

Removing Barriers to College for Undocumented Students

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Harvard University

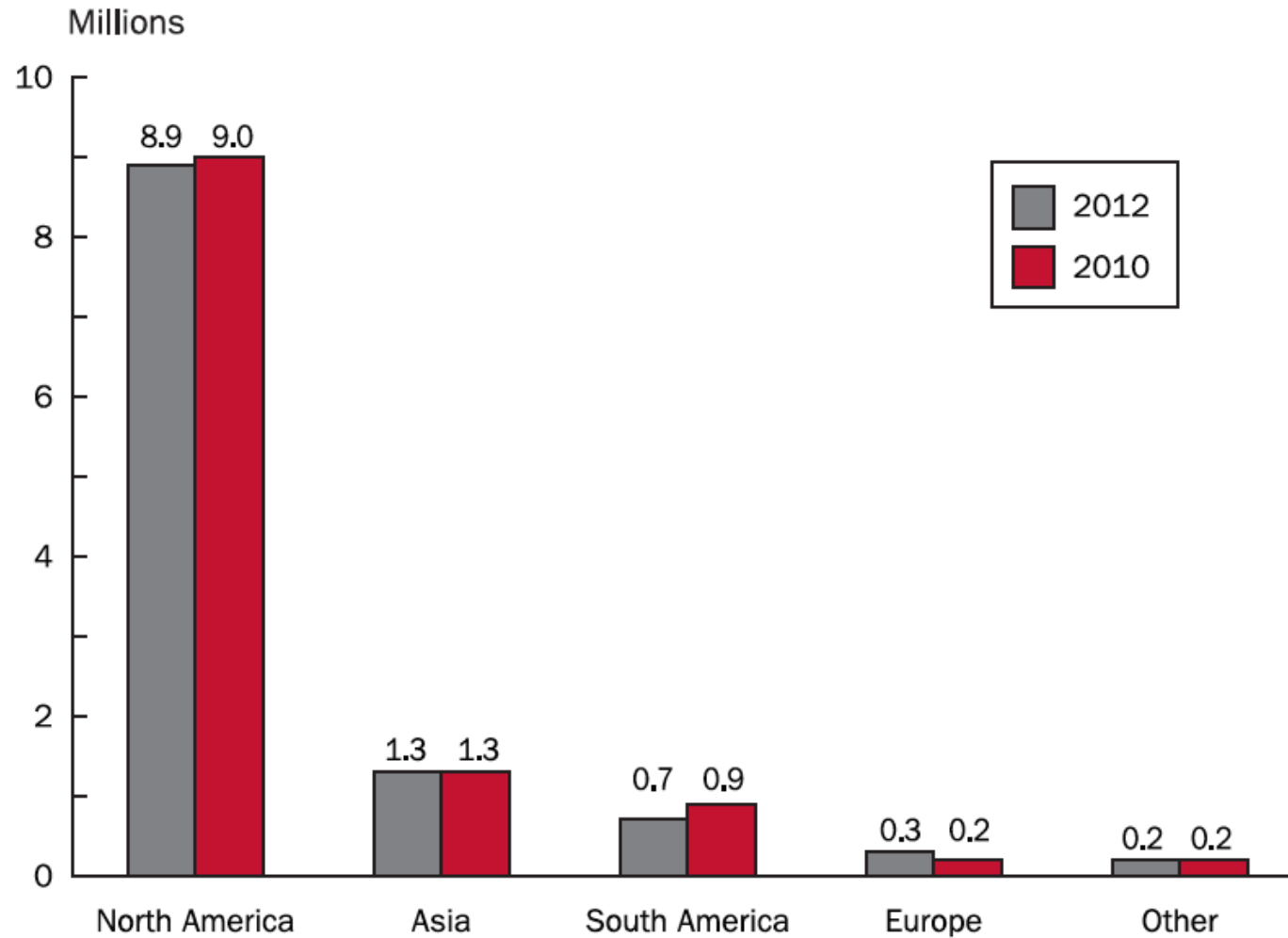
Outline

- Background
- HigherDreams: What we do
- Take-home Messages for Educators

What does it mean to be undocumented?

