



**Keeping the Dream Alive:
Advising the Immigrant Student to College
Friday, October 18, 2013**

Hosted by the University of Denver's



and



**UNIVERSITY of
DENVER**

CENTER for MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Keeping the Dream Alive: Advising the Immigrant Student to College

History & Background:

The seed for the Keeping the DREAM Alive conference was planted when students from the Youth Organizing Committee at Denver's Bruce Randolph School demanded more accurate and robust college advising resources for undocumented students. The collective voiced their concerns to the administration of the Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF). In acknowledging the students and recognizing the need for more intentional advising practices, community partners and other college access organizations planned a workshop for educators from across the state. With advising the immigrant student to college as the theme, DSF partnered with the Bruce Randolph administration and staff, the Higher Education Access Alliance, College Summit, Together Colorado, Latin American Educational Foundation, and dedicated individuals, including Bruce Randolph School (BRS) students.

The planning committee began to pool and evaluate existing resources for undocumented students in an effort to consolidate our knowledge base. The newly formed all-volunteer planning committee put together the first half-day conference at in December 2011 at Bruce Randolph School, a professional development training for counselors and educators. This initial conference had no funding and yet turnout was 140+ participants and demonstrated the need for more work in support of our undocumented students in the state.

In 2012, the planning committee grew to include more representatives eager to share their knowledge. With the Metropolitan State University of Denver offering discounted tuition for undocumented Colorado residents and the initiation of the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) on the federal level the Keeping the DREAM Alive committee recognized the need to continue offering counselors and educators up-to-date information on advising undocumented students. Last year the conference was hosted by the Metropolitan State University of Denver where over 250 collegiate service providers, high school counselors, college counselors, and advisors from all over the state, and even from Wyoming, attended a day-long conference to learn how to better support undocumented students in their dreams of going to and graduating from college.

In the fall of 2012, we anxiously waited for election results to determine the future of Keeping the DREAM Alive Conference. After, Colorado ASSET passed, in-state tuition for undocumented students in Colorado became a reality, our direction was clear. The 2013 Keeping the DREAM Alive Conference needed to provide information on how in-state tuition is being implemented, and how to welcome and embrace more of our undocumented scholars onto college campuses. Once again, the conference is put on by committed volunteers. In 2013, Keeping the DREAM Alive is being hosted by our newest partner, the University of Denver. We are excited about the growing support this effort has gained and look forward to continuing to provide you, the educators, advisors, counselors, teachers and administrators with the most up to date information available and encourage cross organization collaboration to best support students in Colorado.

Thank you for joining us today!

2013 KDA Conference Planning Committee

Keeping the Dream Alive Planning Committee

Adrienne Martinez	Assistant Director, Student Access and Success Programs	Center for Multicultural Excellence, DU
Andrew LaCruce	Community Engagement Coordinator	College Summit
Antoinette Salazar, Esq.	volunteer	Salazar & Associates
Blanca Trejo	Community Organizer	Together Colorado
Brenda Velasquez	volunteer	University of Denver
Carla Castillo	Higher Education Advocate	
Chiara Subhas	Community Partner Coordinator	Goodwill Industries of Denver
Cynthia Armendariz	Director of Excel Programs	Metropolitan State University of Denver
Cynthia Rodriguez	student	University of Denver
Ilse Lira	President	Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc.
Jan Downing	School Counselor	Bruce Randolph School
Janeth Niebla	Vice President of Community Relations	Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc.
Jannah Kitchell	Student Services Officer	Colorado Department of Higher Education
Jesse Ramirez	Program Manager	College Summit
Johanna Leyba	Assistant Provost for Campus and Community Partnerships	Center for Multicultural Excellence, DU
Leticia Trevino	College Advisor at Bruce Randolph School	Denver Scholarship Foundation
Linda Quintanar	Executive Director	Volunteers in Partnership at DU
Maria Elena Rivera	Director of Outreach and Access	College In Colorado
Monica Rosenbluth	volunteer	
Nancy Hernandez	Manager, Denver Outreach Programs	Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Oscar Baez	volunteer	University of Denver
Salvador Ramirez	President and Student	Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc. At DU
Samantha Haviland	volunteer	
Valerie Villarruel	Admission Counselor	Metropolitan State University
Whitney Allen	volunteer	Student Advocate

Event Support and Financial Sponsors



*We'd like to thank Peck, Shaffer & Williams LLP, and the University of Denver for their financial contribution to help make this conference possible!

