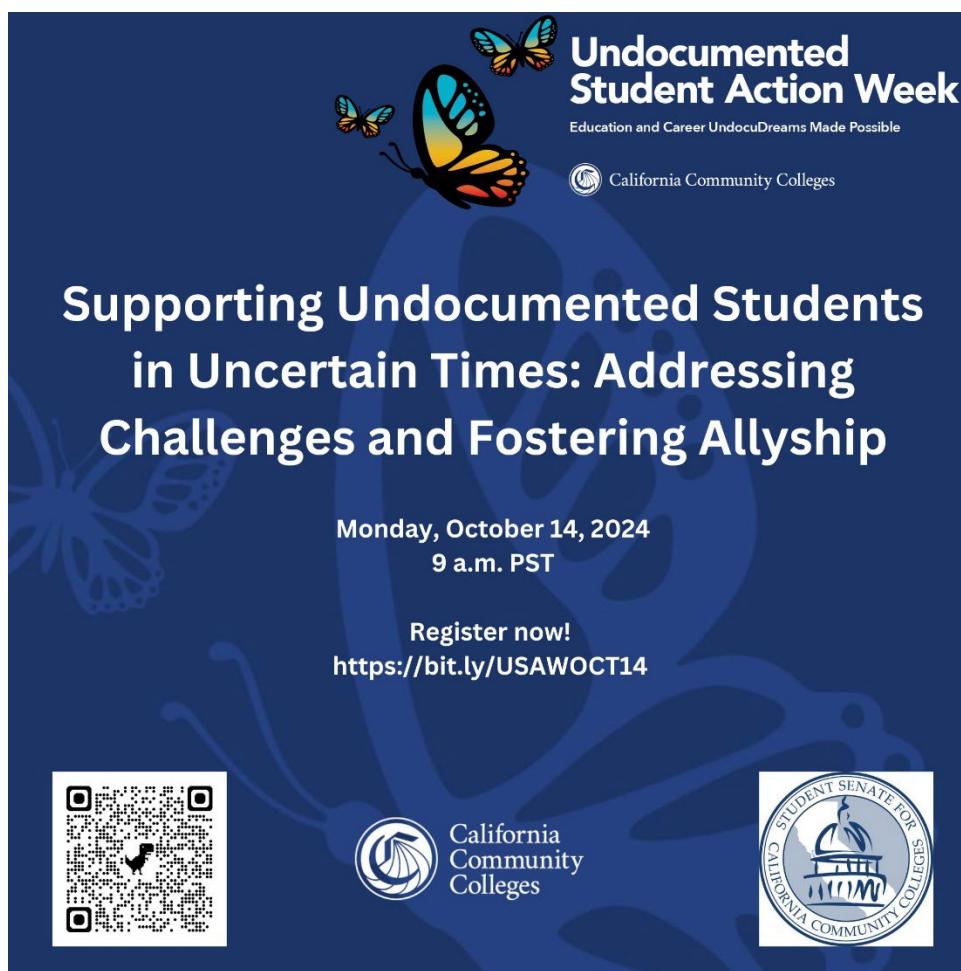
When:

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m PST – 10:00 a.m PST

Registration: <https://bit.ly/USAW OCT14>

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. As undocumented students navigate the complexities of college life, they also confront uncertainties tied to national immigration policies and the upcoming presidential election. Whether you're an educator, administrator, or student, this session will empower you to become a better ally to undocumented students and ensure they have the support to thrive in college.



