

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
DREAM CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT FY20

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DREAM CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

OFFICE FOR EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



MISSION STATEMENT

The Dream Center in the Office for Diversity & Inclusion in the Office of Undergraduate Studies works holistically with undocumented students and mixed-status families from college access to graduation. The Dream Center (1) engages in specialized college outreach and access strategies, (2) provides individualized advising and scholarship support for current and future University of Utah undocumented students, (3) promotes campus-wide advocacy and trainings for University of Utah students, faculty, staff and administration, and (4) increases community-wide awareness of policies affecting current and future University of Utah undocumented students.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

Activities	FY19	FY20	Total
Individual meetings with K-20 and post-traditional students (undocumented with and without DACA, children of undocumented immigrants, and allies)	289	320	615
Total hours spent meeting in-person with K-20 and post-traditional students. (email & phone excluded)	230	306	536
Total number of participants in K-12 presentations conducted in K-12, college, and community events.	1,576	1,674	3,250
Total number of faculty, staff and administrators trained at U of U / USBE / USHE / National.	539	500+	1,0039+
Total number of virtual hours in service (Due to COVID 19. March-June) includes meetings, students sessions, workshops and other virtual sessions. Excludes daily operations, such as email and phone calls.	-	212	212
New K-20 student scholarship listserv subscriptions	88	78	166
New staff & admin resources listserv subscriptions	66	65	131
Grants (Awarded)	4	4	8
Grants (Total)	\$93,000	\$107,000	\$200,000
Publications	1	0	1
Somos Dreamers Events (Student Organization)	3	3	6

*FY19 information provided for comparison

DREAM CENTER RESPONSE TO COVID 19

2020 saw unprecedented changes....

As coronavirus, also known as COVID 19, affected people, workplaces, and organizations around the world, everyone needed to adjust to this new situation and develop a strategy to prevent an outbreak and damages, coronavirus could bring. The Dream Center at the University of Utah was no exception to the effects this novel virus created.

While the Dream Center specifically did not have a pre-existing crisis management plan, we relied on the communal knowledge of our reporting offices and the University of Utah as a whole. COVID came so fast that we (the Dream Center and the larger University community) had very little or no time to set a strategy on how to handle it. But we followed direction of the administration who worked closely with the local and national health departments and transitioned to an all online format. The Dream Center was closed for a short period to allow for everyone to adjust and take this all in.

The concerns of COVID were heightened due to the fact that the director of the Dream Center had just left his position, and students needing their services, were unsure where to turn.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies (UGS) handled this crisis in three basic tenets:

- **Public safety/student safety.**
Dream Center student/staff were in communication with the Associate Dean and instructed on how to work remotely and reduce services.
Social media became a useful tool to inform students and keep them updated.
All staff were instructed to enroll in the campus alert system (if not already enrolled).
- **Preparing for potential financial loss.**
The UGS office leadership planned to reduce services and opted to adopt a purchasing freeze to save money for potential loss in the future.
The Dream Center and UGS followed the University's guidance on non-hiring of new individuals, with one exception; the hiring of a new director. Deemed essential.
- **Continuance of culture and community built by the Dream Center and its partners.**
The associate dean of the office of Diversity and Inclusion, stepped down as liaison between all departments and divisions, but pushed for the hiring of a new director prior to her leaving. This ensured that some training and continuance was present during the transition. While services and direct student support were reduced, the Dream Center remained open virtually and most services were restarted upon the arrival of a new director. Outreach to campus and community partners continued thereafter.

Throughout all of this crisis, various steps were taken (and continue to be taken) to ensure that all staff/employees are informed and that all staff/employees take responsibility by following advice from medical professionals and the University of Utah administration, and that the center continues to operate as smoothly as possible.

It goes without saying that all these sudden changes impacted, are impacting staff wellbeing and mental health. They feel stressed, insecure, and worried. They're worried about their jobs, the viability of the workplace, the uncertainty of their academic success, and their ability to take care of their families. These are all factors that we continue to work through by staying connected to the larger campus community and finding innovative ways to stay motivated and by finding inclusive practices while continuing to work remotely.



