



I Don't Want to Dream Anymore!

Immigration Issues in Education

2011 Men & Women of Color Leadership Conference

War on Students

- In the United States, every child has a right to a free and public education
- However, budget cuts, demographic shifts, and political pressures have caused the state to forfeit that right for many students
- One such category includes students without legal status

The Facts

- Of undocumented students that do not drop out of high school, about 65,000-70,000 graduate each year
- Undocumented students are ineligible for FAFSA, state aid, and any aid that requires a copy of FAFSA
- The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 prohibits access to in-state tuition

At the State Level

- **Twelve** states allow undocumented students to be eligible for in-state tuition rates at public universities
- **Four** states bar undocumented students from receiving in-state tuition rates
- **Two** states forbid undocumented students from enrolling in public universities

Undocumented Students

- Most undocumented students came to the United States when they were very young
- Many were too young to remember or to make the decision themselves
- Many lack ties to their home country and do not speak their native language

Undocumented Students

- Some do not even learn of their legal status until they turn eighteen years old
- Graduated and ready for college, they learn that they are not eligible for their dream
- Having gone to U.S. public schools their whole lives, they call this country home

House Bill 1402

- o As of May 2011, Indiana law requires that students be “lawfully in the United States” to qualify for in-state tuition rates
- o House Bill 1402 requires all students to verify their legal status before enrolling
- o Many undocumented students have already had to discontinue their higher education due to inability to pay out-of-state tuition

The DREAM Act

- o Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors
- o Pathway to citizenship for undocumented students
- o Requirements:
 - o Character: no criminal record
 - o Education: Graduated, GED, or admitted to higher ed.
 - o Age: Been in U.S. since 16 years old
 - o Length: been in U.S. for here for at least 5 years
 - o Dedication:
 - o Two years military service, or
 - o Two-year associate degree, or
 - o Two years of four-year degree