## Webinar 2: Unlocking Financial Aid Opportunities: Maximizing State Financial Aid Programs

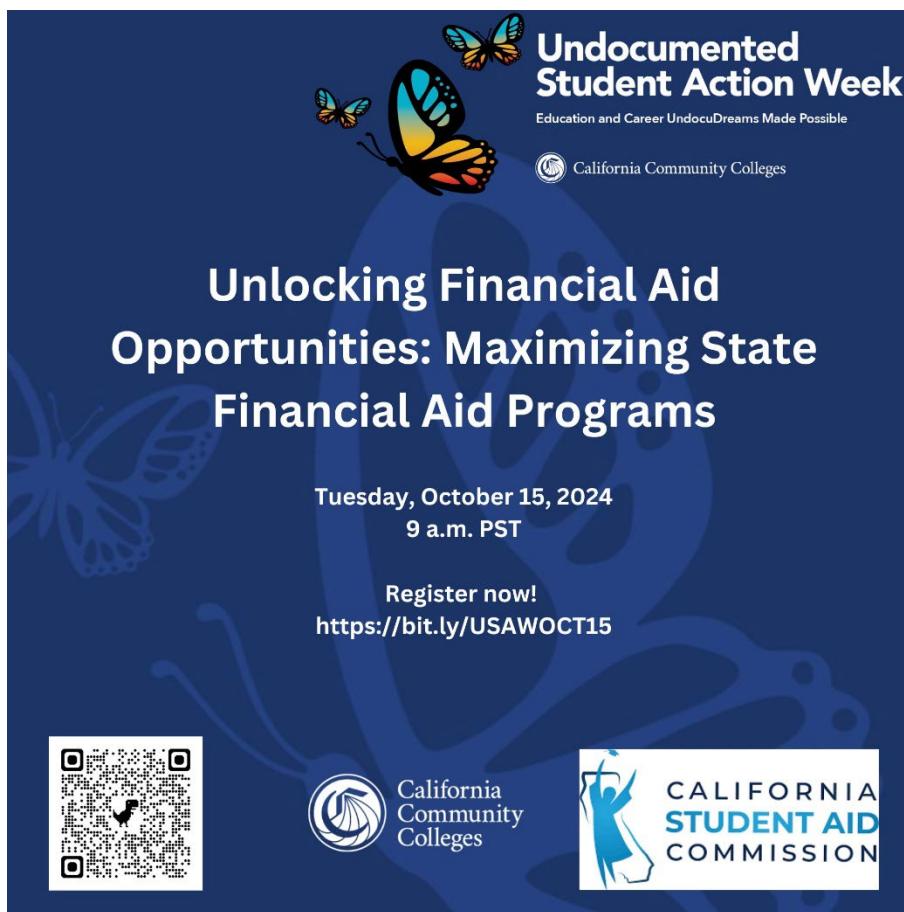
When:

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m PST – 10:00 a.m PST

Registration: <https://bit.ly/USAWOCT15>

Description: This session will provide a comprehensive overview of financial aid for undocumented students in California, highlighting recent updates and ongoing challenges. We will cover 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. Additionally, we will discuss the DREAM Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG), which supports undocumented students through community service, focusing on eligibility, application processes, and the role of cross-departmental collaboration. Attendees will learn best practices for improving financial aid access and maximizing the DSIG program's impact, fostering a collaborative approach to support undocumented students' success.



