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*Resource Guide
for
AB 540
& Undocumented
Students*



ALLIANCE OF STUDENTS FOR AN EQUAL EDUCATION
California State University, Fullerton

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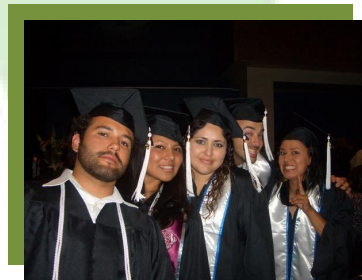
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ALLIANCE OF STUDENTS FOR AN EQUAL EDUCATION
California State University, Fullerton

Our history and mission

In the spring of 2006, six California State University, Fullerton students and friends gathered in a local coffee shop to brainstorm ideas that would help students and potential students have access to an equal education. The collaboration led to the founding of *The Alliance of Students for an Equal Education (A.S.E.E)*.

The purpose of this organization is to advocate for AB540, undocumented, and underrepresented students achieving higher education; also to educate students, faculty, staff, and communities regarding the struggles and the needs of these students. The organization has provided resources and guidance to many students whether they are in high school, college, or university. A series of educational workshops and presentations in various places such as schools, churches, classrooms and communities, along with mentoring services, have been a form of outreach and education to many. A.S.E.E continues to advocate and take action to ensure that students today attain higher education and become leaders of tomorrow.



For more information and presentations, please contact:

- ✓ Carlos Reyes: abcarlos540@csu.fullerton.edu
 - ✓ Janet Perez-Molina: jmperez@fullerton.edu
 - ✓ Alliance of Students for an Equal Education of CSUF:
aseeofcsuf@yahoo.com
-

Testimonies

Testimonies:

I graduated with a B.S. in Human Services. I am an AB540 student, which means that I am undocumented, but have the privilege to go to an American university paying resident tuition because I met certain requirements and showed that I am a good student. I am originally from Mexico City, Mexico. I came to the U.S. when I was fourteen in 1999 and have been living in Southern California since. As many other Human Services majors, my life has been filled with misfortunes. Coming into the Human Services program, I disclosed, little by little, to peers and professors about my situation. For the most part, I found support and empathy towards my situation. With true honesty, the time that I found the biggest support and sense of belonging was when I entered the group leading program for Character and Conflict. From the supervisors to all my co-leaders and members, I was accepted and understood, and I felt comfortable sharing my struggles and venting my emotions. Because of this program, I learned that it is okay to be in this position, that there is nothing to be shameful of and that there are many people out there that understand. I am grateful for being able to have that experience. It is tough as, an undocumented student, to get through school having to pay for my own tuition, have to complete internships, plus work, plus homework. Finding an AB540 friendly internship could be tough because many of the best internships require a background check, forget about a paid internship. Then, the limited opportunities for doing research I think also hinder my ability to compete for a good grad program. Being in my position, there are currently no programs that could take me as a research assistant.

One of the toughest things about being an AB540 student in college is finding a place to belong. Many times I felt isolated from the rest of the student population, since I thought that I was the only one in this situation. I have been fortunate enough to find a great support system from classmates and professors, and thanks to that I have been able to excel in classes, campus involvement and internships. I graduated with honors cum laude on May 2008 and I am planning to continue my career with the goal of always helping people, because those people that have helped me have made an impact in my life positively, and I want to do that for others. My hopes are that in the next few years, either a comprehensive immigration reform passes and helps millions of undocumented people come out of limbo and contribute more to this country, or that the federal DREAM Act passes and allows many, including myself, to contribute to this country. I currently cannot work in the field because of my lack of a social security number. If I obtain my documents, I will be able to utilize my degree and help those that need me the most. I find myself in a very unfortunate situation. I met all my requirements to graduate, I graduated with honors, and I showed outstanding involvement in campus and in off campus activities. I am dying to give back to this society, but I feel as if my hands are tied because of the inability to work. I want to continue to grad school and one day to get a PhD in Social Work. I just don't know how long it will be for any of these goals and dreams to come true. Thank you for taking the time to read this. For those professors, advisors, and staff members that know who I am, and that have helped me through my college journey, I thank you for everything that you did. If this brief story has made an impact in your life, I hope you remember that there are many like me hiding around campus and around this nation, fearing rejection and judgment from society. I hope you give them an opportunity to dream and succeed. That is what we all want, to achieve the American Dream.

