ANNUAL REPORT

January 2020
Cover photo:
*Rally for DACA at the Supreme Court, November 12, 2019*
Credit: Scott Henrichsen/University of California
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A Message from Our Steering Committee

Dear colleagues and friends,

Greetings! We are pleased to report in these pages on the progress of our Alliance and its accomplishments in the past year.

In only its second year of operation, the Alliance is doing exceptional work helping presidents and campuses bring their voices and perspectives to bear on immigration issues playing out in the courts, Congress and the administration -- matters that directly impact our students, campuses and communities. With your support, the Alliance is able to help campus leaders and our many allies stay up to date on these fast-changing developments in immigration policies and practices, coordinate actions and activities in response, and plan for future opportunities to engage on these matters.

It is a true privilege to be able to work together with you to build this Alliance as part of our shared commitment to supporting immigrant and international students. The growing roll of college and university presidents who are part of the Alliance attests to the importance of these issues for our campuses and communities and to the value presidents find in being part of the Alliance. Together we underscore our sector’s steadfast belief in the important role that immigration, international students, and access to higher education play in determining the future of our nation and planet.

We are grateful to our executive director, Dr. Miriam Feldblum, and her staff for their work on behalf of the Alliance and for the efforts of all members of the Alliance Team, including, you, our president members and partners, whose feedback, ideas and efforts on your campuses and in Washington make us a stronger and more effective Alliance.

We have ambitious plans for 2020 and beyond. We are confident that with your support, the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration will continue to be a strong and influential voice on immigration matters for presidents and their students, campuses and communities.
Louis Caldera  
Senior Advisor and  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee

Nancy Cantor  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee  
Chancellor  
Rutgers University – Newark

David W. Oxtoby  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee  
President  
American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Noelle E. Cockett  
President  
Utah State University

Alan W. Cramb  
President  
Illinois Institute of Technology

José Luis Cruz  
Executive Vice Chancellor  
University Provost  
City University of New York

John J. DeGioia  
President  
Georgetown University

Mark Erickson  
President  
Northampton Community College

Jane Fernandes  
President  
Guilford College

Kent Ingle  
President  
Southeastern University

Kim Wilcox  
Chancellor  
University of California  
Riverside

Eduardo J. Padrón  
President Emeritus  
Miami Dade College

Joseph E. Steinmetz  
Chancellor  
University of Arkansas

Elsa M. Núñez  
President  
Eastern Connecticut State University

Timothy P. White  
Chancellor  
California State University
Our Mission

We are a nonpartisan alliance of American college and university leaders speaking out and taking action to support immigration policies and practices that foster a welcoming and effective educational experience for immigrant, undocumented, and international students.

Through advocacy, education, and the development of best practice we:

- Inform the public and policymakers about the value and contributions of international and immigrant students and scholars to our campuses, communities and nation.

- Improve how we support immigrant and international students on our campuses, including by sharing best practices with each other.

- Support the consideration and adoption of immigration policies and practices as well as relevant state policies that honor our values and commitments as educational institutions and press for re-examination of those that do not.

We envision a United States where:

- There is strong, active public support for sound, just immigration policy that is true to our values, advances our economic vitality, and supports our engagement with the world.

- Strategic and resilient immigration policies and practices prevail at every level that support better outcomes and commonsense reform by engaging influencers and stakeholders across the country.

- College and university leaders in every state and community are aware of and use their voice to advance immigration policies and practices that uphold the values of tolerance and openness that underpin U.S. higher education.
Presidents’ Alliance at a Glance

The nonpartisan Presidents’ Alliance was established in 2017 by 29 founding U.S. university and college leaders and has grown to more than 400 members.

Among our members are institutions in all major categories of U.S. higher education, together educating more than five million students in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Alliance is a partner project of the nonprofit National Center for Civic Innovation, a 501(c)(3) organization. The Alliance represents a unique and intersectional voice on immigration issues that affect undocumented, immigrant, and international students and scholars in the United States.

- **We have a singular focus**, leveraging expertise and nimble approach, to address policies and actions at the intersection of higher education and immigration.

- **We are both leader-driven and inclusive**, supporting the collective voice and influence of college and university leaders and facilitating community-level advocacy.

