


DREAMERS WORKING GROUP | DWG

SUPPORTING UNDOCUMENTED &
DREAMER STUDENTS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

2019 IMPACT REPORT



CREATING A
COMMUNITY OF
WELCOME ON CAMPUS



Scholarships for Undocumented & Dreamer Ducks

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the support of the UO Advancement team, and the determination of DWG staff, UO Dreamer Scholarships are now available to undocumented & Dreamer Ducks! The Opportunity Through Excellence, or Fund the Dream Scholarship as it is known through our outreach efforts, aims to bridge the gap for those undocumented, DACA, and Dreamer students who are not able to complete a FAFSA and obtain federally-funded financial aid. These students are not able to access scholarships such as Pathway Oregon and grants such as the Pell Grant. Thanks to the generosity of our donors we have been able to offer, for the first time, scholarships to students beginning in spring 2019.

In Fall 2018, over 100 donors contributed more than \$37,000 toward matching a \$75,000 challenge grant established by Keith Swayne, a 1962 economics graduate.

In Spring 2019, Nine students were awarded scholarships varying from \$500-\$2000. In an effort to make more of an impact the DWG Scholarship Committee will award six one-year scholarships of \$7,800 to the top applicants for AY 2019-2020. Many will be able to graduate next spring as a direct result of the scholarship.

All of the students qualified due to being ineligible to complete a FAFSA and apply for Federal Aid.

The students with a combined high score were chosen based on level of financial need, a demonstration that they have persevered over personal challenges in their life, GPA, the ability to articulate an academic plan with a path toward graduation, and the ability to articulate post-graduation goals.



TRAINING ALLIES

The DWG began offering Dreamer Ally Training sessions at UO in the fall of 2017. Since then, over 400 faculty, staff, and GEs have completed rigorous 4-hour trainings in order to better understand and support students with precarious status.

The Dreamer Ally Trainings prepare faculty, staff, and GEs to:

- understand challenges facing Dreamers at UO
- become familiar with resources on campus and know where to refer students who might be in need of support
- know what to do in the unlikely event that ICE agents come to campus
- develop and know how to implement an action plan to support Dreamers in the participant's specific unit or department

Before these objectives can be met, however, we spend some time at the beginning of the training defining "Dreamer" as we use it in the Working Group. For us, Dreamer is a broad term that includes those who are undocumented, DACAmented, or from mixed status families, as well as those who qualify for Oregon Tuition Equity or Temporary Protected Status. This broad definition means that thousands of UO students are Dreamers. The main goal of the Ally training, therefore, is to better prepare faculty and staff to support this sizeable segment of our student population.

To this end, we begin by providing some national and state level statistics about Dreamers and outlining the many challenges facing Dreamers on this campus (and many others). Then we inform participants about the resources on campus. Fortunately, through the efforts of the Dreamers Working Group and partners, there are now many supports available. This is especially true now that more than 400 people have become Allies over the past two school years. This means that Dreamers can find people knowledgeable about their needs in many units and departments on campus, as well as in Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Services, and the Counseling Center, among others. One particularly important partnership that has been developed is with the General Counsel's office, which has consistently sent a representative to the Ally Training to share about our legal rights as faculty and staff with regards to Immigration enforcement on the UO campus.

At the end of the training, participants have the opportunity to work in small groups with a facilitator from the Dreamers Working Group to develop an action plan they will commit to putting in place to support the Dreamers they encounter in their professional role. This is truly the heart of the training – and the work the Working Group does in general – since it ensures that the advocacy will continue beyond the walls of the training and into the future, ensuring that our campus is a safe and welcoming places for the Dreamers we welcome.

BUILDING A DREAMER

ALLY TRAINING PROGRAM AT UO

By Julie Weise



When the Oregon legislature voted in 2014 to allow undocumented Oregonians who met certain requirements to pay in-state tuition at state universities, I was still new to my appointment in the UO History department. I had come to Eugene from Cal State Long Beach, an institution where the majority of students hailed from Latin American or Asian immigrant families. California's own tuition equity bill, AB540, had been on the books since 2001.

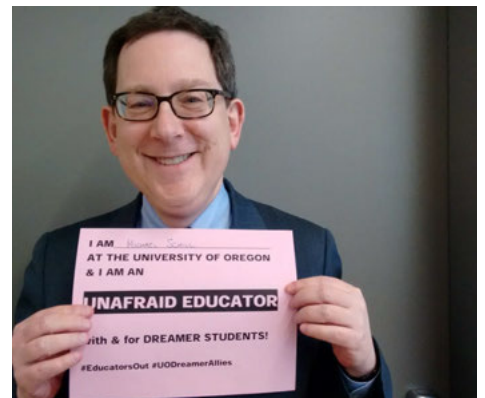
I knew from my experiences as a participant and later a trainer in the CSULB AB540 Ally Training program that making undocumented students feel welcome on a college campus was going to be a lot of work—and probably even more so at a majority-white institution like Oregon. Fortunately, I met Rosa Chávez-Jacuinde from the Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence, who invited me to a meeting of faculty and staff who wanted to do this work and had formed a Dreamers Working Group (DWG).