SPECIALIZED COLLEGE OUTREACH & ACCESS

The Dream Center engages in specialized college outreach and access strategies. In FY20, the Dream Center conducted workshops and presentations to individuals, increasing the FY19 totals in specialized college outreach and access workshops. Collectively, between FY19 and FY20, The Dream Center has successfully outreached to **over 3,000** individuals.

INDIVIDUALIZED MENTORSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

The Dream Center provides individualized mentoring and scholarship support for current and future University of Utah undocumented students. In FY20, the Dream Center provided direct services and support to **76** additional students than in FY19.

CAMPUS-WIDE ADVOCACY & TRAININGS

The Dream Center promotes campus-wide advocacy and trainings for University of Utah faculty, staff and administration. In FY19, the Dream Center successfully trained **180** faculty, staff and administrators at The University of Utah as well as partnering USHE institutions. Between FY19

and FY20, The Dream Center has successfully trained and reached **over 180** faculty, staff and administrators.

COMMUNITY-WIDE AWARENESS

The Dream Center is committed to increase community-wide awareness of policies affecting current and future University of Utah undocumented students. The Dream Center administers two listservs, which have been successful in informing the community about resources available to undocumented students. The Dream Scholarship Listserv now serves **529** students. The Resources Listserv now serves **497** faculty, staff and administrators across K-20.

STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

In addition to supporting undocumented students, families, faculty, staff, administrators and allies at the institutional level, The Dream Center has focused on working with **USHE**, as well as with partnering institutions and organizations at the state and national levels.

State Student Support: Our unique position as the only Dream Center in the state of Utah, has led the center to become a source of knowledge and information for directly addressing student inquiries from high schools all over the state and virtually every accredited institution of higher education in the state of Utah, including all **USHE** institutions, **Brigham Young University, LDS Business College**, and **Westminster College**.

State Institutional Support: The Dream Center currently serves in the capacity of co-chair for the **Utah System of Higher Education Undocumented Student Access & Success Committee**, and member of **Salt Lake Community College Undocumented Student Resource Committee**. Moreover, in collaboration with SLCC and SUU we have developed the **Undocumented Student Ally Training**, which currently operates at the **Utah State Board of Education and SLCC**. Also, we have met with **SLCC, WSU, UVU** and **USU** to discuss how to best support Dreamers in Utah.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Dream Center partnered with national nonprofit FWD.US to host two events:

- We participated in the 4th Annual **#IStandWithImmigrants** College and University Day of Action. It was the Dream Center's 2nd Annual Day of Action at our university. We had the opportunity to invite students, community members, families, staff and faculty to come together to show support for the immigrant community in Utah and the U.S.

To immigrants with Love.

- We came together to spread the **love** on Valentine's Day to write letter to immigrants using postcards provided by the national nonprofit FWD.US. Students, faculty, and staff participated by sending their letters to family and friends or by sharing them on social media platforms.

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The Dream Center partnered with various centers across campus to bring events that would support students post-college graduation.

- In partnership with TRIO and the Center of Ethnic Student Affairs we hosted a professional panel session with underrepresented college graduates. The panelists were able to share their experiences as underrepresented college graduates in the workforce. They shared their journey as undergraduate students and shared personal advice. Lastly, the panelists shared tips on how students can best prepare themselves to attain similar careers.

The Dream Center partnered with nonprofit organizations around our community that focus on supporting immigrants in the state of Utah.

