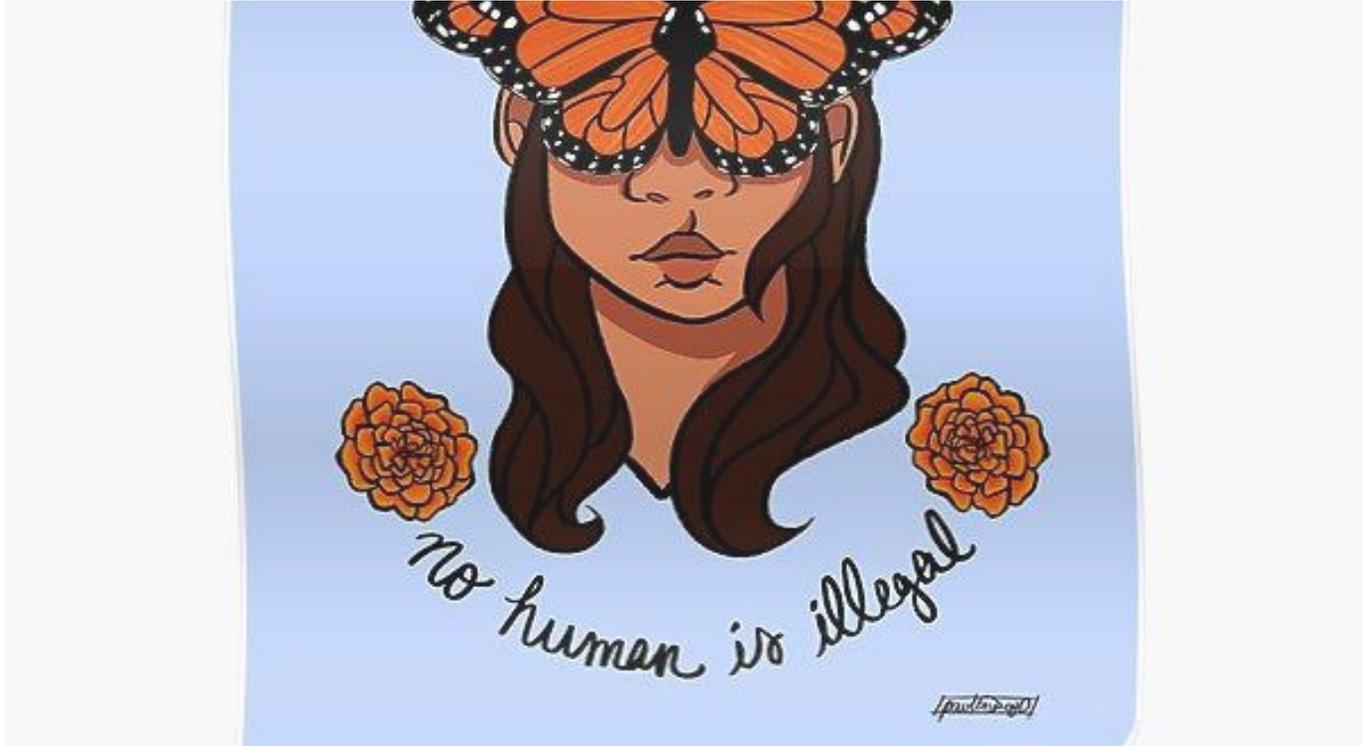




Undocumented
Student Services
STANISLAUS STATE

STAN STATE UNDOCU-NEWS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Collective Healing Circle Series

Friday, August 7

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Undocumented Tales Marathon

Friday, July 31st

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday, August 1st

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Follow us for more details!

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Immigration Legal Services remain available during the Summer. Schedule an appointment by email us at dreamers@csustan.edu or (209)667-3519

STAY CONNECTED



Find us on
Facebook

@Stanstateundocu

www.csustan.edu/dreamers

UNDOCUMENTED, UNAFRAID, UNAPOLOGETIC!