Keeping the Dream Alive Event Schedule

Conference Schedule Friday, October 18, 2013

- 8:00 – 9:00am **Registration and Breakfast**
Driscoll Center Ballroom - 2050 E. Evans Ave. Denver CO 80208
- 9:00 – 9:45am **Opening Session, Keynote Speaker:** Mike Johnston, Colorado State Senator
Driscoll Center Ballroom
- 10:00 –11:00am **Workshop Session I**
Sturm Hall and Driscoll Center. See Workshop Schedule for exact locations.
- 11:15 –12:15pm **Workshop Session II**
Sturm Hall and Driscoll Center. See Workshop Schedule for exact locations.
- 12:30 –1:45pm **Lunch Plenary Session**
Driscoll Center Ballroom
- 2:00 – 3:00pm **Workshop Session III**
Sturm Hall and Driscoll Center. See Workshop Schedule for exact locations.

9:00-9:45 AM Opening Session, Keystone Speaker: Mike Johnston, Colorado State Senator



Mike Johnston represents Northeast Denver in the Colorado State Senate and serves as a policy advisor to New Leaders for New Schools. Mike first entered education as a high school English teacher in Greenville, Mississippi, an experience that led him to write his acclaimed book, *In the Deep Heart's Core*. After leaving the Mississippi Delta Mike co-founded New Leaders for New Schools, a national non-profit that recruits and trains urban principals. Mike started his own career as a principal leading two alternative high schools serving Colorado students held in state custody or living in group homes and detention centers. Most recently, Mike was the co-founder and principal of MESA (Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts), a redesigned urban high school in the Mapleton Public Schools that made Colorado history by becoming the first public high school in which 100 percent of seniors were admitted to four-year colleges.

As a high school principal, many of Senator Johnston's students excelled in school, but then lost hope when they learned they would be required to pay the out-of-state tuition rate. Senator Johnston has introduced a version of ASSET each year since 2011. During his remarks in support of the bill, Senator Johnston said providing in-state tuition to undocumented students is an important step toward fairness and equality.

He has been an adjunct professor of education law at the University of Denver and has served as an advisor to state and federal political campaigns around the country, most recently as a top education advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaign and transition. Recently named to *Time Magazine's* "40 Under 40" and *Forbes Magazine's* list of the "7 Most Powerful Educators," Mike holds degrees from Yale University, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the Yale Law School. He sits on the board of many local and national organizations including the "I Have a Dream" Foundation and the Urban League. He lives in Northeast Denver with his wife, Courtney, who is Deputy District Attorney in Denver, their two sons Emmet and Seamus, and their new baby girl Ava.

Plenary Lunch Facilitators

Antonette Salazar, Esq.

Campaign Manager Higher Education Access Alliance

Tonette has worked with the Higher Education Access Alliance (HEAA) for the past 7 years helping the coalition find focus, develop & lobby legislation, and provide in-depth knowledge about higher education policy and politics. HEAA's mission was to work towards providing affordable access to higher education for ALL Colorado students, and under Tonette's leadership, their mission was achieved this year when Governor Hickenlooper signed Colorado ASSET, Senate Bill 33 into law on April 29, 2013. HEAA was only one of the many clients Tonette had in her legislative and political consulting firm, Salazar and Associates. For the last 13 years she has lead major education efforts and campaigns in state lobbying and national political consulting with clients including the Colorado School Counselors Association, the Council on High School and College Relations, TRIO, Cherry Creek Schools, Aims Community College and Educators for Obama. Beginning Nov. 1, Tonette has accepted a new position with the Education Commission of the States, created by Congress in 1965 as an interstate compact to improve K-12 and higher public education. She serve as the state relations director and the main point of contact to state legislators, governors' offices, and state departments of education and higher education.

Tonette earned her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and English from the University of Denver and her law degree from the University of Colorado. She manages to juggle her successful career while being married to her husband Tony and raising three children.

Blanca E. Trejo

Parent and Student Outreach Coordinator/ Bilingual Presenter, Higher Education Access Alliance

Blanca is a Denver native and a graduate of West High School. As a Boettcher and Gates Scholar, she triple majored earning her BA in Spanish and Political Science as well as a BSBA in International Business from the University of Denver in 2010. Blanca has been an advocate for Colorado ASSET and Immigrant Rights since she was 15. She brings over 11 years of Community and Youth Organizing training experience with Together Colorado, United We DREAM, and the PICO National Network.