- **We are comprehensive**, addressing issues at all levels—campus, state, and federal—and in multiple spheres—legislative, legal, messaging, and programmatic.

Our major areas of work:

- Outreach to the public and policy makers about what is at stake in national immigration policy; and best practices for higher education institutions and the students and communities they serve.

- Develop and share best-practices, strategies and resources for addressing institution level challenges to better serve and support immigrant, undocumented and international students and other similarly-situated, university-connected individuals.

- Work in partnership with other organizations and associations concerned about our priority areas to influence legislative and policy developments; engage in the legal landscape to support students; and communicate a positive narrative about the importance of serving immigrant and international students, including the highlighting of current and historic contributions. Finally, we spotlight the value and importance of just and reasonable national immigration policies.
Activities & Impact

Policy Advocacy & Education Initiatives

- **Reports**
  Authored a professional licensure policy report in support of licensure for undocumented and other immigrants with partners including United We Dream (UWD), Niskanen Center, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), FWD.us, and TheDream.US (September 2019).

- **Toolkits and Briefings**
  Prepared [advocacy toolkits](#) and held telephonic briefing on the Dream and Promise Act and the Dream Act of 2019 & SECURE Act (May and June 2019, updated with a focus on Senate advocacy in July 2019).

  Held [telephonic policy briefings](#) on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) legal developments in 2018 and after post-Supreme Court oral arguments in November 2019, with over 200 registrants.

  Wrote [Higher Education and Immigration Policy and Action Guides](#) in collaboration with FWD.us in October of 2018 and Spring 2019.

  Developed [talking points](#) on the importance of in-state tuition, admission, and financial aid for undocumented students for campus advocacy efforts at the state level.

  Created [online advocacy portal](#) tailored to each Member of Congress’ co-sponsorship status in support of the Dream and Promise Act of 2019, the Dream Act of 2019, and SECURE Act (July 2019), with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

- **Advocacy**
  Supported national call-in day of action for higher educational institutions in support of the Dream and Promise Act in spring 2019, with a large number of partner programs, including HACU, UWD, TheDream.US and others.

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GETTING THE FACTS OUT

The Alliance commissioned a [Factsheet](#) by the Migration Policy Institute that updated the number of undocumented students graduating high school annually for the first time in fifteen years. The Alliance then collaborated with partners including TheDream.US, UWD, Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education (CCIE) and National Association for College Admission Counseling, to issue a [statement](#) on the importance of the updated estimates.
● Policy Roadmap
Developed policy roadmap, released in spring 2019 for our members, which included an iterative process based on member and partner feedback before finalizing the roadmap.

● Responding to Regulatory Action
Created higher education template for use by institutions in commenting on the proposed public charge rule in fall 2018 and submitted a joint comment with CCCIE on the rule (December 2018).

● Created a higher education template for use by institutions to comment on proposed fee increases and submitted a joint comment with CCCIE on the proposed fees.

LETTERS TO CONGRESS
The Alliance produced over a dozen letters and submissions to Congressional committees, including letters in support of:

House Dream and Promise Act of 2019

Senate Dream and Secure Acts of 2019

Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019

Letters, Statements, & Testimony

● Committee Letters on DREAM
The Alliance’s Steering Committee sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives in support of Pell and Section 505 Repeal in the Dream and Promise Act (May 2019); a letter to the U.S. Senate supporting the Dream Act of 2019 and SECURE Act (April 2019); and letter to the House supporting the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (March 2019). The Alliance also joined a variety of coalitional sign-on letters to support other partners.

● Statements to Congressional Committees
The Alliance Steering Committee submitted a statement for the record for the House Judiciary Committee markup of the Dream and Promise Act and a statement for the record for the House Judiciary Committee for the hearing on protecting Dreamers and TPS & DED holders (March 2019).

● Press Statements
Issued a press statement in support of the introduction of the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (February 2019); press statement in response to Supreme Court decision to review DACA litigation (June 2019); press statement in response to House passage of the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (June 2019); press statement in response to House Judiciary Committee reporting of the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 to House floor (June 2019); press statement urging Trump administration to protect Dreamers and holders of Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure in immigration proposals.
(May 2019); **press statement** in response to district court injunction of unlawful presence policy (May 2019); collaborated with partners to issue a joint **press statement** in support of the Higher Education Dream Act of 2019 (February 2019).