This month we recognize and acknowledge the power of our voices. As undocumented individuals we face many barriers, however, in times of adversity we thrive. It is because of the resilience of our community that we truly believe that each undocumented immigrant has the capability to give visibility to their own struggles and needs. By letting our voices be heard we can create a collective change in our communities, which is based on our needs and experiences as undocumented immigrants.



FIND YOUR VOICE

As undocumented immigrants we face many fears, discrimination, and obstacles throughout our lives. In many instances our fears transform to insecurities and debilitating feelings that may prevent us from becoming who we really are or want to be. We often hear the narratives that depict fear and victimization. However, we know that our undocumented community is resilient, successful, joyful, and empowered. We strongly believe that we are all capable of transforming our fear into empowerment. The process of liberation and finding one's voice looks different for each of us.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FIND MY VOICE?

Your activism voice is not just your tone or speaking style. It is a reflection of your beliefs, values, and communication skills that impact how you present yourself and your needs.

- **Unapologetically owning who you are and your story.** Take the time to discover your values, your needs, and fears. Finding your voice may require high levels of vulnerability with yourself and others. As you allow yourself to be vulnerable you will find a little more freedom to speak, express, and to let yourself be heard.
- **Go beyond the fear:** allow yourself the opportunity to express your ideas, feelings, beliefs, and needs. Finding your voice can also be done through writing, through art, singing, advocacy and many other forms. Finding your voice is more about acknowledging that you are important and deserving. It is about finding a self love, a sense of well-being, and to cultivate compassion and resilience.

Your Story Matters

THE HEALING POWER OF STORYTELLING

Stories can help us organize our memories of major events, experiences, and turning points in our lives. The art of storytelling can be healing for ourselves, and even for others who faced similar experiences. Our stories can bring a unique perspective and at the same time it can bring a positive change to our community. Story telling can possibly help you in the following areas:

- Dismantle barriers
- Bring healing
- Bring closure
- Bring a sense of well-being
- Inspire hope
- Bring wisdom
- Leadership
- Harness the power of UndocuJoy

"I love my undocumented people. I love us because everyday we wake up to a country that hates us. We wake up, give thanks to god and go to work. We come home watch the news, hear how our own TVs deme us criminals, we change the channel and pray that tomorrow will be a better day for us. When they give us a little breathing room like DACA we make the most of it. We are so grateful that often we forget we deserve better. We stay low on the radar because we want peace, want to exist without the added stress of having to be public about where our spirits ache.

We just want to work to feed our families and yet we become the scapegoats to a system that is addicted to exploiting the poor. I love my undocumented people because the way our spirits are toyed with you need some unfathomable strength. I love my undocumented people because we have constantly have had to prove our humanity and we have constantly done it beautifully because to stay human under these conditions you have had to have an understanding of beauty."

-Yosimar Reyes



BUILDING COMMUNITY: STUDENT ACTIVISM

According to Williams Perez research, it suggests that participating in activism may help undocumented students overcome barriers related to higher education attainment and social-emotional benefits. Activism goes beyond engagement, it is about building a community of support that works collectively to accomplish a common goal.

DEFINING ACTIVISM:

Activism can be defined as taking action to effect social change and this can occur in a variety of ways. Often activism is concerned with 'how to change the world' through social, political, economic or environmental change. This can be led by individuals, but is often done collectively through social movements.

WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO ADVOCATE?

Advocacy is a powerful tool created by us the people. When we think about advocating we have to think about organizing, speaking up, using our voices, and most important standing for something we believe.

WHAT DOES BUILDING A COMMUNITY MEAN?

Building a community means to join or find the support that gives you the opportunity to meet a diverse population of people. It is something that allows you to expand your thinking, interests, values, and beliefs. It can also be seen as a support network that encourages, guides, and empowers.

TAKE YOUR ACTIVISM INTO ACTION

Getting involved might be a little overwhelming and even confusing if you do not know where to start. We have put together some useful steps that might guide you to get started. Just know it is never too late to start getting involved either at a local, or national level.

1. Find a cause or a social movement that speaks to you.
2. Educate yourself, by learning about the organizations' purpose and mission.
3. Find ways to get involved by attending organization's webinars, events, and community gatherings.
4. Reflect on the roles and commitments that you will be able to undertake.
5. Become an advocate and/or community organizer.