"I am a first generation college graduate, first generation born in the U.S and was raised in a single parent home." Blanca says, "That is how I understand, through experience, many of the struggles our young people face while trying to reach their dreams." Blanca believes in the power of young people to influence public policy and improve the communities they come from. She shares her passion for youth empowerment through volunteering for organizations such as College Summit; as well as presenting to High School students of color across the metro area about the importance of continuing their education at post-secondary institutions.

Workshop Schedule and Descriptions

SESSION I

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Campaign for Citizenship – Sturm Hall, Room 134

Status of federal reform discussions and what any potential legislation might look like. This would include a summary of the law, a summary of the application process, impacts and benefits, responsibilities and limitations, and other issues. *Hans Meyer & Julie Gonzalez, The Meyer Law Office*

DACA: Eligibility, Process and Obstacles– Sturm Hall, Room 186

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the US as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for two years, subject to renewal, and would then be eligible for work authorization. This unique opportunity is opening doors for countless youth throughout Colorado! This session will include: Who is eligible to apply for DACA, Potential risks for applying, How to complete and submit an application for relief, Issue spotting and potential pitfalls, What do you do if you are in removal proceedings, and Awareness of other potential avenues for immigration status. *Abbie Johnson, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network*

DREAMers 101 - Driscoll Center, Commerce Room

Panel of undocumented DREAMERS help attendees understand DREAMers paths to college and provide a personal account of their experience with DACA. Panel of undocumented DREAMERS help attendees understand DREAMers paths to college and provide a personal account of their experience with DACA. *Cynthia Rodriguez, University of Denver Student.*

Immigration 101 – Ricketson Law Building, Room 280

Overview that covers the current state of immigration law, terms and definitions, current process for obligating legal status, and issues and concerns with current legal system. *Bryon M Large, Sr, Joseph Law Firm PC*

On-Campus Support: Special Focus on Minority and Undocumented Students– Driscoll, Suite 1880

Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority Inc. will deliver an interactive workshop for attendees to learn about the support systems available on college campuses across the state. We'll address available resources for minority students with a special focus on undocumented students. Participants will leave the workshop with ideas and valuable contacts from different colleges and universities. We want our audience to have tools that can be shared with future college students. We hope to inspire others by sharing success stories from members of our sorority. Teachers, counselors, and others will leave feeling motivated about encouraging all students to go to college regardless of their status. *Monica Acosta, Eva M. Bonilla, Pi Lambada Chi Latina Sorority Inc.*

Practical steps to integrate undocumented students in the academic environment– Sturm Hall, Room 187

Undocumented students, because of their lack of legal status, are frequently excluded from activities and opportunities that remain open to other students. These constant exclusions cause many undocumented students, even those with good academic skills and achievements, to exclude themselves from many activities and opportunities they are allow to join and enjoy, including, for example, academic research. In this workshop, we will analyze a series of practical steps implemented two years ago at a small, local college to help undocumented students to overcome self-exclusionary attitudes and to add their voices to the academic

environment. So far, more than 60 students benefited with this program. *Francisco Miraval and Alina Kireera, Colorado Heights University*

Step-by-Step ASSET Process – Sturm Hall, Room 311

This workshop will feature key ASSET contacts with Community College of Denver, Front Range Community College, Colorado State University, and Metropolitan State University of Denver. Each panelist will provide an overview of their institutions ASSET and Institutional Aid process. *Lori Kester, CCD; Michelle Pacheco, MSU Denver, and Diana Ragin, FRCC; Leanne Schrader, CSU and Shelly Ellery, UNC*

Supporting Dreamers in their College Dreams – Sturm Hall, Room 312

This session will help counselors and advisers guide and support dreamers with pursuing their college dreams. We will discuss how to support from students from an educational and emotional perspective. We will focus on programs, institutions and potential opportunities such as Ascent that will help students enter college and pursue their future goals. *Michael Jennings, Denver Scholarship Foundation, and Lindsey Vesceri, East High School*

Stories of Dreamers: Undocumented Americans on the Path to College – Driscoll, Suite 1864

This presentation will focus on the experiences of undocumented students on the path from high school to college and beyond. The talk will feature qualitative data from interviews with students about their aspirations and many of the challenges they confronted along the way. It will also address their experiences applying for and receiving deferred action. *Lisa Martinez, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Denver*

SESSION II

11:45 AM-12:15 PM

Sessions above repeat.

