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DREAMers Awareness Project

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DREAMERS AWARENESS PROJECT

Juan Navarro & Sandy Estelle-Bazaldua
WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
PURPOSE & GOALS

Our purpose is to work from the very core of the Latino community. We will go into our local high schools: Central High School and Salem-Keizer School District. Sometimes, for students who are first generation and have no prior knowledge of what it takes to go to college, the process can be intimidating and discouraging. We will place all the helpful tools we’ve received from meetings, mentors, clubs, etc. in one insightful presentation which we can follow up with one to one mentoring. We want to be that source of insight that we wished we could’ve had back when we were younger; it only takes one person to propel a student into higher education.

Our Goals: we intend to use this project to tackle social and educational issues concerning undocumented students and the hardships they face. We have two target audiences that need to be addressed. One of our audience targets is undocumented students. We plan to approach undocumented students in an education setting. We plan to create awareness to undocumented students by sharing our testimonies, and give several presentations on educational opportunities that this group might not know. On the other hand, staff and faculty would highly benefit from hearing about this issue from people who experience it day by day. The goal is to create a safe classroom environment where teachers
know how to address the DACA student needs. We want every student to feel comfortable to come forward as undocumented and embrace their identity.

PARTICIPANTS’ CONTRIBUTIONS & LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT

Sandy Estelle was chosen to be part of this project for many reasons. One of the reasons being that she is knowledgeable about social justice issues that revolve around the immigrant community. Sandy has worked closely with MEChA de WOU and has been an advocate for the immigrant community regardless of the political climate. One of the traits that made her perfect for this project was her ability to know how to navigate the school policy. In her time in MEChA, she was person that was looked to when the organization needed to properly execute business with ASWOU. Another reason why she was chosen was because of her nature grassroots organizational skills.

Sandy served as the primary outreach within the high schools. She was responsible for organizing the events and being the direct liaison between Western Oregon University and high school teachers. Sandy was approached by WOU alumni to create a short docu-series exposing myths about minorities and debunking them while emphasizing the identities of those struggling individuals.

Juan Navarro’s knowledge and strong presence in the undocumented community at WOU makes him the perfect role model to his peers, and fighter for the cause on large scale movements. He was the perfect person for the job, due to his experience as a first generation student and defeat of oppression. Juan has established a safe space for undocumented students and allies to come together and address current issues at hand by founding UNIDOS Club. Driven, resourceful and empathetic are a few words that describe his leadership style.

His role in the early stages of the project was to outreach to UNIDOS club and gather a group of students who were willing and able to participate in our two-part West Salem High School presentations. All while outreaching to Central HS, McKay HS, and McNary HS to set up following dates. Juan extensively gathered past resources, much of which was compiled by him, to create a PowerPoint that would serve as a visual to our targeted audiences and aid their comprehension of new concepts. Using his connections to faculty and staff on campus, he set up a presentation with the staff senate where we educated them on appropriate approaches to DACA recipients.

We collaborated on the passing of the newly instated Inclusivity City Resolution. We were the part of this effort as the only undocumented students on the team of students leading this issue. We served as the undocumented student voices because all other undocumented students were afraid of coming out of the shadows. Sandy attended the Salem City Council Meeting prior to Monmouth including it to their agenda, in order to see different models and
their approaches. That is when the push for Sanctuary City evolved into an outside organization’s model of Inclusivity City.

We created events which included a presentation and student panel to a couple student groups at West Salem High School. We presented on undocumented student issues and hosted a panel of college students from WOU. The panel included undocumented and ally students to share stories and experience of the well-being of the immigrant community. We gave a total of three presentations to student groups within two days. The final presentation we did was presenting to the staff senate about the struggles of an undocumented student and how staff senate can support.

Instead of creating a completely new venue to raise awareness, we decided to join the Alma’s Project movement at WOU. The Alma’s Project is an undocumented student resource website in honor of a fallen beloved student, Alma Pacheco. Juan took a lead role in putting an immigration policy section on the website. Sandy is working on a video series that will eventually be posted onto the website to raise awareness.

To top off the project, we are collaborating with Service Employees International Union to bring a special presentation to the WOU faculty. This organization does a know-your-rights presentation and what to do in case ICE raids happens. The presentation also teaches allies to be legal observers and to form rapid response teams just in case anything bad were to happen. Ever since the election, faculty have been looking to educate themselves on this subject and this presentation would provide just that. We are in the early stages of the planning because this organization has been busy due to the political climate. We are looking to invite all departments and invite students to add different perspectives to the conversation.

