



10 THINGS COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATORS CAN DO TO SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS FOR UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH THROUGH DACA

Community colleges can take several steps to ensure educational access and success for undocumented students, including those who may qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The DACA program stops deportation and grants temporary relief to certain undocumented young immigrants who came to the US as children and have since been pursuing educational opportunities. Individuals who qualify under DACA will be allowed to remain in the US and to apply for work authorization.

Call to Action: CCCIE has prepared this one-page toolkit of resources and recommendations to help educators launch effective outreach campaigns and prepare staff to provide clear and comprehensive information to assist students. We hope the following strategies will be helpful to educators and community partners in their efforts to support immigrant youth.

1. **Learn more about DACA.** See U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (www.uscis.gov) for updated [FAQs, guidelines, and resources](#).
2. **Train all key front line staff** (admissions, registrar, financial aid, counseling, etc.) so that they understand DACA and can support students in their requests for transcripts and other relevant records. See the U.S. Department of Education's comprehensive [resource guide](#) to help educators, school leaders, and community groups better support undocumented youth, including DACA recipients.
3. **Offer accurate and unbiased information** about undocumented individuals to the campus community to dispel myths and build support for access to higher education. View the [DACA Toolkit for Educators](#) created by Educators for Fair Consideration (<http://e4fc.org>), [educator guides](#) and [updated interactive scholarship resources](#) to help undocumented students pay for college.

4. **Designate key staff as DACA "specialists"** so that eligible youth know who to go to for accurate information and guidance, including financial aid options. See E4CF's resources, and the [Federal Student Aid Toolkit](#) which gives advice to undocumented students and others ineligible for federal aid.
5. **Facilitate connections** between student clubs and local immigrant advocacy organizations to create additional support for enrolled and college bound youth. Learn about United We Dream's [DEEP program](#) for information on how to organize an educators' conference at your college and find a [UWD affiliate group](#) near you.
6. **Reach out to area immigrant serving community based organizations** (CBOs) and lawyers to offer support in the planning and coordination of information forums and DACA clinics that promote reputable legal assistance. (Visit <http://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams> for tools to help avoid immigration services scams and to find [accredited legal services](#) in your community.) Invite high school students, parents, counselors and college students as well as the community.
7. **Convene or participate in meetings** with key personnel from immigrant serving CBOs, K-12 school systems & others to create a cohesive plan of information sharing and dissemination about the DACA program and implementation. See examples in CCCIE's [Dreaming Big](#) report.
8. **Include undocumented students** as part of these forums, to share their stories, and encourage other students to seek assistance for DACA. Showcase their stories in any media outreach campaigns and press releases.
9. **Create a webpage on the college's website** for updates on DACA and information resources for all undocumented youth. Post FAQs and links to federal, state, and community resources on these pages and other college social media outlets. Include information on GED programs in your community. See examples from [Alamo Colleges](#) and [City Colleges of Chicago](#).
10. **Keep connected with CCCIE** (<http://cccie.org>) for [resources and updates](#) on DACA as it pertains to educational attainment and access to community colleges and adult basic education.



The Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education (CCCIE) is a national network of community colleges and other professional organizations committed to supporting immigrant education and integration through colleges' innovative programs and services. CCCIE builds the capacity of community colleges to accelerate immigrant and refugee success and raise awareness of the essential role these colleges play in advancing immigrant integration in our communities. CCCIE is hosted and led by Westchester Community College in Valhalla, NY