### Legislative Analysis

The Alliance staff produced numerous analyses and policy recommendations on immigration policies related to higher education, many of which are shared with members and partners. These include **memoranda** analyzing Dream Act of 2019 (June 2019); **memoranda** analyzing SECURE Act (June 2019); **memoranda** analyzing Gateways to Careers Act of 2019 (July 2019); **memoranda** analyzing Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019 (June 2019); **memoranda** analyzing Keep STEM Talent Act of 2019 (June 2019); **policy analysis** on the Dream and Promise Act of 2019’s implications on higher education (June 2019); a **one-pager** for congressional offices on Dream and Promise Act of 2019’s federal financial aid provisions (May 2019); and **recommendations** for Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (March 2019).

### Member Engagement

- **Communication with Members**
  Alliance staff deliver **member communications** at least once a week, including opportunities for member action, resources and tools for members to use in advocacy, education, and campus messaging, news on immigration policy impacting higher education, and new reports and analyses.

- **Social Media Presence**
  The Alliance continues to expand our social media presence and activity on **Twitter**, including increasing the number of regular tweets; increasing followers by over 400 since January of 2019; participating in partner town halls, and developing sample and template tweets for allies and partners. For example, for the Alliance letter supporting the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019, S.386, we received 107 replies, 534 retweets, and 612 likes on social media.

### INFLUENCING PUBLIC OPINION

Campaigns coordinated by the Alliance have resulted in the publication of more than a dozen opinion pieces on Alliance issues by university and college presidents.
Litigation

- **Briefings and Outreach on Amicus Curiae**
  Conducted informational briefings and outreach and connected presidents and their institutions to opportunities to join *amicus curiae* briefs in immigration-related cases.

- **Amicus Briefs**
  Coordinated an *amicus* brief—including securing and supervising a pro bono law firm Jenner & Block to draft the brief—to support litigation challenging a new unlawful presence policy that adversely impacts international students. Sixty-six institutions and one community college governing board signed on the *amicus* brief filed in federal district court in December 2018. The judge in that case issued a preliminary nationwide injunction halting enforcement of the policy, which is still in effect.

  With the leadership of the Alliance and the Fiscal Policy Institute, eleven economic, immigration, and research organizations filed *amicus briefs* in five different district court cases supporting a preliminary injunction of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS') final public charge rule. The rule would dramatically change the meaning and effect of “public charge” grounds of admissibility to the United States.

- The Alliance coordinated an *amicus brief* in support of international students and Optional Practical Training in the Washtech case joined by 118 public and private institutions from 29 states. This coordination included securing and supervising a law firm, Jenner & Block, to draft the brief.

Best Practices

- **Legal Services for Immigrant Students Pilot Program**
  The Alliance facilitated a successful pilot program initiative in Pennsylvania to establish legal services for immigrant students on a multi-institutional model, in coordination with CUNY Citizenship Now! (a university legal assistance program) and NextGen America (an environmental advocacy nonprofit and progressive political action organization); following the pilot program, the Alliance
commissioned an independent assessment of the pilot program.

- **Webinars & FAQs to Support Undocumented Students**
  Co-sponsored with TheDream.US and the Undocuscholars Project a webinar on supporting undocumented students on campus (October 2018) and on identifying funding for undocumented students (February 2019). Over 400 registrants, including from over 130 Presidents’ Alliance member institutions, signed up for the two webinars.

- Produced two sets of FAQs on supporting undocumented students and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients on campus; and provided updates on in-state tuition and financial aid policies, and private college and university practices (November 2019).

- **Building Institutional Toolkits to Support Undocumented Graduate and Professional Students**
The Alliance is coordinating a group of institutional members, including public and private universities, and organizations, including Council of Graduate Schools, TheDream.US and Immigrants Rising, to produce a set of customizable templates, guides, and FAQs to promote and encourage universities to admit, fund, and support undocumented graduate and professional students.