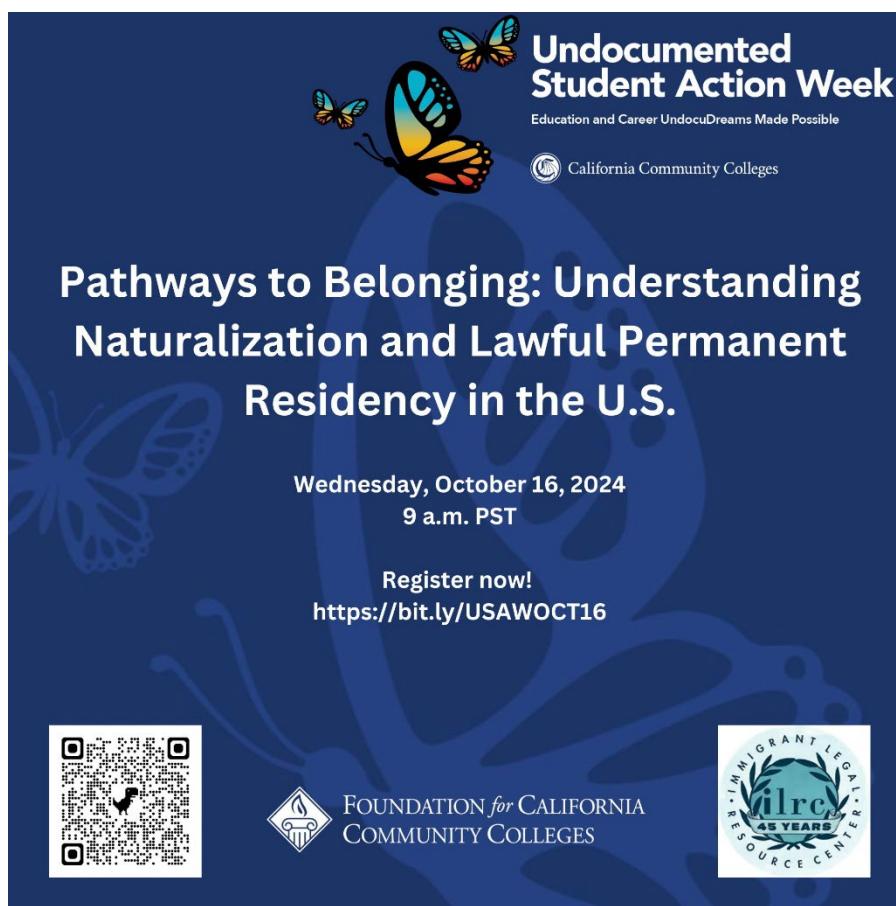
**Webinar 3: Pathways to Belonging: Understanding Naturalization and Lawful Permanent Residency in the U.S.**

**When:**

**Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 a.m PST – 10:00 a.m PST**

**Registration: <https://bit.ly/USAWOCT16>**

Description: This session is designed to explain the distinctions between obtaining lawful permanent residency (often referred to as obtaining a Green Card) and naturalization, the process leading to U.S. citizenship. Our experts will navigate through the complex relationship and requirements that bridge these two significant statuses, offering insights into the step-by-step process of applying for citizenship. Additionally, we will cover the myriad benefits and protections afforded to U.S. citizens, highlighting the tangible and intangible advantages of naturalization. Whether you're a lawful permanent resident contemplating the next steps toward naturalization or simply interested in the immigration process, this webinar will equip you with the knowledge you need. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable information and have your questions answered by our panel of experts.



**Undocumented Student Action Week**  
Education and Career UndocuDreams Made Possible  
California Community Colleges

**Pathways to Belonging: Understanding Naturalization and Lawful Permanent Residency in the U.S.**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**  
**9 a.m. PST**

**Register now!**  
<https://bit.ly/USAWOCT16>

  FOUNDATION for CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

 IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER 14

**Webinar 4: Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Culturally Competent Mental Health Care Access in the Undocumented Community**

**When:**

**Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m PST – 10:00 a.m PST**

**Registration: <https://bit.ly/USAWOCT17>**

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 will share insights on improving representation, advocacy, and holistic support for the undocumented community, offering strategies to foster resilience and well-being.

**Undocumented Student Action Week**  
Education and Career UndocuDreams Made Possible  
California Community Colleges

**Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Culturally Competent Mental Health Care Access in the Undocumented Community**

Thursday, October 17, 2024  
9 a.m. PST

Register now!  
<https://bit.ly/USAWOCT17>



 COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

 IMMIGRANTS RISING  
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

**In-Person: Undocumented Student Action Week Conference**

**When:**

**Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m PST – 10:00 a.m PST**

**Registration: <https://bit.ly/USAWOCT18>**

**Description:** Undocumented students are an integral part of our community, and we believe that they are entitled to every opportunity to succeed. Community colleges play a pivotal role in providing these students with the education and resources they need to thrive. However, we recognize that many undocumented students continue to face significant barriers to employment and financial stability due to their immigration status. This year's USAW theme focuses on leveraging our collective power to create meaningful change for our students. The conference will include professional development opportunities that will help you serve your students. Our engaging speakers will inspire and empower us to better serve undocumented students to achieve their education and career dreams.

