DACA THEN & NOW

AHE 578 – Justice, Duty, and Movement
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Pair Shares

- Work with a partner to talk about what you currently know about DACA
- Some questions to consider:
  - Who qualifies for DACA?
  - What is the application process like?
  - What are the benefits that recipients gain?
  - How might it impact your workplace?
History and Policy

DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

DREAM Act ≠ DACA

DACA is not a law. DACA is a process created after the DREAM Act to address the needs of “undocumented” Americans. 22 years have come and gone and these Americans are still in limbo regarding their official status. DACA aims to protect undocumented Americans who arrived to the US as children from deportation, while allowing them to work legally as well as obtain a driver’s license.
The Application Process

Can I be considered? Review Guidelines

- You came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday.
- You have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time.
- You were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012.
- You never had a lawful immigration status or a lawful immigration status that expired on or after June 15, 2012, or any lawful immigration status or parole that you obtained had expired as of June 15, 2012.
- You are currently in school, have graduated or obtained your certificate of completion from high school, have obtained your General Educational Development (GED) certification, or you are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or armed forces of the United States.
- You have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.
- You were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS.

How do I file?

- Collect documents as evidence of your adherence to the guidelines.
- Complete USCIS Form I-821, I-765 with I-765 Workshop.
- Mail USCIS forms and fees to local USCIS.
- Visit your local USCIS Application Support Center for a scheduled biometric services appointment.
- Check the status of your request online.

Ensure you meet the following

- You meet the initial DACA requirements.
- You did not depart the United States on or after August 15, 2012, without your advance parole.
- You have continuously resided in the United States since you submitted your most recent DACA request, which was approved.
- You have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Complete and mail forms to USCIS

1. Fill out Form I-1225, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
2. Fill out Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization
3. Fill out Form I-765WS, Worksheet

REMEMBER: Read instructions carefully • Sign the forms • Pay $465 fee.
FIGURE 1
A significant number of people cannot qualify or have not applied for DACA
Only 27 percent have actually received it

- Fulfill all but the education requirements for DACA: 20%
- Will become eligible once they reach age 15, if they stay in school or obtain a high school degree or equivalent: 23%
- Have applied but have not received DACA: 5%
- Have not applied for DACA but qualify: 25%
- Have received DACA: 57%

MANY IMMIGRANTS CHOOSE NOT TO APPLY FOR DACA
Common misconceptions associated with the DREAM Act and DACA (compiled from interviews and National Immigration Law Center website)
DACA is a Pathway to Citizenship

- DACA recipients can do two things legally:
  - Find employment
  - Obtain a driver’s license
DACA is only for college students/the “perfect” immigrant

- Many recipients are working full-time
- Creates the myth of the “perfect immigrant”
- Creates an us vs. them in their own community
  - *The narrative that the DREAMer is a small population of immigrants that “deserves” to be here - leaves out everybody else*
- “I don’t want an ally that will fight for me but not for my family” – José Carrillo
US taxpayers have to cover the cost of education for undocumented students

- Most states do not allow undocumented students to apply for financial aid
- In some states, including Washington, undocumented students can apply for state-funded financial aid (Washington Dream Act AKA the REAL Hope Act)
- A handful of states still ban the enrollment of undocumented students

* Offered state tuition but rescinded in 2011
** Offers Dreamers Scholarship, but no financial aid
“Americans” are losing spots in college due to DREAMers

- According to the National Immigration Law Center...
- Most undocumented students are likely to have zero impact on admission rates of nativeborn students
- Legalizing DREAM Act students will increase school revenue
- Institutions charged with educating our youth overwhelmingly support the bill.
"ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS" = MEXICANS
GROUP ACTIVITY

Please find your “undocumented student profile” on your tables
Learn about your student, and consider how the following scenarios may impact this student
How will the following impact you?

- You want to apply for DACA
- You want to apply for university
- You are looking for ways to lower the cost of higher education
- You are interested in scholarships/financial aid
- There is news that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is on campus
- You want to apply for an internship
- You want to apply for a job
THE IMPACT OF DACA
Impact on Economy and Employment

- Work authorization is critical in helping DACA recipients participate more fully in the labor force. The data show that 91 percent of respondents are currently employed. Among respondents age 25 and older, employment jumps to 93 percent.

- The average hourly wage of respondents increased by 69 percent since receiving DACA, rising from $10.29 per hour to $17.46 per hour.

- 72 percent of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ DACA recipients. Moreover, 97 percent of respondents are currently employed or enrolled in school.
Impact on Education

- When it comes to educational attainment, 36 percent of respondents 25 years and older have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Importantly, among those who are currently in school, a robust 94 percent said that, because of DACA, “I pursued educational opportunities that I previously could not.”

- "What will they be able to pursue beyond the classroom"
- "Being able to stay in school"
- "Everyday celebration of being able to continue"
- "More Traditionally, Graduation Rates"
- "Pace limited by only being able to take a couple classes at a time given they are often paying out of pocket"
“I didn’t live a normal life until I got DACA. Thanks to DACA I was able to pursue my career after graduating Cum Laude from Saint Leo University, in Marketing. With DACA I was able to build my professional network, help people, influence people, and do all these things for myself and my family and my community. If that’s going to be taken away, everything that I’ve accomplished, that I’ve worked on, that I’ve helped people with will just fall apart. It will shake the foundation of who I am today as a person, as a professional, even as a friend, as a daughter, everything.”

“In addition to conducting research at Texas Tech, I’ve taught undergraduate students as a teaching assistant. This past semester, I got to teach anatomy and one of my students was blind and had a service dog. It was a blessing, a great experience to teach her anatomy—something that she got to touch and feel to learn. It taught me a lot of patience. It taught me what it’s like to work alongside my American students and peers. I’m just as much a part of their lives as they are mine. If DACA is repealed, I would be out of a job immediately and I won’t be able to teach my students. I won’t be able to continue conducting the research that I’m conducting right now. This research could help scientists understand diseases like cancer and lead down a path towards a cure. Without DACA, I can’t continue this critical work.”
CLOSING REFLECTIONS
Where are we now?

- **4/24/2018**: Federal ruling - unconstitutional to sever DACA; must open applications back up; timeline of 90 days to get DHS a chance to provide a solid reasoning to end the program.

- **4/28/2018**: according to the National Immigration Law Center, DACA renewals are being accepted.

- **5/2**: Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Nebraska, Louisiana, West Virginia and South Carolina sue the administration to end DACA, stating it is unconstitutional since Obama implemented it without the approval of Congress.
Helpful Resources/Ways to get Involved

- Community Organizations
  - WWU Blue Group
  - Community 2 Community
- Online Resources for Educators
  - Educators for Fair Consideration
  - National Immigration Law Center
Reflection Activity

- Goal Setting Reflection Activity
  - Take a Post-It Note
  - What is a takeaway that you gained from this session?
  - What is something you want to do to advocate for undocumented students and populations at your institution or place of employment?