- **Presentations**
The Alliance executive director has presented at conferences, including at NAFSA’s annual conference, ACE international education group, Public Policy in the Era of the States conference, UndocuScholars Conference, University Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants launch, the inaugural Catalyst conference in California, Achieve the Dream conference (a community colleges national network) and other educational leadership summits.

**Organizational Strengthening**

The Alliance held its first national convening in Washington, D.C., on April 1, 2019. College and university presidents and chancellors and other campus leaders from over forty institutions participated, with key Alliance partners, policy and legal experts, immigration coalition leaders, and researchers. Participants shared campus challenges, gained critical knowledge and tools, brainstormed strategies with key leaders in the field, and, throughout the day, provided feedback and ideas about Alliance initiatives and priorities. The discussions and input generated at the convening has informed the Alliance’s path forward in each of our three work areas—advocacy (including a policy roadmap), education, and best practices. Five priorities emerged with particular clarity during the discussions:
1. The Alliance should include in its work specific policy goals and action-oriented initiatives (e.g. call-in days, *amicus* briefs, calls to action) in which members and campuses can participate. A bipartisan approach was encouraged.

2. The Alliance should deepen its engagements at the state and local levels on issues like in-state tuition, financial aid, and drivers’ licenses.

3. The Alliance should continue to communicate timely information and updates with members on an ongoing basis and consider how to help members share that information with their key stakeholders.

4. The Alliance should continue to develop the higher education-immigration web-based informational guide (“higher education immigration hub”) that we previewed at the convening.

5. The Alliance should cultivate a community of best practices for colleges and universities and continue to pursue pilot initiatives. Among the pressing topics highlighted were the barriers and challenges that undocumented/DACA students face in trying to pursue graduate and professional degrees and the role of community colleges as an educational pathway for undocumented and immigrant students.
Our Supporters & Funders

We are deeply grateful to the many members that contributed to the Alliance through our voluntary annual institutional contribution program initiated in January 2019. Without your individual leadership and commitment, the Alliance would not exist. We also extend our great gratitude to the individual donors who stepped forward to support the Alliance and our work.

We are immensely grateful to the foundations and funders who believed in the importance of the Alliance and in the promise of higher education leaders coming together to support undocumented, immigrant and international students. The following foundations and funders have supported us in our early days and have played a key role in propelling our success.

- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
- FWD.us and FWD.us Educational Fund
- Mellon Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Open Society Policy Center
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation (on behalf of an anonymous donor)
Our Alliance

Steering Committee

**Co-Chairs**
Louis Caldera, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor, Presidents’ Alliance, Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law, American University

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University – Newark

David Oxtoby, President, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and President Emeritus, Pomona College

**Members**
Noelle Cockett, President, Utah State University

Alan W. Cramb, President, Illinois Institute of Technology

José Luis Cruz, Executive Vice Chancellor, University Provost, City University of New York

Mark Erickson, President, Northampton Community College

John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University

Jane Fernandes, President, Guilford College

Kent Ingle, President, Southeastern University

Elsa M. Núñez, President, Eastern Connecticut State University

Eduardo Padrón, President Emeritus, Miami Dade College

Joseph E. Steinmetz, Chancellor, University of Arkansas

Timothy White, Chancellor, The California State University

Kim Wilcox, Chancellor, University of California-Riverside

**Ex-Officio**
Miriam Feldblum, Executive Director, Presidents’ Alliance
Members

The Presidents’ Alliance Membership reflects the diversity of higher education institutions. Our members are presidents and chancellors of public and private institutions, representing forty-one states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Collectively, their institutions enroll more than five million students.

