Looking Beyond Latinos: The True Face of Undocumented Students

NASPA Webinar Series

Wednesday February 12, 2013
Welcome and Introductions

- **Webinar Moderator**
  - *Taris G. Mullins*, African-American Knowledge Community Public Policy Chair

- **Panelists**
  - *Miguel A. Cambray*, Director of the Latino/a Resource Center, Northeastern Illinois University
  - *Terry C. Mena*, Associate Dean of Students and Doctoral Student, Current Co-Chair, Latino/a Knowledge Community
  - *Mireille Vargas*, UNC Chapel Hill Alumna, author “Unwanted Americans?: Undocumented Youth with American Dreams”
The Mission of the AAKC is to increase the Knowledge community members' awareness of, knowledge about, and appreciation for issues unique to African American professionals working in higher education, and in particular student affairs.

The African-American Knowledge Community also seeks to educate the NASPA membership on trends and issues related to African-American professionals and students. This is done through sharing information on research, campus issues, and mentoring.
The Latino/a Knowledge Community (KC) is one of four ethnic-based knowledge communities within NASPA. As a knowledge community, the Latino/a KC actively promotes the empowerment of NASPA members through education, research, shared knowledge, mentoring initiatives, and the use of online forums to disseminate information and facilitate discourse.

We will actively develop and encourage cross-cultural communication, collaboration, and awareness while celebrating the unique differences inherent in our community thus, enriching our NASPA experience and enhancing our understanding of student learning and development.
Webinar Format

- Overview of Racial Demographics of Undocumented Students
- The DREAM Act and NASPA
- The DREAM Act State-by-State
- Counter-Immigration Legislation
- Panel Discussion Exploring Best Practices at PWIs, HBCUs, and HSIs.
According to the U.S. Census Bureau the Hispanic population is approximately 52 million; 1 in every 6 Americans is Hispanic.

- By 2050, this number is expected to be 152 million.
### Figure 2. Region of birth for unauthorized immigrant population, 2009 (thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Count (thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>1350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia (South &amp; East)</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Canada</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security*
In-State Residency Tuition Policies By State and Unauthorized Immigrant Populations, 2012

- Inclusive
- Restrictive
- Unstipulated
The Geographic Landscape

Dream Act beneficiaries
Top 10 states with the largest number of potential Dream Act beneficiaries:

- California: 26%
- Arizona: 5%
- Colorado: 2%
- Texas: 12%
- Florida: 9%
- New York: 7%
- New Jersey: 4%
- North Carolina: 2%
- Illinois: 4%
- Georgia: 3%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center
Who Is The Undocumented Student?

**Undocumented Student**: A foreign national who (1) entered the United States without inspection or with fraudulent documents; or (2) entered legally as a non-immigrant but then violated the terms of his or her status and remained in the United States without authorization (as defined by the National Immigration Law Center).

Recent estimates (2008) have revealed approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year;

**Plyler v. Doe** (1982): The Supreme Court ruled denying undocumented children a public K-12 education was unconstitutional as it would create a permanent “underclass” of individuals.
- Violation of 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause
The Impact of Education

Figure 1:

Average Weekly Earnings & Unemployment Rate of Full-Time Workers Age 25-64 by Educational Attainment, 2006

Weekly Earnings

Unemployment Rate

What is The Federal DREAM Act?

“The DREAM Act would throw a lifeline to these students who are already working hard in our middle and high schools and living in our communities by granting them the temporary legal status that would allow them to pursue postsecondary education. I believe it is in our best interest to educate all students to their full potential.”

—Harvard University President Drew Faust
The Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors Act extends federal conditional legal status to undocumented youth who:

- Entered the United States before age 18
- Have been continuously present in the United States for at least five years prior to the legislation’s enactment
- Have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent
- Are less than 35 years of age

After six-years students may apply for lawful permanent residence, provided:

- Obtained a degree from an institution of higher education, completed at least two years in a program for a bachelor’s degree or higher, or honorably have served two years in the US military;
- Have maintained good moral character while in conditional status

Provides a mechanism for increased social mobility through educational opportunity

Anticipated reintroduction to Congress in 2013
June 16, 2010: NASPA Executive Director Gwendolyn Dungy issued a statement of support for the Act on the DREAM Coalition

- Highlighted President Obama’s goal of “highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020”
- Increasing diversity of our country and how this is represented on our college campuses

- Raises the question: “Would we not as a society prefer a well-educated and employed populace than what our current policy promotes – an uneducated and unemployed group?”
State Legislation for Undocumented Students

- President Obama declared he would cease deporting undocumented immigrants who met the DREAM Act criteria.

- The following states have sponsored legislation similar to the federal DREAM Act:
  - California
  - New York
  - Illinois
  - Nebraska
  - New Mexico
  - Wisconsin
  - Oklahoma
  - Maryland
  - Texas
  - Utah
  - Kansas
  - Washington
  - Massachusetts
  - Connecticut
Achieve Act: Provides many of the same benefits however does not allow for future citizenship

Arizona SB 1070 and copy cat laws: AL, GA, IN, SC, UT (racial-profiling laws)

The following states have sponsored counter-legislation to the federal DREAM Act:

- Arizona
- Indiana
- South Carolina
- Colorado
- Wisconsin
- Georgia
- Alabama
Advocacy for in-state tuition, as federal legislation may not require states to charge undocumented students in-state tuition.

Record and make known experiences and perspectives of undocumented students in states that are unfavorable and/or restrictive toward undocumented students.
Panel Discussion

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