

UndocuPeers: Liberating Campus Climate

What is UndocuPeers?

The UndocuPeers: Liberating Campus Climate training is a three-four hour interactive certification program that increases the educational success of undocumented students by empowering and training educators. Developed by undocumented students, UndocuPeers provides the necessary tools to begin or continue conversations on how to better support and work alongside undocumented students. This program is centered on professional development and provides a space to streamline departmental resources across educational institutions.

"The UndocuPeers Training provided us with a critical foundation of information. It empowered us to help us get some great initiatives off the ground to better support our DREAMer students."

-Lynda Duran, University of Colorado, Denver

Why UndocuPeers?

Due to the consistent advocacy of leaders within the undocumented immigrant community and allies across the nation, more undocumented students have been able to pursue higher education. Still, only 5 to 10 percent of undocumented students that graduate from high school enroll in college and only 1 to 3 percent of those who enroll will graduate on time.

This is in large part due to the difficult and overwhelming campus climate undocumented students experience and the lack of resources and information at college campuses directed specifically towards undocumented students (many schools do not even have an information page for undocumented students).

The UndocuPeer training specifically focuses on getting school staff and administration the right information to better understand the barriers undocumented students face and how their institution can work to better support undocumented students. It focuses both on individual staff development and knowledge building as well as what an entire school can do to better support students.

We believe a training should never end with just information, but should always include actions that attendees can take and we ensure our training reflects that philosophy.

Basic information around undocumented student experience, identity, and barriers to success.

Current context and policies surrounding immigration and education and how these policies affect students today.

Defining roles as staff allies and assessing what the institution can do to better support undocumented students.

Defining concrete action steps that staff and the institution can take and sharing institutional and community resources.

UndocuPeers: Liberating Campus Climate

The UndocuPeer Experience

Over the past year and a half, we have been able to host 16 UndocuPeer trainings across seven universities in Connecticut including UCONN, SCSU, ECSU, Fairfield, Quinnipiac, Wesleyan, and Norwalk Community College. UndocuPeers is a research-tested training with its effectiveness determined by surveys taken by participants. Below are some of the results from the 16 UndocuPeer trainings we have hosted:

- **94%** of educators felt that they were well informed about laws and policies affecting undocumented students after attending the training
- **77%** of educators felt they were better equipped with the skills and tools needed to work with and support undocumented students
- **76%** of educators felt more knowledgeable about the resources (both on campus and in the community) available to undocumented students after attending the training
- **94%** of educators felt committed to advancing the success of undocumented students at their institution after attending the training
- **81%** of educators felt that they can help develop and improve resources and services within their institution for undocumented students

How Do I set Up a Training?

Please reach out to Stefan Keller, our College Access Program Coordinator to discuss more details about setting up a training with us (including cost of training, date, and specific content to be covered). You can reach him at Stefan@ct4adream.org or 203-215-4311.



Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D) is a statewide youth led network fighting for the rights of undocumented youth and their families. C4D believes in educating, advocating with, and empowering young people to make change in their communities. C4D's undocumented youth have successfully led 11 UndocuPeer trainings around the state with several more in the works!



United We Dream (UWD) is the nation's largest network of immigrant-youth. We are driven by and accountable to our thousands of members across the country. UWD launched the Dream Education Empowerment Program (DEEP), which is our effort to educate, connect, and empower students, families, and educators to close the opportunity gap and engage in local efforts to improve educational equity and create career opportunities for undocumented students.