- Immigrants who entered the United States without inspection or overstayed their visas and are present in the United States
- Demographically diverse population

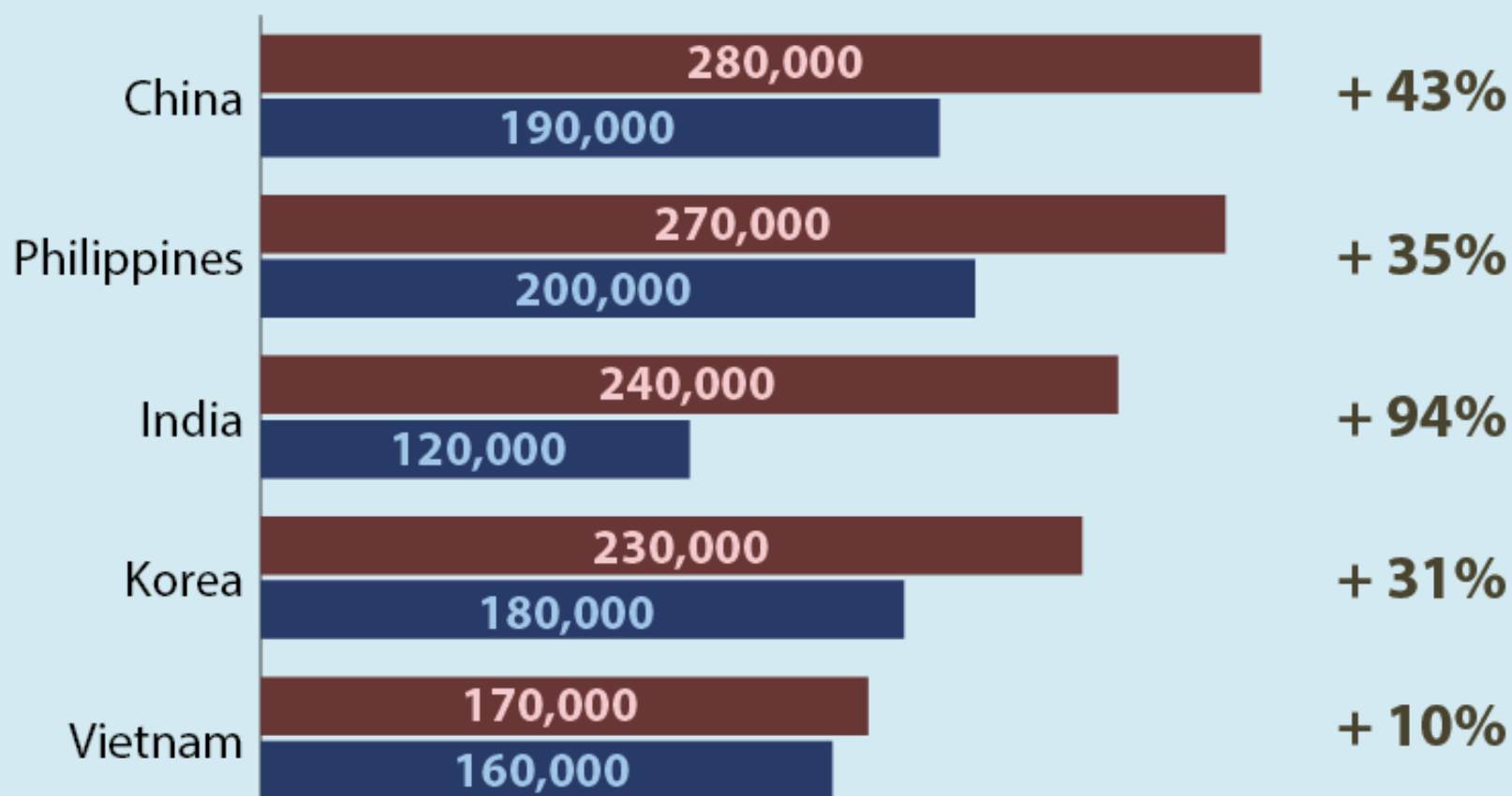
Region of Birth of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population: January 2012 and 2010

