ANNUAL REPORT

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Table of Contents

A Message from Our Steering Committee

Our Mission

Presidents’ Alliance at a Glance

Activities & Impact

Our Supporters & Funders

Our Alliance
   Steering Committee
   Members
   Staff
   Legal Advisory Council
   Federal Policy Advisory Table
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.
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 (CCICE) 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.

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**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**

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.

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**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.

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**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).

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**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.

  **DACA CASES @ SUPREME COURT**
  
  The Alliance coordinated informational briefings and outreach in August and September 2019 for an *amicus brief* in support of DACA cases in front of the Supreme Court, to which 165 institutions from 32 states and the District of Columbia signed on.

- **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
Bennet 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
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
Clinton College
Clovis 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
Cornell University
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
Joliet Junior College
Judson College
Juniata College
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
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
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lewis & Clark College
| University of Massachusetts Dartmouth |
| University of Massachusetts Lowell |
| University of Massachusetts Medical School |
| University of Massachusetts, Boston |
| University of Memphis |
| University of Miami |
| University of Michigan |
| University of Michigan-Flint |
| University of Nevada, Reno |
| University of New England |
| University of North Carolina at Greensboro |
| University of North Texas at Dallas |
| University of Northwestern, St. Paul |
| University of Oklahoma |
| University of Oregon |
| University of Pennsylvania |
| University of Puget Sound |
| University of Redlands |
| University of Rochester |
| University of San Diego |
| University of San Francisco |
| University of South Florida St. Petersburg |
| University of Texas at El Paso |
| University of Texas at San Antonio |
| University of the Incarnate Word |
| University of the Southwest |
| University of the West |
| University of Utah |
| University System of Maryland |
| Utah State University |
| Vanguard University |
| Vassar College |
| Virginia International University |
| Virginia Wesleyan University |
| Wabash College |
| Walla Walla Community College |
| Warner University |
| 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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Federal Policy Advisory Table

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Staff Team

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Jose Magaña-Salgado, Director of Policy and Communications
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