



# California Community Colleges

## SYSTEM WEBINAR SUMMARY:

### UndocuDreams Made Possible (Oct. 2024)

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This [webinar](#) focused on supporting education and career opportunities for undocumented students. Guest presenters included Javier Carbajal-Ramos of Los Angeles Valley College, Adela Naranjo-Barnabe of Cabrillo College, Luz Bertadillo Rodriguez of Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, and Airy Vanessa Diaz, a former student at Modesto Junior College.

#### **Why Focus on How We're Serving Undocumented Students?**

- Vision 2030 prioritizes strategies to bring college to our communities and to students wherever they are, and this includes our tens of thousands of undocumented students.
- Immigrant and undocumented students have some unique needs, such as legal counseling and residency challenges. They also share the same needs as all other students, and may require targeted supports to meet those needs.
- Enrollment of undocumented students has declined, with the greatest percentage drop in enrollment from pre-pandemic levels being among AB 540/CADA students.
- Dream resource centers at the colleges are the primary resource to meet both the unique and shared needs of undocumented students, providing a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment to help them navigate the community college journey.

#### **How are Colleges Supporting Undocumented Students?**

- Los Angeles Valley College's [Dream Resource Center](#):
  - Focuses on outreach to all campus communities, including traditional high school students and adult learners in adult education and continuing education classes and programs.
  - Provides professional development for faculty, staff, and student groups, including Undocumented Ally training.
  - Collaborates with other campus offices to enhance services for undocumented students. For example, the DRC provides workshops for undocumented students in the career center and works with cooperative/continuing education and career education programs to support career advising and work-based learning opportunities. The DRC works with the transfer center on campus visits that allow undocumented students to see similar students having the resources to be successful at a

university. The DRC Coordinator serves as the primary liaison to other offices for organizing these and other collaborative efforts.

- Cabrillo College's [Dream Resource Program](#):
  - Aims to support the academic and personal success of undocumented students, including creating opportunities for them to enhance their communication, critical thinking, and leadership competencies.
  - Supports undocumented students in navigating application and financial aid processes and taking field trips to “undocu-friendly” universities. The program manages a peer support effort with interns helping new undocumented students get connected to other students and to services.
  - Provides programming that centers community and belonging to give students unstructured opportunities to connect with peers and faculty.
  - Asks students every semester about what additional resources and services they would like to see.
  - Collaborates with the financial aid and career services offices on an internship program that has so far provided \$2,000 grants to 12 undocumented students, who completed a total of 200 hours of work in different campus departments. The college made sure to connect students' internships with their career interests and goals. For example, an engineering and computer science student was tasked with supporting other students in navigating STEM majors and related supports.

## **What Resources Can Help Colleges Better Serve Our Undocumented Students?**

- [Undocumented Student Action Week](#) is coming up October 14-18, with a focus on identifying or creating career opportunities for students. The Chancellor's Office and partners will be holding a series of [webinars](#) Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 a.m., and there will be an in-person [conference](#) at Woodland Community College on Friday. The [social media toolkit](#) (not yet posted on the Chancellor's Office website) will include sample graphics for use in promoting the week's events.
- The [President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration](#) provides technical assistance and other resources. Through a partnership with the Chancellor's Office, our colleges can receive discounted rates and targeted technical assistance. The organization's [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#) includes data, policy research, narratives, effective practices, webinars and trainings. The organization's [community of practice](#) meets to discuss issues and create materials that are made available in the portal. Individuals can join the directory and be part of a community of practitioners to access for ideas and support. The organization's next [Success National Convening](#) is scheduled for [September 11-12, 2025](#), offering opportunities to connect with and learn from other practitioners.