FORMS OF STUDENT ACTIVISM

Activism takes different shapes, forms, and meanings depending on each individual. We hope that this short list helps you learn about the different forms of activism. This might also help you find what best fits your needs and capacity of engagement.

- **Educate others:** share your knowledge, insight, and story with others. Your knowledge is power.
- **Artistic Activism:** practice combining the creative power of the arts to attract others.
- **Grassroots activism:** Find or join a community of students, or other groups that have been negatively affected by the issue you are passionate about.
- **Letter writing and petitions:** Send letters and petitions to the leaders of organizations which are the target of your activism.

- **Advocate for legislation:** change comes about in a variety of ways and one of these is through legislative change. For example, the primary advocates for the DREAM Act have been young people, who have a personal investment in the issue.
- **Direct lobbying:** Lobby local, state, and federal government officials to create change in legislation.
- **Social Media Activism:** The world of social media and blogs has opened several doors for making injustices visible. You can create or support a public awareness campaign that advocates for the causes of your interest.
- **Protests and demonstrations:** Marching in the streets may allow you express your self and publicly convey what's affecting our community while meeting and connecting with other people who feel passionate about the same issues. Demonstrations and protests can be uplifting and empowering. However, as undocumented immigrants we have to learn to assess our risk if we chose to participate in this area of activism.

HOW TO GET INVOLVE ON CAMPUS:

One of the ways to become involved on campus is by joining a student organization and/or collective that fits your needs. You can find a list of student organizations on campus by visiting <https://warriorhub.csustan.edu/organizations>.

JOIN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ORGANIZATION (US)

The purpose of Us is to Nurture, Advocate, Empower, and Support Undocumented students from all backgrounds to successfully pursue a higher education and foster a supportive campus dedicated to educational and personal success. Follow "Us" on Instagram @uso_csus to learn about future meetings and engagement opportunities.



PRO-IMMIGRANT ORGANIZATIONS:

United We Dream

When you're undocumented, you face a lot of discrimination, and that creates a lot of fear. United We Dream, helps to transform that fear by helping you find your voice. They empower people to develop their leadership, their organizing skills, and to develop own campaigns to fight for justice and dignity for immigrants and all people. This is achieved through immigrant youth-led campaigns at the local, state, and federal level.

<https://unitedwedream.org/getinvolved/>

CHIRLA

CHIRLA's mission is to achieve a just society fully inclusive of immigrants. CHIRLA organizes and serves individuals, institutions, and coalitions to build power, transform public opinion, and change policies to achieve full human, civil and labor rights.

<https://chirla.org>

ILRC

The mission of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) is to work with and educate immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to continue to build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people.

<https://www.ilrc.org/>

Immigrants Rising

They empower undocumented young people to achieve educational and career goals through personal, institutional and policy transformation.

<https://immigrantsrising.org/>

DREAMERS MOVEMENT TIMELINE

The DREAMers movement emerged in the earliest 2000 when the DREAM Act was introduced in Congress. The DREAM Act (short for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) was a bill that would have granted legal status to certain undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and who were, or had attained an education.

For many generations undocumented immigrants have courageously advocate for an inclusive immigration reform. We have created a timeline below with important key moments of the DREAMers movement.

2001- Students groups started to emerge on college campus across the United State. Each group was dedicated to protect, advocate and empower each other with the inclusion of their families.

2001- In August 2001 Senator Dick Durbin and Orrin Hatch introduced the DREAM Act to the Senate. The DREAM Act, proposed to grant temporary conditional residency, with the right to work, to qualifying immigrants who entered the United States as minors—and, if they later satisfy further qualifications, they would attain permanent residency. However, it did not pass. The proposal had since been reintroduced several times without success.

2002- California became the second state after Texas to pass an in-state tuition legislation. AB 540 was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis. AB 540 allowed eligible nonresident and undocumented students to pay in-state tuition and fees. However, the lack of financial aid available to undocumented students, as a result of their residency status, has left higher education financially out-of-reach for many.