BY: AB540 Graduate/ Human Services Major

Continued testimonies:

I am an AB540 student. I don't receive financial aid. I would like to be part of many programs in school. Unfortunately, I can't. I pay for my tuition, books and other materials. I used to work two jobs, before coming to CSUF. After transferring, I had to keep only one job. I used to make enough money to help my parents, pay my bills, and my tuition. In addition to being a student, I am an activist. I have taken the task of advocating for AB540 students and immigrant rights. I attend meetings with politicians and community activists to promote education. I do not have a criminal record. Despite my academic achievements and positive role in society, I am labeled as a criminal for a decision that I did not make. My parents made the decision of coming to the United States legally.

A few months ago, I received a call from the Human Resources Department at my work place. There were some "issues" with my file. I needed to provide my employer with proof of residency or citizenship. I was given four weeks to resolve this problem, otherwise I would have to resign my position. For twenty minutes, I had no words to say, but the thoughts were endless. I dedicated six years of my life to this company. Six years, in which I never complained about injustices committed to me or to others. Six long years, in which I had to close my eyes, mouth, ears, for fear of losing my job. During this time I did not have the opportunity to wake-up late, because I had to work at 5am, 4am, 3am, or even 2am in the morning. I was doing four different types of jobs and getting paid only for one. I lived in fear for six years of my life, because I needed to pay for tuition, books, transportation, food, and also to help my parents.

I explained my situation to my manager hoping he would help me keep my position. There were other times when he was very helpful in managing my work schedule, why not help me with keeping my job. However, this time there was nothing he could do for me. I was not able to provide proof of neither residency nor citizenship. He simply suggested I put in my two weeks notice.

I knew it was going to take me a long time to find a job. I have been struggling to find a new job ever since. Being undocumented does not help at all. I only have enough money saved to survive for a while and to pay for some bills. There's a new semester coming up, and there is a high possibility of not attending due to the lack of money, which only pushes me farther away from my dream.

Although I have many dreams to achieve, every day I am constantly reminded of my current situation which makes me feel handicapped. One of my dreams is to become a High School Counselor or a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. My great passion for the Human Services field has immensely grown, ever since being introduced to this major. My dream will come true and I will be able to give back to the community by helping those in need. I am the American Dream.

BY: AB 540 Senior / Human Services major

Continued testimonies:

I am an undergraduate student at Cal State University, Fullerton pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. I migrated to the United States from Mexico with my family in 1992 and I will be the first person in my family to receive a college degree. My interest in politics developed from the exposure to the struggles affecting immigrant communities. In particular, my recent employment at a restaurant for three years provided me a valuable insight into the hardships affecting Latino immigrants. I met many individuals who worked two jobs while dealing with emotional struggles resulting from the distance from their families. Since then, I was fully persuaded that by seeking a career in the political arena I could one day alleviate some of the problems facing immigrant communities.

In the process of obtaining this degree, I have confronted various obstacles ranging from monetary troubles to the lack of information on how to navigate through college given my immigration status. I have attended Cal State Fullerton as an AB 540 student. During the first two years at Cal State Fullerton, I worked over 35 hours per week while completing a full-time course schedule. Elevated school fees and book prices made it impossible to work less hours. Financial assistance from government programs has never been an option because of my immigration status, so I have remained employed to provide for my personal and educational expenses. It is not my intention to present the previous adversities in negative light, because these struggles have allowed me to cherish my educational achievements more than I would have otherwise.

Thanks to my academic and work efforts, I was able to participate in an internship in California's State Capitol in Sacramento. I attended numerous legislative committee meetings, hearings and press conferences. These experiences inspired me to succeed in the program. The enriching experiences in Sacramento led me to apply to a Washington D.C. internship program in Spring of 2008. I was accepted into the program but had to decline the opportunity because it offered only partial funding. Unfortunately, my immigration status prevented me from seeking any of the paid internship positions.

As my final year as an undergraduate approaches, my short-term goal is to gain acceptance to a prestigious graduate program in either international relations or public policy. I have engaged in research projects to get exposed to the expectations of graduate school. In a recent paper, prepared for a Latin American Studies Conference, I investigated whether political party affiliation is associated with the advancement of women in Mexico's political arena. Currently, I am involved in a research project led by Dr. Alejandro Gradilla for which I am exploring Latino men's health problems and the potential policy changes to address them. My long-term career goal is to work in public affairs involving the region of Latin America. I am particularly interested in the implications of public policy on human rights. My ultimate goal is to work for non-governmental organization as an advocate for human rights. I would also be interested in working as a researcher for a progressive foreign policy think tank.