- The Dream Center partnered with the ACLU of Utah to do a pre-recorded video to better understand the rights and protections that Undocumented/DACAmented have when protesting in Utah. The video was shared on all our social media platforms and website.
- In partnership with Catholic Community Services of Utah, ACLU of Utah, and Comunidades Unidas we came together to create an informative video about the Supreme Court's Decision made on June 18, 2020 about DACA. In the video we explained what the decision meant and how it affects current DACA beneficiaries and prospective applicants.
- Links to all informative video on the Dream website here:
<https://dream.utah.edu/InformativeVideos.php>

SOMOS DREAMERS

The Dream Center also serves as the co-advisor for student group, Somos Dreamers. This student group serves as a support system for undocumented students, and those who are passionate about advocacy for the undocumented community. This group leads the charge in finding student needs and securing support from both the campus community, and the larger community. Somos Dreamers and the Dream Center have started sharing information with other universities about creating a SOMOS-like org. All in an attempt to increase state-wide services and recognize students and their efforts.

AWARDS, GRANTS, & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- In the past year, the Dream Center at the University of Utah provided services to over 300 students. This includes those who are undocumented (with and without DACA), children of undocumented immigrants, and allies. As a whole, we spent many hours presenting to K-12 schools as well as colleges, and community events accounting for 1,576 participants.
- In August of 2019 The University of Utah Dream Center collaborated with the SLCC Undocumented Student Resource Committee to establish the Salt Lake Community College Dream Center. The SLCC Dream Center is the second USRC in the state of Utah. One of the University of Utah graduate students served as the inaugural staff. This will further expand service provision for undocumented students throughout the state of Utah, and increase the chances of success for students transferring to the University of Utah. See story here: <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2019/8/2/20755952/salt-lake-community-college-opens-state-s-second-dream-center>



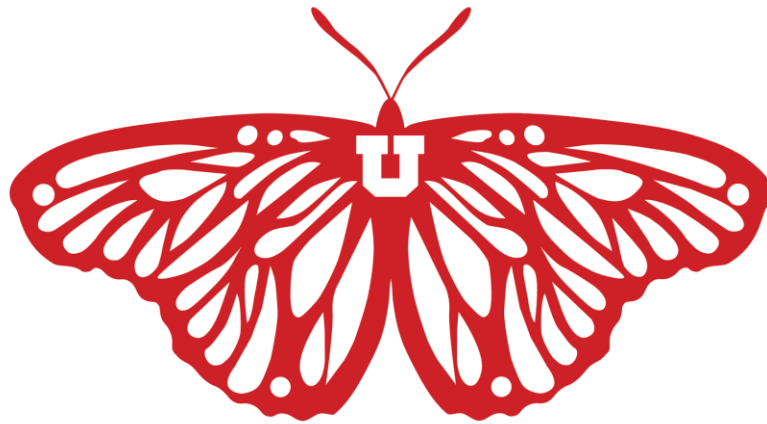
New Leadership

- In March of 2020, the inaugural director of the Dream Center stepped down. Just a couple of months later in May, after an extensive national search, a new director was hired. He comes locally from the University of Utah and has an understanding of the needs of the communities that the Dream Center serves. This transition came at a difficult time due to the struggles caused by COVID 19, but a much needed relief to move forward.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY:

In December of 2019, a student of the Dream Center and first-year medical student, Joaquin Zetina, helped in the process of restoring eyesight to a blind man! The story was featured in the “At the U” publication. Full story here:

<https://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/a-new-view-on-life/>



AWARDS

2019 | Outstanding Community Organization Award
The University of Utah, Chicana/o Scholarship Fund

2019 | Beacon of Excellence Award
The University of Utah

GRANTS

2020 | Graduate & Alumni Undergraduate Dream Scholarship (Awarded)

The University of Utah, Alumni Association

Awarded: \$25,000 for graduate student scholarships*

Contact: Linda Dunna, Alumni Association, Consultant

Contact email: linda.dunn@alumni.utah.edu | Contact phone: 801-581-6996

Alumni Contact: Kim Brunisholz

Alumni Contact email: kim.brunisholz@imail.org

2019 | David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation Scholarship (Awarded)

David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation

Awarded: \$10,000 for undergraduate and graduate student scholarships*

Contact: Erica Marken, Office of Undergraduate Studies, Development Director

Contact email: erica.marken@utah.edu | Contact phone: 801-581-3718

2019 | Clark and Christine Ivory Dream Access Scholarship (Awarded)