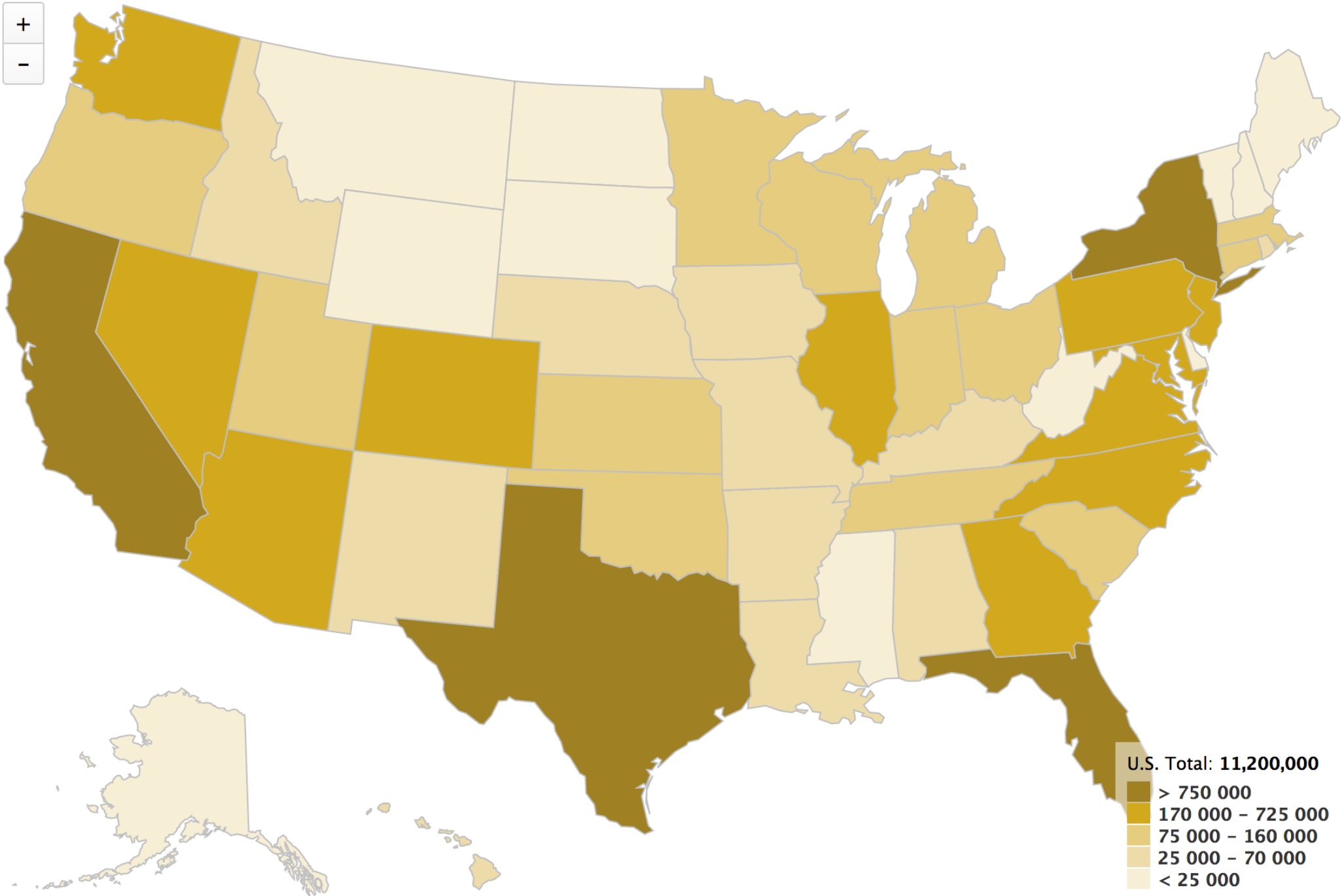


Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Growth of the Undocumented, 2000 to 2011

In 2011, about 1 in every 8 Asian immigrants was undocumented, totaling 1.3 million





11.5 million





2.1 million

65,000

7,000-13,000

52,000-58,000





Undocumented College Students



Undocumented HS Graduates

Free Public K-12 Education for Undocumented Students is Protected By Law

- *Plyler v. Doe (1982)*:

- Denying free public education to undocumented students is unconstitutional: “illegal aliens are "persons" protected by the Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments”

“Transition” into illegality

- “Undocumented children move from protected to unprotected, from inclusion to exclusion, from de facto legal to illegal.”
- The moment you step out of your gown as a high school senior, you are considered “illegal” under the law

Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act aka **IIRIRA** (1996):

SEC. 505. LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF ALIENS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT ON BASIS OF RESIDENCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State (or a political subdivision) for any postsecondary education benefit unless a citizen or national of the United States is eligible for such a benefit (in no less an amount, duration, and scope) without regard to whether the citizen or national is such a resident.