SESSION III

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Sessions above repeat, plus:

Plenary Follow Up – Driscoll Ballroom

Still have questions on ASSET? This is a follow up question and answer session to the lunch plenary. *Mike Johnston, Colorado State Senator; Tonette Salazar, Campaign Manager Higher Education Access Alliance; Blanca E. Trejo, Parent and Student Outreach Coordinator/ Bilingual Presenter, Higher Education Access Alliance.*

Workshop Presenters Biographies

Campaign for Citizenship

Hans Meyer runs a private law practice specializing in immigration law, removal defense, criminal defense, postconviction relief, and the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. He represents immigrants in matters before the immigration trial and appellate courts, the federal district court, and state trial and appellate courts. Hans is a former trial attorney with the Colorado State Public Defender, and currently provides statewide training and technical advisements regarding the immigration consequences of crimes to the the public defender system, the alternate defense counsel, and the private defense bar. Hans is also the former Public Policy Director for the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, where he focused on local, state, and federal legislation and immigration enforcement policies impacting the immigrant community.

Hans grew up in Aurora, Colorado, and is a 2006 graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. He is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the ACLU of Colorado, the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, the National Immigration Project, and the National Lawyers Guild. Hans has been recognized for his public interest litigation and advocacy by the immigration bar, criminal defense bar, and the Hispanic bar. He frequently lectures, publishes, and appears in the press on issues related to immigration law and policy and its nexus with the criminal justice system.

Julie Gonzales is a paralegal at the Meyer Law Office, PC, where she supports noncitizens with criminal convictions in deportation proceedings to fight to stay in the United States. She has a decade of experience engaging grassroots communities across the state through organizing around immigrant justice, education reform, and workers' rights. She earned her undergraduate degree in History and Ethnicity, Race, and Migration from Yale University in 2005. Born on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona and raised in the borderlands of south Texas, Julie has lived in Denver for the past eight years and is proud to call Colorado home.

DACA: Eligibility, Process and Obstacles

Abbie L. Johnson is the Children's Program Staff Attorney. Abbie represents children and their families in immigration-related legal matters. Abbie's practice focuses on representing immigrant victims of crime. In addition, Abbie coordinates RMIAN's DACA intakes and referrals to pro bono attorneys.

Immigration 101

Bryon M. Large is a licensed attorney in the State of Colorado. Mr. Large earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico. He is a private attorney and has been practicing immigration law for over four years. Mr. Large serves on the executive committee as Chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Colorado Chapter (2012-2013 Term). Mr. Large is a member of the National LGBT Bar association, as well as a member of the Colorado GLBT Bar Association. Mr. Large actively practices removal defense, federal litigation, and asylum law with a particular emphasis on same-sex issues. Mr. Large has represented clients before the Colorado state courts, the United States District Court for the District of Colorado, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Mr. Large is bilingual in Spanish and English.

DREAMers 101

Cynthia Rodriguez was born in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, but has lived in Denver for many years. She is an alumni of Abraham Lincoln High School and is currently a 2nd year student at the University of Denver pursuing a

degree in Accounting. She has personal experience with the challenges of deportation. Since 2011 she has been living alone in Denver without her immediate family. Her mom, dad, and three siblings currently live in Zacatecas. She currently works for the Volunteers in Partnership Program at DU and is a member of the Latino Student Alliance. She serves as a student advocate and support for Latino students at DU.

On-Campus Support: Special Focus on Minority and Undocumented Students

Monica Acosta was born in Durango, Mexico and immigrated to the US at the age of 3. After moving from California to Denver, Colorado 15 years ago, she attended Denver Public Schools. Monica graduated from North High School in 2004 and moved on to the University of Denver where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in Sociology and Spanish. Today, she works as a community organizer for a local non-profit advocating and organizing for educational equity, health justice and immigrant rights.

Eva M. Bonilla recently returned from her two year service abroad with the Peace Corps. Prior to leaving the country she worked supporting DPS students through their college admissions process. She graduated from the University of Denver in 2008 with a double major in Psychology and Spanish, as well as a minor in Sociology. While she was a student at DU she worked at various campus offices, including the Center for Multicultural Excellence. Eva immigrated from Mexico to the United States as child, and grew up in Denver.