Although my goals and aspirations are very clearly defined in my mind, without the passage of the California or Federal DREAM ACT my future is not so clear. I am not certain how I will be able to incur the high costs of graduate school. I hope you will consider my situation and motivate others to support the pending legislative efforts to help students facing academic struggles such as mine. Please help us in the efforts to inform others that EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT.

BY: AB 540 Senior/ Political Science Major

Continued testimonies:

My story begins in the Spring of 1990 when a leap of faith brought me and my family to the land of opportunities. The United States of America was the blank canvas my family was looking for to paint our dreams and hopes. Although the transition was a huge challenge for a 16 year old boy, in a new country with new faces and a different language, my passion for art minimized the struggles.

My artistic inclination began at a very young age when a piece of paper and a simple pencil took over my playtime. I was no longer interested in marbles, soldiers or any other boy games. I had discovered my passion. Art was my companion and accomplice.

As an Art student at Cal State Fullerton my experience was full of contradictions. On one hand my academic achievements were well above average, causing high regards from peers and professors. Yet on the other hand, my legal status deprived me from reaping the benefits of my efforts. As an undocumented student I was deprived from attaining any type of well deserved financial help. My academic and artistic talent would have given me the opportunity to apply and be awarded multiple scholarships that were lost in the midst of my legal status.

BY: AB 540 Graduate / Art Major

The land of opportunity is a place that guarantees determined and passionate people the chance to succeed, regardless of who you are. However, there is a point when strong will and the passion to thrive is simply not enough. As an AB 540 student at Cal State Fullerton, I am well aware that, for students in my situation, it takes a little more than passion and a strong desire to be successful. For me as an AB 540 student every semester successfully completed is a battle won, but also a semester closer to graduation and the uncertainty of not knowing what I will do with a degree that has no value to an employer, simply because it's not attached to a 9 digit number.

I believe it's crucial for people to understand that, as human beings, we all seek our well being and that of our loved ones. For many AB 540 students our journey to the United States was not a choice, but rather something imposed on us by our parents in an attempt to give us a more stable future. I was brought to this country at the age of 6 on the belief that once I met Mickey Mouse I would go back to Mexico and tell my grandparents all about it. Yet reality was far from the truth, I have been living in the United States for the past 15 years without having the opportunity to go back and tell my grandparents all about my trip to California, my mother's struggles and the sacrifices she has made to pay my college tuition, nor have I had a chance to personally tell them how much I have needed them all these years. It seems that a shot at the American dream makes all the sacrifices and the hardships worthwhile.

Yet how close to the American dream do AB 540 students truly get?

Continued testimonies:

Although I sacrificed endless nights fearing what will become of me once I graduate, precious time that I could have spent with the rest of my family residing in Mexico, and infinite hours worried about how my college tuition would be paid. At the end of the day, I will have the satisfaction of knowing that I was one of the many students who decided to take a chance regardless of the outcome. Even though I feel I win a battle every time I manage to complete a successful semester, I know that in order to win the war there's a lot more work to be done. In the eyes of an undocumented student, whose only goal is to succeed in this country, it is important for me to start being respected and acknowledged as an important part of the future of America.

In the last 15 years, this country is all I've known. I have grown, lived, and dreamed in the United States. Someone once said, that "today well lived, makes every tomorrow a vision of hope," and that's what we AB 540 students strive for; as we work hard to prepare ourselves, hoping that our tomorrow will no longer be filled with fears but with hope of a brighter future in the land of opportunities.

BY: AB540 Senior/Communications Major



PURPOSE

This guide is intended to provide information to faculty and staff seeking to advise “AB 540 Students” and for undocumented nonresident high school and college students seeking information about their eligibility for AB 540 and available resources.

Who are undocumented students?

Undocumented students include those students born outside of the United States, many of whom have lived in this country for a significant portion of their lives, and who reside here without the legal permission of the federal government. Many undocumented students and their families entered the country legally on tourist or work visas and chose to stay in the US after their visas expired. Others entered without any form of documentation.

- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in the year 2000, approximately 2.5 million undocumented youth under age 18 were living in the U.S.
- Each year, over 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools.
- 40% of all undocumented students live in California.
- In 2001, 5,000-8,000 students in California were eligible for AB540.
- In 2004, 17 California high school Valedictorians were undocumented.
- Many undocumented students were brought to the U.S. at a very young age.
- Many undocumented students have aspirations to attend college.
- Many undocumented students have excelled as honors students, class valedictorians, and active members of their communities.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Assembly Bill 540

Assembly Bill 540 was created by former assemblyman Marco A. Firebaugh and signed by Ex-Governor of California G. Davis in October 12, 2001. This law gives the opportunity for out-of-state students and undocumented students to pay in-state tuition in California's State Colleges and Universities. For instance, in a community College AB 540 students are allowed to pay \$20 (in-state tuition) per unit, instead of \$171 (out-of-state-tuition) per unit.

The difference: In-State Tuition vs. Out-of-State Tuition:

(Base in a full-time student's undergraduate)

	In-State	Out-of-State
CSU	\$1,829 per semester	\$5,897 per semester
UC	\$2,769.96 per quarter	\$9,637.97 per quarter
Community College	\$ 20 per unit	\$171 per unit

**Marco A. Firebaugh
(1966-2006)**



AB 540 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

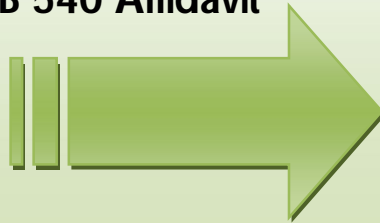
- ✓ You must have attended a California high school for 3 or more years;
- ✓ You must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent of a high school diploma
- ✓ You must have registered or currently be enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California (C.C., C.S.U., U.C.)
- ✓ You must have filed or be in process of filing an affidavit as required by individual institutions, stating that you will apply for legal residency as soon as possible.

AB 540 affidavit: "California nonresident tuition exemption request"

Students must obtain, complete, and submit the AB540 Affidavit to the office of Admissions and Records (LH-114)

CONTACT: AB 540 Evaluators
(714) 278-2396
Admissions and Records
Langsdorf Hall 114

AB 540 Affidavit



California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request
For Eligible California High School Graduates

Note: This form is accepted by all California Community Colleges and all Universities in both the University of California and California State University systems.

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California, or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY:

I, the undersigned, am applying for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption for eligible California high school graduates at (specify the college or university) _____ and I declare the following:

Check YES or NO boxes:

Yes No I have graduated from a California high school or have attained the equivalent thereof, such as a High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

Yes No I have attended high school in California for three or more years.

Provide information on all school(s) you attended in grades 9 - 12:

School	City	State	From - Month/Year	To - Month/Year

Documentation of high school attendance and graduation (or its equivalent) is required by the University of California, the California State University and some California Community Colleges. Follow campus instructions.

Check the box that applies to you -- check only one box:

I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law. (Nonimmigrant aliens have been admitted to the United States temporarily and include, but are not limited to, foreign students (persons holding F visas) and exchange visitors (persons holding J visas).)

OR

I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien. (U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or aliens without lawful immigration status, among others, should check this box.)

AFFIDAVIT:

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I have benefited and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)	Campus-Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Email Address (Optional)
	Phone Number (Optional)
Signature	Date

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AB 540 INELIGIBILITY

An ineligible student is one who does not meet the AB 540 criterion. In most situations, not having met the three years attendance at a California high school is what prevents a student from qualifying for AB 540. Students can still attend as long as they meet the admissions criteria and are accepted by the college or university, but must pay non-resident fees.



How to Complete an Affidavit at CSUF: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ADMISSION

The process for applying to California State University, Fullerton is no different for any student, with the exception of completing the residency section of the application:

- When completing the application please leave the section requesting your Social Security Number blank. **Do not make up a Social Security Number.**
- On [Screen 4](#) under the residency section, select option A if you qualify for AB 540 status.
- Please complete the entire application. Upon completion and submission of the application, you will receive a paper letter from Cal State Fullerton confirming the receipt of your application. The letter will also provide you with a Campus Wide ID often referred to as CWID.
- Please complete the [California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request form](#) and obtain a copy of your high school transcripts and a copy of your high school diploma.
- ✓ Please send the **Exemption Request Form**, your **high school transcripts**, and a **copy of your high school diploma** to:



Attention:
Evaluation Unit
P.O. Box 6900
Fullerton CA, 92834-6900

HOW TO FILL OUT THE AFFIDAVIT: STEP ONE

California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request
For Eligible California High School Graduates
Note: This form is accepted by all California Community Colleges and all Universities in the both the University of California and California State University systems.