Result: undocumented students barred from federal financial aid for higher education.

Recent Federal Legislation / Executive Action

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- In addition to a path to legal status for minors, early version would have reversed IIRIRA restriction on federal funding for higher ed. Edited out of later version.
- **Result**: Passed the House 216-198; failed in Senate 52-44.

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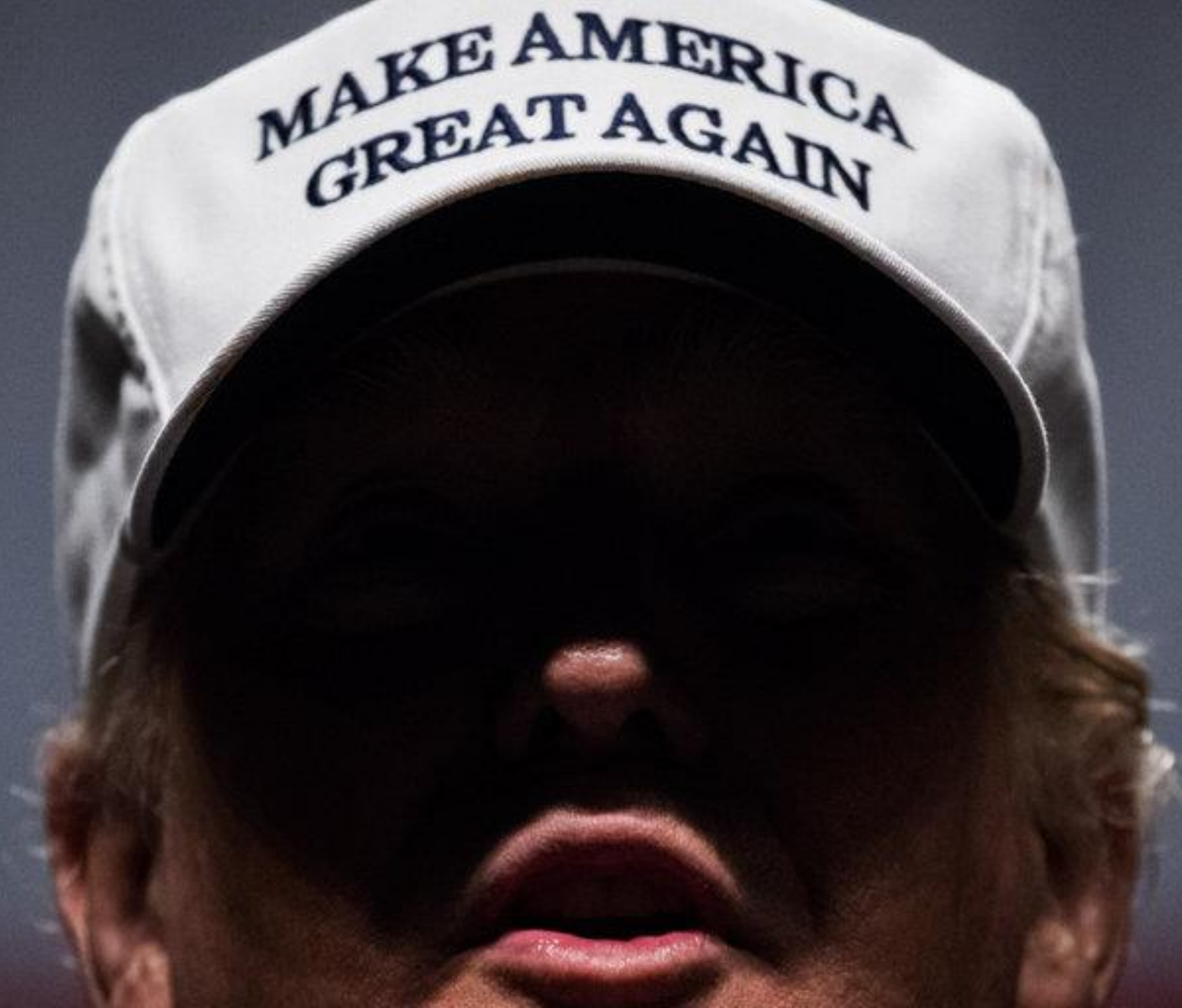
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- **Deferred Action for Parental Accountability aka DAPA/DACA+ (2014-2015)**
 - Provides administrative relief to parents of children who are US citizens
 - Result: Texas et al. filed a lawsuit, went up to the SCOTUS, which resulted in a tie. SCOTUS denied request to rehear case, so lower court's decision holds.