WHAT WE LEARNED

When the DREAMers Awareness presentations concluded, we decided to broaden the scope of our project, realizing that we had underestimated the magnitude of our impact on the community. Taking on the responsibility to be stand-in representatives for those who can’t show themselves was our biggest challenge alongside of our colleagues. We deemed it necessary for the peace of mind of Monmouth’s residents that the next push would be to bring Sanctuary City status to the table of the City Council members. Both of us testified, and made our presence felt front-row every City Council meeting from then on. It was a four month long battle trying to sway the skeptic conservative audience, even by meeting with individual council members. With persistence, on our fourth appearance we achieved what we sought out to do.

One of the best ways to execute our goals of raising awareness was to join the Alma’s Project. When we decided that a video documentary would be the most effective outlet and would go on the undocumented student website on WOU’s page. We realized along the way
that a very underrepresented, and perhaps the most powerful group of individuals were those who crossed the border sacrificing their rights to an education, so that their kids could get better opportunities than they did. If we could create a way for them to express what they hold back out of fear, then we will have done right by every member of the undocumented community. Keeping in mind that for the sake of safety, their identities will need to be protected whilst not stripping it’s authenticity.

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

In today’s world, there is no real solution to this topic. The political climate always changes which always provides a new set of challenges to undocumented immigrant community. Our purpose and goals had to adapt to the new Trump administration and the potential dangers that it could do to our undocumented immigrant community. After president Trump took office, our presentations of just awareness turned into, “what does this mean for our community?” The fear of what Trump could do to our community was its own section in everything we did. In the new political climate, we had to evolve our goals to advocate and protect our undocumented students in Monmouth.

SUCCESSES AND STUMBLING

We would like to begin by expressing how motivating it was to see so much interest and participation on behalf of the West Salem HS students. They were kind enough to receive us into their learning space and on a personal level, was a huge success. The fact that they took initiative and asked how they could be better allies, restored our faith in society amid the political climate shock. Some of our expectations were met, as not many people in the room knew what DACA was, but by the time we left we felt confident enough that they would go on to make good allies and to a greater extent, advocates.

Western Oregon University took it upon themselves to declare the campus premises a sanctuary for undocumented individuals. This was a solidarity statement that they started, and we thought, “why stop there?” When ICE raids started sneaking up around the state of Oregon despite recent legislation shielding individuals from forced detentions, we knew locals weren’t as safe as we once perceived. We created light out of a very alarming situation, and that was a win for the undocumented community as a whole, that hopefully has granted individuals the peace of mind to go about their usual routines, during a very unusual circumstance.

Time constraints aside, we were lucky enough to find a person who’s willing to aid us with the production of the docu-series in Leslie Martinez. The blueprint has fallen into place
very nicely and with her expertise in minority marketing, we are confident that these videos will speak volumes. Inclusion and retention of undocumented students at WOU is a high priority of ours, as we continuously emphasized to our high school audience. This new opportunity to work with Samuel Davila from SEIU on a know-your-rights movement on campus aligns with the values of the Dreamer’s Awareness Project. We made it our goal to educate and become a verbal medium in today's world where this kind of movement is almost a must. Our curiosity of the extent that we could do, molded us into more refined leaders.

One of our biggest drawbacks was the small turnout of responses from high schools. We sent out detailed e-mails to each school in the Salem-Keizer high school district, and received a confirmation from West Salem alone. Three others were interested, but unfortunately never got back to us, leading us to believe that they had low demand for guest speakers or in the case of the non-responders, lack of interest. This discouraged us for a minute, but we took this window of opportunity to network with individuals who turned out to contribute to the project. Now that our video project and know-your-rights project are in full effect, time is of the essence. However, we feel confident that when it is done, they will become something that promotes interracial acceptance on campus.