2006- Hundreds of thousands of immigrants and supporters gathered in cities around the country to advocate for immigrants' rights.

2007- The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act was reintroduced in the United States Senate but was never voted on.

2008- United We Dream (UWD) was founded, becoming the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the U.S. UWD is a nonpartisan network made up of over 100,000 immigrant youth and allies, including 55 affiliate organizations in 26 states.

2010- Senate Blocks Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010.

2010- Trail of Dreams: Four students marched from Florida to Washington D.C. to advocate for the bill to pass.

2011- Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act was reintroduced but failed to pass.

2011- DREAMers participated in a nonviolent civil disobedience which included: picket-lines, sit-ins, and hunger strikes to advocate for the California Dream Act.

2011- California Dream Act passed making undocumented students eligible for state college aid in public universities, community colleges, and private colleges in California.

2011- Define American was founded by Jose Antonio Vargas and Jake Brewer. Define American is a narrative and culture change organization that uses media and the power of storytelling to transcend politics. It shift the conversation about immigrants, identity, and citizenship in a changing America.

2012- The California Dream Act went into effect.

2012- Jose Antonio Vargas Time Magazine: Vargas a well known journalist told his story in the New York Times. Vargas coming out as undocumented gave many the hope and strength to keep fighting.

2012- The rise of being 'Undocumented and Unafraid' describing a new norm of empowerment and resilience.

2012- Undocumented youth, pro immigrant organization, and allies pressured President Obama to use his executive power to grant protection from deportation to certain undocumented immigrants.

2012- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) was introduced and signed by President Obama under an executive order.

2014- President Obama announce his intension to expand DACA and the implementation of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans(DAPA) program. However, A federal district court in Texas blocked the DAPA and expansion of DACA programs from being implemented.

2017-The Trump administration formally announced the end to the DACA program putting an expiration date on the legal protections granted to roughly 800,000 beneficiaries.

2017 - Activists Across the U.S. Rallied in Support of DACA.

2017- The Secretary of Homeland Security announced the termination of TPS for six countries— El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sudan—and extensions of TPS for Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

2017- Several lawsuits were filed challenging the TPS termination decision.

2018-Thousands of migrants from Central Americas arrived at the US-Mexico border seeking asylum in the United States. These were Immigrants who escaped persecution, poverty and violence in their home countries such Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

2018- Undocumented immigrants and advocates participated in a hunger strike protesting to reform U.S. Asylum Policies and the protection of human rights.

2017- Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream and Grow Our Economy (The BRIDGE Act) was introduced to the Senate and House of Representatives, but it failed to pass.

2019-The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on the DACA case.

2020- The U.S. Supreme Court rejected the Trump Administration's 2017 attempt to terminate DACA. Although much is still unclear, the decision restores the original 2012 program, meaning that both initial and renewal applications and advance parole applications from DACA recipients should be accepted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). However, uncertainty remains – the Trump administration may try to terminate the program again.

Present- The movement continues to address issues in regards immigration legislation, violation of human rights, education, protection of immigrant community.

STAN STATE ACTIVISM THROUGH THE YEARS

2009- Undocumented students felt the lack of resources and awareness. However, they found a safe space through the M.E.Ch.A. Club and Teatro los Hijos de el Campo.

2012- After the announcement of the Dream Act and DACA program, undocumented students started to realize that their visibility helped bring awareness to Stan State.

2012- Alumni Hugo Que and campus UndocuAllies mobilized to form an unofficial Dreamers Task Force.

2013- The Dreamers Task force hosted educational workshops around the Dream Act, Immigration Legal services, and other issues affecting undocumented students on-campus and off-campus.

2014- Alumni Hugo Que met with Stan State's President Sheley. He met with the president to talk about support services for undocumented students and the possibility to start the Dream Center.

2015- President Sheley commissioned the university to establish an official task force. The first official Dreamers Committee was established to support undocumented students. The committee was founded by faculty, staff, and undocumented students.

2015- Student Advocating For Equality (S.A.F.E.) was founded by Jose, Polet, Destiny, Blanca, and Alejandro. S.A.F.E. became the first undocumented student club at Stanislaus State.