**MAKE AMERICA
GREAT AGAIN**



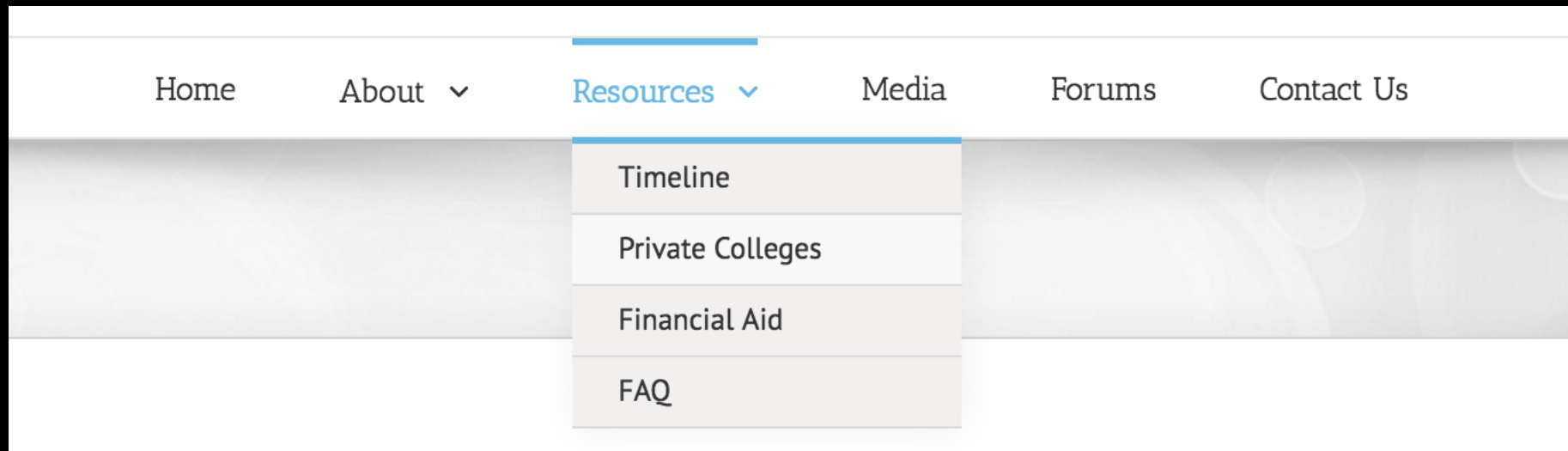
Develop Resources for Undocumented
Students Applying to College from the
perspective of an undocumented student



Helping Undocumented Students Achieve Higher Education

1) Consolidate resources

- Although there are resources online regarding the college application process as an undocumented student, they are disparate and generally state-specific



Illinois	YES, via legislation
Indiana	No statewide policy
Iowa	No statewide policy
Kansas	YES, via legislation
Kentucky	YES
Louisiana	No statewide policy
Maine	No statewide policy
Maryland	YES
Massachusetts	YES, for DACA students
Michigan	Some Michigan schools provide in-state tuition

1)Do you accept DACA students?

2)Do you accept undocumented (non-DACA) students?

3)Do you provide need-based aid to admitted undocumented students?

4)Are you need-aware or need-blind for undocumented students?

