FIVE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (AND ANSWERS!) ABOUT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES AT UC SAN DIEGO

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NUMBER 1:
WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS?

- Students who are undocumented do not have immigration status.
- Students who are undocumented come from diverse backgrounds and countries of origin.
- Some students, students from mixed-status families, who are not undocumented have important families members who are undocumented.
Number 2: Why are services needed?

- Students who are undocumented face unique obstacles while pursuing their higher education goals. For example:
  - Economic barriers
  - Legal concerns (self and family)
  - Travel restrictions (local, domestic, international)
NUMBER 3:
WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

- Undocumented Student Services Coordinator
- Website, undoc.ucsd.edu
- Private consultations with students regarding any status-related issue
- Individual conversations or group presentations/workshops for staff and faculty
- Resources for parents, prospective students, and community members
WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

- Resource Center
- Programs for students
  - Educational programs
  - Supportive/Wellness programs
  - Social events
- Volunteer opportunities
**Number 4:**

**What’s the difference between AB540 and DACA?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AB540</th>
<th>DACA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calif. state law</td>
<td>Presidential executive order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College student-specific legislation</td>
<td>Not college student-specific</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does NOT defer deportation</td>
<td>Defers deportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does not provide SSN or work authorization</td>
<td>Means to SSN and work authorization</td>
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**Federal DREAM Act**

- Has NOT been passed and is NOT a federal law
- DREAM is an acronym for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors
- There are multiple versions
- The centerpiece of federal DREAM Act legislation is a path to legal permanency for undocumented young people who entered the U.S. as children and have pursued a college education and/or military service
NUMBER 5: WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT STUDENTS?

- Think about your work from the point-of-view of a person who is undocumented

- Make information available in a way that does not require self-disclosure

- When a student/family member does disclose, *listen* before you leap
LISTEN

- Let the student talk first
- “I don’t know” is an acceptable answer
- Share appreciation for student’s disclosure
- Tell the student about FERPA/confidentiality
- Eliminate the use of the word “illegal”
- Never make a promise you can’t keep
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