Clark and Christine Ivory Foundation

Awarded: \$50,000 for undergraduate and graduate student scholarships*

Contact: Erica Marken, Office of Undergraduate Studies, Development Director

Contact email: erica.marken@utah.edu | Contact phone: 801-581-3718

2019 | *Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) Becas* (Awarded)

La Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores y La Red Consular de México en Estados Unidos

Awarded: \$8,000 for undergraduate and graduate student scholarships*

Contact: María Ruiz, Consulado de México en Salt Lake City, Community Affairs

Contact email: mariar@consulmexslc.org | Contact phone: 801-521-8502

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SELECTED)

2020 | Educational Success of New American & Immigrant Students – Task Force

Collaborated Dr. Caren Frost to establish the first Educational Success of New American & Immigrant Students task force at The University of Utah.

2019 | ASHE Annual Conference - Presentation

Cisneros, J., Valdivia, D., Reyna Rivarola, A. R., & Russel, F. (2019, November). “I’m here to fight along with you”: Undocumented student resource centers. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Portland, OR.

2019 | NASPA Annual Conference – Presentation

Reyna Rivarola, A. R., Camu, E. M., Castañeda Muñoz, D., Santoyo, B., & Trejo Rivera, L. (2019, March). Embedding intersectional identities in undocumented student resource

center programming. Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA). Los Angeles, CA.

2019 | Salt Lake Community College Dream Center

Collaborated with the SLCC Undocumented Student Resource Committee to establish the SLCC Dream Center. The SLCC Dream Center is the second USRC in the state of Utah. One of the University of Utah graduate students served as the inaugural staff.

2019 | Utah Code 53B-8-106

Collaborated with the Utah System of Higher Education to revert Utah Code 53B-8-106 to its original language and thus ensuring access to consideration of a non-resident tuition waiver (NRTW) for students regardless of institution of first enrollment.

PRESS COVERAGE (SELECTED)

The Dream Center has been featured in local and national news outlets regarding its work and role in supporting undocumented students (with and without DACA):

2019 | U of U's Dream Center provides support for DACA recipients on day of SCOTUS hearing

ABC 4, Rosie Nguyen, November 12, 2019

<https://www.abc4.com/news/u-of-us-dream-center-provides-support-for-daca-recipients-on-day-of-scotus-hearing/>

2019 | U Of U, WSU, Westminster College among institutions supporting DACA ahead of Supreme Court hearing

KUER 90.1, Rocio Hernández, October 9, 2019

<https://www.kuer.org/post/daca-recipients-resolute-after-appeals-court-ruling#stream/0>

2019 | Colleges help undocumented students with tailored support and perspective

EducationDive, Daniel C. Vock, September 9, 2019

<https://www.educationdive.com/news/colleges-help-undocumented-students-with-tailored-support-and-perspective/562474/>

2019 | Salt Lake Community College opens state's second Dream Center

KSL, Christina Giardinelli, August 3, 2019

<https://www.ksl.com/article/46609699/salt-lake-community-college-opens-states-second-dream-center>

2019 | Salt Lake Community College opens Dream Center for immigrant students

The Salt Lake Tribune, Courtney Tanner, August 2, 2019

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/education/2019/08/02/this-utah-college-decided/>

2019 | Without intervention, Utah's 'opportunity gap' between white, minority students will grow, regents told

Deseret News, Marjorie Cortez, August 2, 2019

<https://www.deseret.com/utah/2019/8/2/20755918/without-intervention-utah-s-opportunity-gap-between-white-minority-students-will-grow-regents-told>

2018 | DACA recipients resolute after appeals court ruling

KUER 90.1, Rocio Hernández, November 9, 2018

<https://www.kuer.org/post/daca-recipients-resolute-after-appeals-court-ruling#stream/0>

For more information, contact the University of Utah Dream Center at dream.utah.edu