Adelphi University	800.233.5744 or 516-877-3050	admissions@adelphi.edu			YES	YES	NO	BLIND	we off
Agnes Scott College	800.868.8602 or 404.471.6285	admission@agnesscott.edu			YES	YES	NO	BLIND	Merit b
Albion College	International Admissions: 205-348-1529	https://www.albion.edu/admission/student-financial-services/contact-us							
Albright College	(205) 934-8221	chooseuab@uab.edu			YES	YES	NO	AWARE	merit s
Alfred University	1 256-824-1000	admissions@uah.edu			Copy of i797	Processed as a student with no status (no financial aid but can apply)	NO	BLIND	
Allegheny College	517-629-0440	admission@albion.edu			YES	YES	NO	BLIND	we do guaran
American International College	(610) 921-7700	admission@albright.edu							
American University	800-541-9229 or 607-871-2115	admissions@alfred.edu							
Amherst College	(800) 521-5293	admissions@allegheny.edu							
Antioch College	(800) 242-3142	graduate.admissions@aic.edu							
Arizona State University	202-885-6000	admissions@american.edu							
Assumption College	413-542-2328	admission@amherst.edu							
Auburn University	937-319-6082	admission@antiochcollege.org							
Austin College	520-621-3237	admissions@arizona.edu			YES	YES	NO	BLIND	
Babson College	480-965-2437	asuinternational@asu.edu							

College of the Holy Cross	Massachusetts	No	No support provided.
College of William and Mary	Virginia	Yes	Only private loans
Columbia University	New York	Yes	Assistance for all admitted students. Must complete the CSS International Student Financial Aid Application. Admission is competitive.
Connecticut University	Connecticut	Yes	Must apply as international student. Financial aid, including scholarships and loans, is not available.
Cornell University	New York	Yes	Provides financial aid on a limited basis to international students. Apply for the aid through a separate application process at the same time that applying for admission. Link
Dartmouth College	New Hampshire	Yes	Undocumented students are no longer considered international students, as of the last few years. This applies both to admissions and financial aid, which are two separate entities at Dartmouth. Additionally, the student contribution for first-year students is waived for accepted undocumented students. Link