2015- S.A.F.E. in collaboration with M.E.Ch.A. hosted the first Salsa Night, a fundraiser to provide scholarships for undocumented students.

2016- S.A.F.E. in collaboration with M.E.Ch.A. hosted the Posada Night a cultural event to fundraise for scholarships.

2017- S.A.F.E. and M.E.Ch.A. granted a total of 5 scholarships for undocumented students.

2018- A collective of students and Ethnic Studies faculty gathered to draft 11 recommendations to hold campus accountable for inequity in education and denounce white supremacy. Students requested for more inclusive resources for undocumented students.

2018- Undocumented students attended lobby days at Washington DC Capital Hill with President Junn to advocate for an immigration reform.

2019- S.A.F.E Club secured funding through PCDI Grant to host a DACA Renewal Clinic. A total of 24 students received Immigration Legal Services.

2019- Stan State was awarded the Catalyst Fund. The first Undocumented Student Services Coordinator was hired during the summer.

2020- Undocumented Students gathered to bring back S.A.F.E. Club. Additionally, the club was renamed and is now known as Undocumented Student Organization (Us).



UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ORGANIZATION (Us)

This month we will like to highlight our Stan State undocumented students leaders. Undocumented Students Organization (Us) previously know as (S.A.F.E.) is a student organization that advocates for the needs of undocumented students on campus. The purpose of this organization is to nurture, advocate, empower, and support undocumented students from all backgrounds to successfully pursue a higher education, and foster a supportive campus dedicated to educational and personal success at Stanislaus State. Some of the organization's goals are to provide undocumented students with scholarships, advocate for an affirmative and safe campus, resources, and empowerment tools. Meet our undocumented students leaders!



-FERNANDO



Fernando is the fourth out of five siblings, he was brought to the United States when he was a toddler at the age of two. As we asked him to share something about himself he said "I like to think that I am a friendly person with too much to say. I will gladly lend a hand to anyone who is in need of help. I feel for the people who do not have a voice, the ones living in fear for their lives on a daily basis". Fernando shared that he started to get involved with organizations at Stan State by asking one of his high school friends about orgs or clubs in campus. Fernando explained how "MEChA was the organization that solidified my desire to advocate on behalf of marginalized communities". He also shared "In MEChA I was encouraged to move forward and learned that it takes a collective effort to accomplish tasks and achieve goals. Shortly after, I became part of a group of students that brought back S.A.F.E. (Students Advocating For Equality), but now newly titled Us (Undocumented Students) Org". As joining and helping create this new organization Fernando stated "we are confident that the newly established organization will make a lasting impact at Stanislaus University". Fernando pointed out that Us "is a club of undocumented students, for undocumented students. With help of one of the original co-funders Polet, who is now our advisor, we are confident that Us will become a community for our undocumented students in our campus". Fernando told us that for him the Us Organization means "representation, as an undocumented student myself, I had no idea of the lack of support I would not receive when I started, if it wasn't for the support of the Diversity Center and its director Carolina Alfaro, I am not sure that I would still be pursuing a higher education". Fernando wanted to send a message to all our upcoming and continuing students "be a part of Undocumented Students Services and the Diversity Center, meet Polet Hernandez and Carolina Alfaro. Polet and Carolina are hardworking, caring, and well-versed when it comes to scholarships, resources, and networking opportunities. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them, they are more than happy to guide you when navigating the college experience".





-LAURA

Laura is a first generation, undocumented graduate, she just finished her BA in Liberal Studies and is returning in the Fall to continue her education. Laura Joined the club a year ago and she shared "I had never participated in any organizations or clubs before, I was afraid and my excuse was that I never had time". Laura also stated "it has been a great experience to join an organization where I can be myself. Us is more than a club, I had found friends that understand my struggles and that are there for me. I have learn to use my voice and advocate for students like me that struggle to navigate the education system". Laura's message to other undocumented students is "do not be afraid to join organizations or getting involved, it is an experience that you will never forget and it is a door opening for scholarships and resources. Make the best of your education it is okay to have fun. At the end everything that you work for is worth it and it is very rewarding being able to help others".