FUTURE OF THIS PROJECT

The main goal of this project is to raise awareness about undocumented students to high school students and to our own faculty at WOU. One of the areas we hope that can be explored is the creation of a blog about the experiences of an undocumented student in college. This area would consistently raise awareness on this situation and keep holding our WOU community to never stop looking at ways to help our community, which is fractured at the moment. Another area that could be tackled is creating a mini conference day hosting high school students. This would be hosted at WOU and would give students tools to reach higher education. We hope that this project was just the start of something special. We hope that the new undocumented student and ally club, Unidos Club, will take this project to expand our dreams. We hope that Unidos takes the structure of this project and turns WOU into a special place where dreamers from all over Oregon want to attend.
DREAMers Awareness Project

By Juan Navarro and Sandy Estelle
DACA

- The DREAM Act bill was introduced by the Senate on August 1, 2001.
- The bill has been rejected several times.
- If passed, the DREAM Act would create a path to permanent residency and citizenship for people who came to the U.S as children.
- The DREAM Act would require a higher level of education- at least 2 years in a college program, a college degree, or served for four years in the military.

DAPA update: The petition to rehear the US v. Texas case (DAPA programs) by the supreme court has been DENIED
Some Numbers

- 5-10% of undocumented students go to college, According to UCLA's Center for Labor Research and Education
- With a 15% completion rate for Latinos, According to NBC News
- Take 100 people (assuming) all were undocumented
- 1.5 people would go to college
- If rounded up about 2 would make it through
- That is 2 out of 100 of undocumented students get a college degree
**HOW TO APPLY FOR DACA**

1. **Determine eligibility.**

   **NOTE:** Make copies of all items before mailing. Do not mail in originals. (suggested)

2. **Cover Letter** (optional)

3. **G-1145** (optional)

4. **I-821D** (required)

5. **I-765** (required)

6. **I-765WS** (required)

7. **Proof of Identity** (required)

8. **Proof you came to U.S. before your 16th birthday** (required)

9. **Proof of Immigration status** (required)

10. **Proof of presence in U.S. on June 15, 2012** (required)

11. **Proof you continuously resided in U.S. since June 15, 2007** (required)

12. **Proof of your student status at the time of requesting DACA** (required)

13. **Proof you are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the U.S.** (required if applicable)

14. **Money order OR check for $465.00 made out to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security AND 2 passport-style photos (2"by2")** (required)

15. **@undocumedia**

   ![Image of I.D. card with text: 465000X]

   Money order OR check for $465.00 made out to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security AND 2 passport-style photos (2"by2") (required)
FIGURE 3
DACA has had enormous benefits for undocumented young people
The benefits would be more expansive and profound if Congress passed immigration reform with a path to citizenship.

Since DACA, undocumented youth have reported:

- Getting their first job or starting a new job: 70%
- Earning higher wages: 45%
- Opening their first bank account: 50%
- No longer feeling afraid because of their immigration status: 66%
- Obtaining a driver’s license: 57%
- Contacting their member of Congress: 41%
- Enrolling in health insurance: 21%

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Applying To College As Undocumented

Get in touch with an immigration lawyer

DACA is a requirement

Apply for in-state tuition (aka Tuition Equity)

Talk to a financial aid advisor
How Can You Help?

Keep your goals in sight

Spread awareness

Be a supplementary voice

The power of an allied vote

Refer to your friends

Create a safe space for the students

Keep up to date on latest news

I'm with...

( ) Hillary Clinton
( ) Donald Trump
( ) Jill Stein
( ) Gary Johnson
(X) My community

Voting matters because...
Some of us can't...
What Does This Election Mean For Us?

Past month in summary:

- Republican party takes back the house.
- Freeze of DACA applications
- ICE Detentions
- Threats
- Travel ban
- Tension between U.S. and Mexico officials
- Movements
- Large scale rallies
Sanctuary City

First proposal was made by Patty Dixon, community member.
February 7th, 2017
- members from MEChA de WOU and Unidos took the initiative to propose the implementation of a Sanctuary City.
- a motion was made by Councilor Laurel Sharmer, nobody backed it.
- We sought volunteers who were willing to help organize, and started a committee.

February 21st, 2017, Students and Faculty made a third attempt.
A motion was made by Councilor Laurel Sharmer to establish a written draft.
Met with hesitation, eventually seconded by Byron Shinkle
Alterations/revisions will be made at the next work session
Final vote will be made
Surveys

99 surveys were conducted
Unidos Club

Founded by students to create a safe space for undocumented students allies

Took a year to form from November 2015- June 2016

Spread awareness on undocumented students and immigration

   Officially started fall 2016

We have accomplished:

   #IamanImmigrant

   #ToImmigrantswithLove

   West Salem High School
Thank You For Your Time!

Questions?

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