Sophomore Year

OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

DECEMBER-JUNE

Junior Year

OVERVIEW

Sophomore: December - June

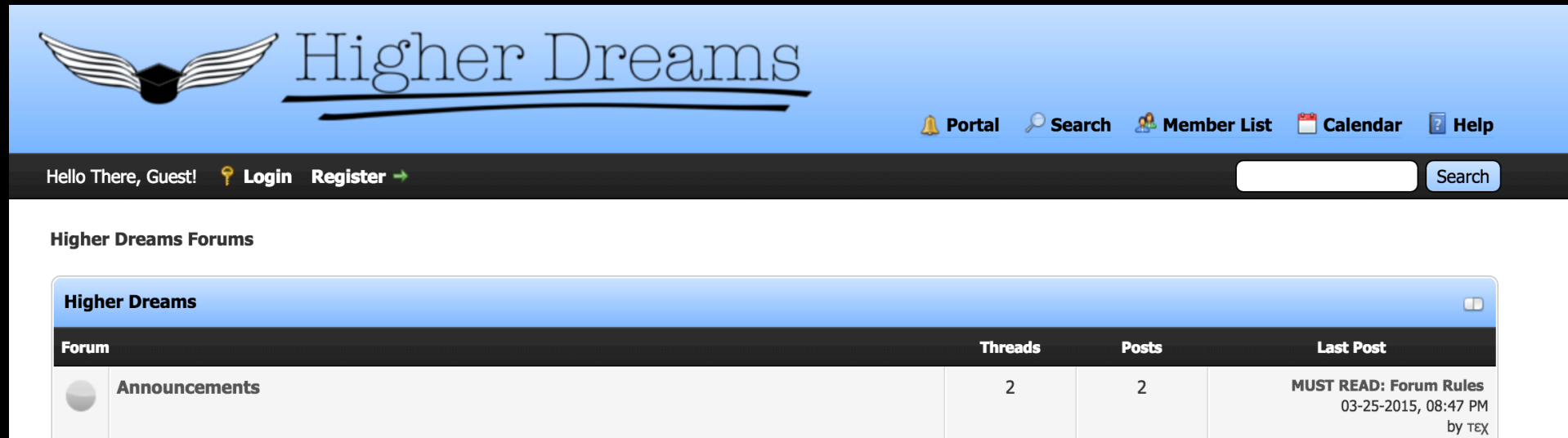


1. Academics

- a. If you have reached an advanced level in a course like math, a science, language, or history, try taking an SAT subject test at the end of the year. SAT subjects are exams that allow you to show colleges your skill in a specific subject. The College Board website has resources and information about these exams.
 - To prepare for the SAT Subject Exams, you should not rely on just one resource. Many publishing companies publish their own versions of review for each subject test. Purchasing these books may be a financial difficulty, so a good way to access the same books is to go to your local library. They may have practice review books in all of these subject tests, so it's just a matter of checking them out or simply studying in the library. When it gets close to the test date, you should try an actual practice subject test published by the College Board.
 - If you are committed to taking an SAT Subject Exam, you should ideally start your preparation around March, which will give you two months to take the May subject test. After taking the May subject test, you can adjust your studying schedule and the time you allot to the exam and retake the exam in June.
- b. Finally, you should prepare for any local or state mandated exams. However, note that if you prepare for an SAT Subject Exam, you will almost certainly be simultaneously preparing for local or state exams in the same subject.
- c. After you take your exams, you should try to find internships or exposure programs to participate in during the summer.

2) Rely on the accumulated wisdom of the community

- HD also initiated a public forum in which undocumented students can ask questions anonymously



The screenshot shows the Higher Dreams website forum interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the Higher Dreams logo (a graduation cap with wings) and the text "Higher Dreams". To the right of the logo are navigation links: Portal, Search, Member List, Calendar, and Help. Below the header, there is a dark grey bar with the text "Hello There, Guest!" and links for Login and Register. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled "Higher Dreams Forums" and contains a table with the following data:

Forum	Threads	Posts	Last Post
Announcements	2	2	MUST READ: Forum Rules 03-25-2015, 08:47 PM by TEX

3) Direct service to students in Boston

- HD is in the process of doing outreach to high schools in BPS
- The majority of undocumented students are also low-income / students of color
 - Intersectionality of class and immigration status

Our Goals

- Politics do not affect your ability to go to college.
- Create an empowering space for undocumented students
- Identify the "pressure points" of applying to college as an undocumented student; outline expectations

Take-home Messages for Educators and Practitioners

Schools as spaces of belonging and conflict

- Peer networks: Profound differences between peers
- Early exiters of school system vs. college goers
- Deportability
- DACA “breadwinner”
- Transition to illegality
- Mental health challenges
- Immigration status as a **master status**

Natalia is my cousin, we came to the U.S. at the same time. We were six, not knowing our parents had brought us illegally. She's like my sister. We shared swing sets, ice cream, and secrets. During high school we found out we were undocumented and it became another secret we shared. Up until that point we'd tread the same path. Our shared paths came to a fork in the road junior year when she decided to come out to her high school counselor in hopes of receiving advising for applying to college. Her counselor simply said **"I've had undocumented students before and the results are not pretty, you might as well just get a minimum wage job."** When she told me this, it discouraged me from coming out to my counselor. The panic caught up with me senior year, I decided to tell my counselor I was undocumented. He responded: **"I don't really know what that means but we're going to figure it out together."**