-KARINA

Karina will be starting her third year of college this Fall as she pursues an education in Liberal Studies. Something that she mentioned about herself is that she is a fan of soccer. Karina joined the Us Organization at her second year when she was looking for help to apply for financial assistance. She stated that "when I needed help with my application I did not know exactly where to go for help, but one day I received an email that the organization was helping with the process and I decided to go". Karina included "ever since that day I started to form part of their meetings and started attending more of their workshops". Karina also stated that "every person that forms part of this club are kind hearted, down to earth people that are willing to help students with whatever it may be". As to what has been her experience with this organization Karina responded "my experience has been nothing but the best, ever since I started by getting more involved with the club and amazing people". She also included, "this club has opened new doors full of opportunities for me that I probably wouldn't have if I had never joined the club. This club is truly dedicated, and cares for the students on campus and it has helped improve my wellbeing in a sense that now I have a place that I can go to and feel safe". When we asked Karina what Us means for her she said, "Us signifies unity, a club that unites and stands up for it's Undocumented people, it is composed of people who come from similar but yet still different backgrounds which shows it's diversity". Then she added, "Us to me also means that everything we do in this club is for us, we stand for the undocumented community and ourselves in order to bring awareness to our peers". An advice that Karina wants to give to new and upcoming students is "get involved with clubs/orgs on campus that help to represent you and your community. Keep in mind that Us is a great club to join because this is the club that will encourage you to stand up for your community and for the injustices that happen on a daily basis among our community. This club welcomes every student with open arms."





-RAIZA

Raiza was born in Guadalajara Mexico, she has a twin sister and a younger sibling. Prior to coming to the US Raiza and her family resided in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Raiza came to the US in August 2000, she has now lived in the California for to 20 years. She shared that she is proud to be an undocumented student who is completing a masters program. Additionally, she shared that one of her passions is to help others in need and she enjoys hanging out with her friends. Raiza shared that during her undergraduate career she was not involve in clubs, however, she remembers feeling a sense of isolation "it was hard to find people with the same experiences and people that I can relate to, I did not find anything that I could fit into". Raiza mentioned that after entering her masters program she heard about the US organization on campus. It was then that she decided to join the club. Raiza stated "my experience with (Us) so far has been good, we just started a fundraise and it just feels good to be part of something". She also added, "even if I am not holding a position, I have the opportunity to give my opinion and create a safe place to go to and it is worth it". For Raiza Us means "a group in which you can feel comfortable sharing and relating to background experiences and create relationships". An advice that Raiza would like to give to other undocumented students is "you do not have to go throughout this experiences alone, college could be scare specially for an undocumented person". She also suggested "get involved, find people, even if it is not this club find something that fits you and where you feel comfortable".



-JESSICA

Jessica came to the United States when she was three years old along with her parents and older sister. She grew up in the Bay Area but recently moved to the Central Valley to pursue her education in Political Science, she is currently working towards completing her Bachelor's at Stanislaus. On her testimony Jessica remembered "I was eager to attend club meetings during my first semester. There was only one organization/club that caught my eye and it exceeded my expectations". She also stated that "it was thanks to this club that I was able to meet some special students and staff whom I've since worked with, to recreate an old club "SAFE" to bring about the Undocumented Student Organization". When Jessica was asked about her experience with Us she said, "it has been nothing short of amazing, there's a lot of work to do and it's only the beginning. It's courageous work and it's hard for many, it's a true honor to be part of it. I've been able to see first hand how the deep struggles of a broken immigration system has uniquely brought us all together, each with a different story, but the same goal of providing different types of support for students on campus and the community". Jessica added "it has helped me feel more confident in who I am as an undocumented student and it's given me the opportunity to help others in need". Jessica said that Us for her means "not giving up, it means family, love, community, belonging, justice, and strength Us is there for everyone". Jessica wanted to give advice for upcoming and continuing students. She said "don't be shy to reach out for help, sometimes it can be hard but that's why we are here".