Practical steps to integrate undocumented students in the academic environment

Francisco Miraval a philosopher, writer, and journalist. Born and raised in Argentina, he lives in the United States since 1994. He is the founder Project Vision 21, a bilingual independent, news and consulting service agency in Aurora, Colorado. Since 2009, Francisco is a professor at Colorado Christian University (Spanish, Latin American Studies, and Journalism) and since 2010 at Colorado Heights University (Humanities). He previously taught Introduction to Scientific Knowledge at the University of Buenos Aires (1985-1990).

Alina Kireeva is an international student from Turkmenistan. She is currently a freshman at Colorado Heights University (International Business). Previously (2009-2010), she was a participant in the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program of the American Councils for International Education. In 2012, she became the Alumni Coordinator for FLEX. She is multilingual and a published poet. She has a degree in music from her native country.

Step-by-Step ASSET Process

Lori Kester is the Dean of Enrollment Services and Registrar for the Community College of Denver. As Dean, Kester provides vision, leadership, program analysis and development, budget oversight, data analysis, and coordinator of services for admissions and registration, financial aid, recruitment, outreach, call center, and records management and systems. Kester holds a Master's of Science in Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Florida Atlantic University. Active in the community and within the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), Kester has served on many committees including serving as past Chair of the Colorado Community College System Statewide Registrars Group, and she is currently part of the State Wide Admissions Task Force.

Michelle Pacheco has worked in higher education for eight years; she currently serves as Assistant Director of Admissions at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Michelle earned a bachelor's degree in History from Metropolitan State College of Denver and a master's degree in Counselor Education from Adams State College. She is highly involved in the development and implementation of outreach programs that are focused on the recruitment and retention of Latino students. Michelle also leads the provisionally accepted program and ensures students are represented and treated fairly throughout the process.

LeAnne Schnader is the Tuition Classification Officer at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado for the last 6 years. She has been responsible for providing information to the staff and students at CSU on the State of Colorado tuition classification statutes and reviewing all petitions requesting in-state tuition classification. She has been at Colorado State University for 10 years and has been in Student Financial Services since 2005. She has a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics Education from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania and a Master's degree in Counseling/Student Personnel Services from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. She has enjoyed living in CO for over 20 years and spends her free time as a volunteer with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office Victim Response Team.

Shelly Ellerby has been the Tuition Classification Officer at the University of Northern Colorado for three years, where she gets to help students understand the requirements to establish in-state residency in Colorado. Shelly is a Colorado native and UNC alumna with a B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy-Ethics and Public Policy. Shelly is currently pursuing her M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership at UNC with the hope of working with first-generation college students in some capacity.

Supporting Dreamers in their College Dreams

Michael Jennings served as the Associate Director of Health Promotions for the BACCHUS Network, a non-profit organization that focuses on the health of teens and young adults. Prior to accepting the position with the BACCHUS Network, he served as the Director of Student-Alumni Relations at the University of Denver. While at Texas A&M University, he worked in the admissions and athletic offices in a support role. Michael graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelors of Communications and Masters of Education. Michael believes in the power of education. He wants to help make a difference in the lives of young people. He takes his time with students seriously and hopes to inspire them to live life to the fullest of their abilities.

Stories of Dreamers: Undocumented Americans on the Path to College

Lisa M. Martinez is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Denver. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Texas, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Arizona. Her areas of expertise are racial/ethnic politics, Latina/o sociology, immigration, and inequality. She is a faculty affiliate of the DU Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship (DULCCES), an interdisciplinary program dedicated to conducting research on Latina/o communities in Denver and the Rocky Mountain West. In addition to serving on various departmental, divisional, university-wide, and national committees and advisory boards, she is a member of the Gender and Women's Studies Executive Committee and faculty advisor of the Latino Student Alliance. In terms of her scholarly pursuits, Lisa studies the role of community-based organizations in mobilizing Latinos for political action in Colorado as well as the impact of immigration policies on the social, economic, and political well-being of Latina/o communities. She is currently working on an interdisciplinary project with her DULCCES colleagues on the pathways to mobility among Latino and immigrant youth. She has published in academic journals including *Social Forces*, *Mobilization*, and *American Behavioral Scientist*. Her courses include Social Inequality, Sociology of Immigration, Political Sociology, Latina/os in American Society, Race and Politics, Gender in Society, and Quantitative Research Methods.

*For more information and to access this program and other resources,
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