-- "Rawls," an undocumented high school student from NYC

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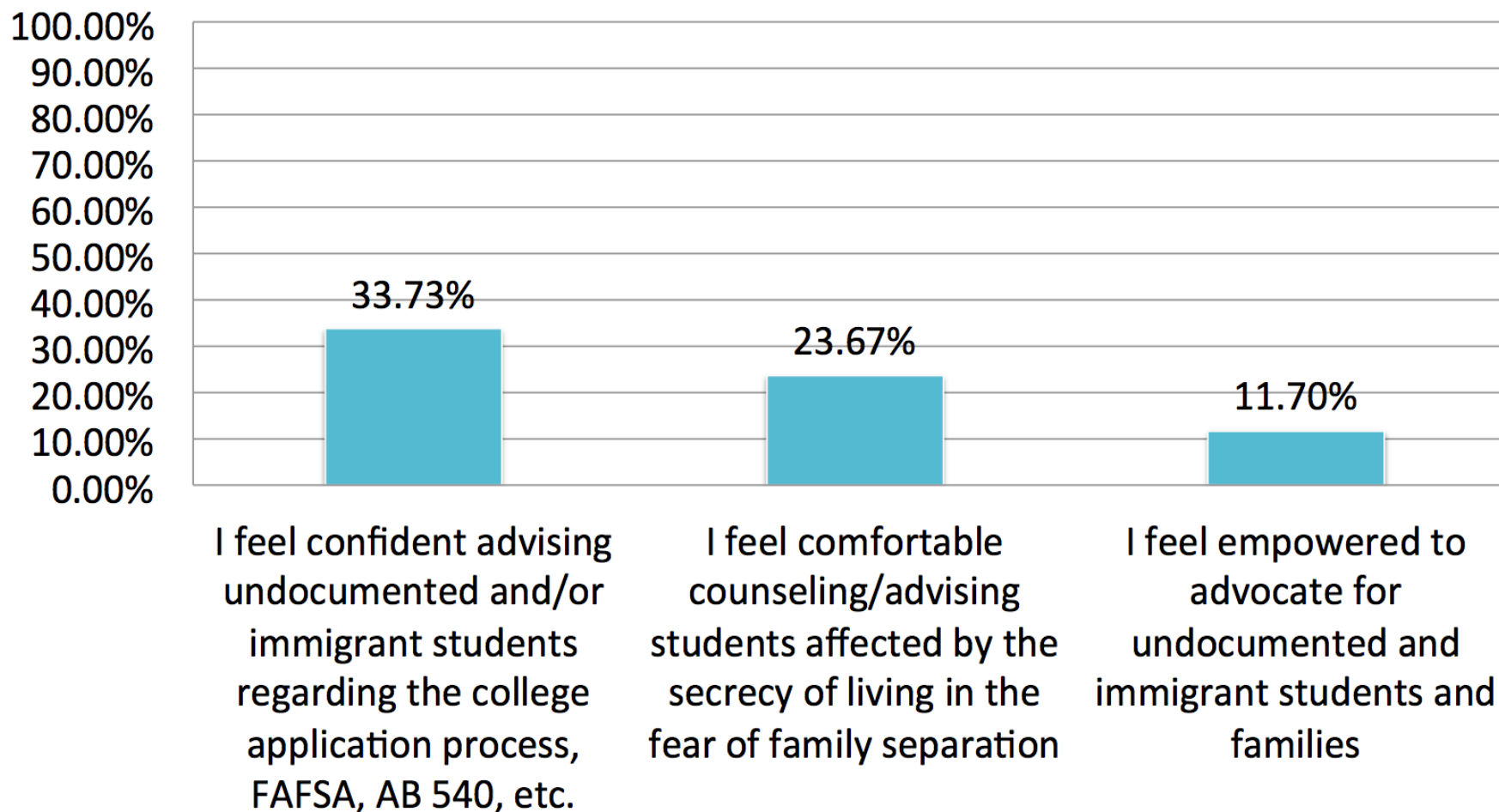




Supporting Access to Higher Education for Immigrant Undocumented Students
FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND COLLEGE ACCESS PARTNERS 4/27/2016
Pre-Conference Survey Responses



ATTITUDES



Practitioners Play a Crucial Role

- Advocating for undocumented students in the public school system



BOSTON
Public Schools

Focus on Children

Higher Dreams

Helping Undocumented Students Achieve Higher Education

Dreamers **Safe Office**



NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

Human beings can be beautiful or more beautiful,
they can be fat or skinny, they can be right or wrong, but illegal?
How can a human being be illegal?

- Elie Wiesel



I am an **ally** for undocumented students

Soy un **aliado** de estudiantes indocumentados

मैं अपंजीकृत छात्रों के लिए **सहायक** हूँ

저는 서류 미비자 학생과 **함께합니다**

我是一位无证学生的**盟友**。

Ako ay isang **tagasuporta** ng mga
estudyanteng walang legal na papel



Higher Dreams

www.higherdreams.org



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- An undocumented student's willingness to attend college is greatly affected by guidance staff

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- Advocating for undocumented students in the public school system
- An undocumented student's willingness to attend college is greatly affected by guidance staff
- Clarifying the process
 - HD Resources Page (PDF document)
 - E4FC Resources Page

Contact Info

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