With the DWG's support, I received a faculty fellowship from the Center on Diversity and Community (CoDaC) to develop an Ally Training inspired by the one at CSULB yet tailored to the specific needs of UO. The time was very different, too: in early 2017, immigrants lived in a new state of fear as Donald Trump, who had run on an anti-immigrant platform, was inaugurated President of the United States.

I had learned from Dr. Elena Macias, founder of CSULB's training, that the most important goal of such a training was not to impart any specific legal knowledge or facts. Rather, our task was to help faculty and staff put themselves in the shoes of these vulnerable yet resilient students, and in turn, help them think through the ways they could bring sensitivity, respect, and confidentiality to their interactions with undocumented and Dreamer students.

We posted the training signup link on the DWG blog and decided that at our next meeting, we would develop a marketing strategy. Before the meeting, we checked the signups out of curiosity. Somehow, a hundred people had signed up--we were beyond capacity without ever having advertised! I still have no idea how people found out about it. The pattern repeated itself for the subsequent three trainings, with each filled to capacity through word of mouth alone. In winter and spring of 2017, we ran four trainings and trained a total of 256 allies. This momentum also engaged other campus units, including Development, which worked with new undocumented and Dreamer student contact person Justine Carpenter in the Dean of Students office to start a Dreamer scholarship, and President Michael Schill, who attended the training and later responded positively to our request for more institutional support for our work.

"It is not on you to finish the work, but neither are you free to avoid it."



When I attended a training in Winter 2019 under the direction of new faculty leader Audrey Lucero, something felt different. Trainees' comments made it clear that many departments and administrative units were already in the midst of conversations about how to revise their programs, marketing, and scholarships to better serve undocumented and Dreamer students—conversations begun by allies trained the previous year. Institutions and their cultures change so slowly, yet that day I saw that change was in fact happening. I thought of the admonishment that the Jewish sages wrote nearly 2,000 years ago, "It is not on you to finish the work, but neither are you free to avoid it."

By Julie Weise, Associate Professor of History & DWG Steering Committee Member

DWG BY THE NUMBERS

October 2017-June 2019

15

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

9 Scholarships awarded for Spring 2019

6 Scholarships awarded for AY 2019-2020

7

DREAMER ALLY TRAINING SESSIONS

404

DREAMER ALLIES TRAINED

Faculty....85

Staff.....284

GEs.....35

86

CAMPUS UNITS AND DEPARTMENTS WITH DREAMER ALLIES

DWG BY THE NUMBERS

37

DWG INFO-SESSIONS

809

INFO-SESSION PARTICIPANTS

23

ACTIVE DWG VOLUNTEERS

Faculty.....9
Staff.....12
GEs.....2

1,729

DWG COMMUNITY

Volunteers & Staff.....26
Dreamer DuckFunder donors.....160
Trained allies404
DWG Listserv subscribers.....235
Oregon Higher Ed. Dreamer ally network.....65
Info-Session Reach809
Community Partners.....30



The DWG is a collaborative project by staff, faculty, graduate students and community members committed to building a network of support for undocumented and Dreamer students, students with DACA and students in mixed-status families at the University of Oregon.

Members of the DWG Steering Committee (some pictured above) have led several initiatives since late 2016 to create a community of welcome here on our campus. Steering Committee members are all volunteers. The Steering Committee is supported by staff at Multicultural and Identity-based Support Services and joined in the work by several active committee members.

DWG committees include: Student Access, Education, Trainings & Outreach, Advocacy & Legislation, , and Community Outreach.

Quarterly DWG General Meetings provide a great way to learn more about ongoing committee work and get involved. See the UO Dreamers website for more information at: <https://www.uoregon.edu/dreamers>

DWG Faculty Coordinator

Audrey Lucero, College of Education

DWG Steering Committee

Michael Carrizales, Counseling Center

Dulce Castro, Office of Academic Advising

Rosa Chavez, Center for Multicultural and Academic Excellence

Eric Garcia, Counseling Center

Lorena Landeros, Lillis College of Business

Gabriela Martínez, School of Journalism & Communications, Center for Latino/a and Latin American studies

Ellen McWhirter, Counseling Psychology

Andrea Olson, University Advancement, College of Education

Heather Quarles, Romance Languages

Lynn Stephen, Anthropology

Dan Tichenor, Political Science

Julie Weise, History

David Woken, Knight Library

Kristin Yarris, International Studies

DWG Staff

Justine Carpenter, Multicultural and Identity-based Services, Office of the Dean of Students

Feather Crawford, Dreamers Working Group & Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies

Contact us:

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2019-2020 DWG General Meetings: December 10 | March 10 | June 9

All meetings 12-1:30; location TBD

The Dreamers Working Group is supported by: the Office of the President, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Division of Equity and Inclusion, Undergraduate Education and Student Success, and the Division of Global Engagement. EO/AA/ADA Institution; Committed to Cultural Diversity.



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