See below for a profile of our membership and a list of members’ institutions.
On the next page, we provide a full list of our members’ institutions.
## List of Members’ Institutions

Adelphi University  
Adler University  
Agnes Scott College  
Alamo Colleges District  
American University  
Amherst College  
Arizona State University  
Arizona Western College  
Arkansas State University  
Ashland University  
Association of Florida Colleges  
Augustana College  
Avila University  
Bard College  
Barnard College  
Barton College  
Baruch College  
Bates College  
Becker College  
Beloit College  
Bennett College  
Bennington College  
Berea College  
Berkshire Community College  
Big Bend Community College  
Bowdoin College  
Brandeis University  
Bronx Community College-CUNY  
Brooklyn College  
Broward College  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
Cabrini University  
California Institute of Integral Studies  
California Institute of Technology  
California Lutheran University  
California Polytechnic State University  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
California State University Long Beach  
California State University Northridge  
California State University San Marcos  
California State University System  
Calvin College  
Calvin University  
California State University, Channel Islands  
California State University, Dominguez Hills  
California State University, East Bay  
California State University, Fresno  
California State University, Fullerton  
California State University, Los Angeles  
California State University, Monterey Bay  
California State University, Sacramento  
California State University, San Bernardino  
California State University, Stanislaus  
Capital Community College  
Carleton College  
Central Arizona College  
Chapman University  
Charles R.D. Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Chatham University  
Chicago School of Professional Psychology  
Christian Brothers University  
City University of New York  
Claremont Graduate University  
Clark University  
Clintondale Community College  
Clow Community College  
Coe College  
Colby College  
College of Mount Saint Vincent  
College of Our Lady of the Elms  
College of Saint Mary  
College of Southern Nevada  
College of the Atlantic  
College of the Holy Cross  
College of Wooster  
Colorado College  
Colorado Community College System  
Colorado Mountain College  
Colorado State University Pueblo  
Columbia College  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Columbus State Community College  
Community College of Rhode Island  
Community Colleges of Spokane  
Connecticut College  
Contra Costa Community College District  
Converse College  
Cornell College  
Cranbrook College  
Cumberland University  
Dartmouth College  
Davidson College  
De Anza College  
Delaware State University  
Denison University  
DePaul University  
DePauw University  
Desert Research Institute  
Dewey University  
Dominican University  
Donnelly College  
Drexel University  
Duke University  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Eastern Oregon University  
Eastern Washington University  
Eastfield College  
Edmonds Community College  
EDP University of Puerto Rico  
El Paso Community College  
Elizabethtown College  
Elon University  
Emerson College  
Essex County College  
Everett Community College  
Evergreen State College  
Fairfield University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Felician University  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Foothill College  
Foothill-De Anza Community College District  
Fordham University  
Framingham State University  
Franklin & Marshall College  
Frostburg State University  
Furman University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Gettysburg College  
Goddard College  
Golden West College  
Gonzaga University  
Goucher College  
Governors State University  
Great Basin College  
Green Mountain College  
Greenfield Community College  
Greenville University  
Grinnell College  
Guilford College  
Guttman Community College  
Hamilton College  
Harrisburg Area Community College, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College  
Hartnell College  
Hartwick College  
Harvard University  
Haverford College  
Hendrix College  
Hillsborough Community College  
Holyoke Community College  
Houghton College  
Howard Community College  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Imperial Valley College  
Ithaca College  
Jackson College  
James Madison University  
Johnson & Wales University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Joliet Junior College  
Judson College  
Juniata College  
Kalamazoo College  
Kean University  
Keuka College  
Knox College  
Lafayette College  
Lake Forest College  
Langston University  
Lebanon Valley College  
Lees-McRae College  
Lehman College of The City University of New York  
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University of Oklahoma
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University of Pennsylvania
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
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Warren Wilson College
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington & Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Weber State University
Wellesley College
Wells College
Wenatchee Valley College
Wesleyan University
West Hills Community College District
West Virginia State University
Western Connecticut State University
Western Nevada College
Western Oregon University
Western Washington University
Westfield State University
Westminster College
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
Whitman College
Whittier College
Whitworth University
Wilbur Wright College
William Jessup University
William Paterson University
Williams College
Winona State University
Yakima Valley College
Yale University
Legal Advisory Council

The Council provides input, insights and recommendations on all types of legal issues and litigation actions that the Presidents’ Alliance should pursue and support as part of its mission to support undocumented, other immigrant and international students and scholars in higher education. Council members may be called upon to provide analysis and updates of legal developments, and asked to assist the Presidents’ Alliance in conducting outreach to institutions and other entities. The Presidents’ Alliance works primarily with Jenner & Block’s legal team to coordinate amicus briefs, comment letters, and other legal/litigation interventions.

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