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California, or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY:

I am applying for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption for eligible California high school graduates at (specify the college or university) _____ and I declare the following:

Check YES or NO boxes:

Yes No I have graduated from a California high school or have attained the equivalent thereof, such as a High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

Yes No I have attended high school in California for three or more years.

Provide information on all school(s) you attended in grades 9 - 12:

School	City	State	Dates:	
			From - Month/Year	To - Month/Year

Documentation of high school attendance and graduation (or its equivalent) is required by the University of California, the California State University and some California Community Colleges. Follow campus instructions.

Check the box that applies to you - check only one box:

I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law. [Nonimmigrant aliens have been admitted to the United States temporarily and include, but are not limited to, foreign students (persons holding F visas) and exchange visitors (persons holding J visas)].

OR

I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien. [U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or aliens without lawful immigration status, among others, should check this box.]

AFFIDAVIT:

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)	Campus Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Email Address (Optional)
	Phone Number (Optional)
Signature	Date

Rev. 10/03 **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE CAMPUS ADMISSIONS OFFICE**

Yes No

I have graduated from a California School Equivalency Certificate, issued resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

Yes No

I have attended high school in California for three or more years.

HOW TO FILL OUT THE AFFIDAVIT: STEP two

California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request

For Eligible California High School Graduates

Note: This form is accepted by all California Community Colleges and all Universities in the both the University of California and California State University systems.

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- I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien. [U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or aliens without lawful immigration status, among others, should check this box.]

AFFIDAVIT

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Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)	Campus/Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Email Address (Optional) Phone Number (Optional)
Signature	Date

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RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE CAMPUS ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Check the box that applies to you -- check only one box.

I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law. temporarily and include, but are not limited to, foreign students (persons holding J visas)].

OR

I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien. [U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or aliens without lawful immigration status, among others, should check this box.]

HOW TO FILL OUT THE AFFIDAVIT: STEP three

California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request

For Eligible California High School Graduates

Note: This form is accepted by all California Community Colleges and all Universities in the both the University of California and California State University systems.

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California, or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

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Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)	Campus/Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Street, Box, Zip Code)	Address (Optional)
	Phone Number (Optional)
Signature	Date

Rev. 10/03

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE CAMPUS ADMISSIONS OFFICE

AFFIDAVIT: I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury (....) I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my

RESOURCES

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Founded in 1974, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) is a national organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans. By combining litigation, advocacy, education, and organizing, AALDEF works with Asian American communities across the country to secure human rights for all. <https://www.aaldef.org/>

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

CHIRLA was formed in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles; promote harmonious multi-ethnic and multi-racial human relations; and through coalition building, advocacy, community education and organizing, empower immigrants and their allies to build a more just society. <http://www.chirla.org/>

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)

MALDEF was founded in 1968 in San Antonio, Texas, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) is the leading nonprofit Latino litigation, advocacy and educational outreach institution in the United States. MALDEF's mission is to foster sound public policies, laws and programs to safeguard the civil rights of the 45 million Latinos living in the United States and to empower the Latino community to fully participate in our society. <http://maldef.org/>

National Legal Sanctuary for Community Advancement (NLSCA)

Founded in 2004, NLSCA's mission is to ensure human rights and dignity of Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian peoples. It advocates for legal defense of civil rights, responsible media coverage and depiction; proactive collaboration with governmental and nongovernmental institutions; and fostering education and community outreach. <http://nlzca.com/index.htm>

Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF)

SALEF was founded in 1995 in Los Angeles by a group of Salvadoran and Salvadoran American activists. SALEF's mission is to advocate for the educational advancement, civic participation, leadership and economic prosperity of Salvadoran and other Latino communities in the U.S.; and to advance democracy and social justice in the U.S. and El Salvador.

<http://www.salef.org/>

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



Community Colleges

Bakersfield Community College:

Immigrants Determined for Education and Academic Success (IDEAS)

Email: ideas.bc@sbcglobal.net

East Los Angeles Community College

Student Advocate For Higher Education and Equality (SAHEE)

Email: elac_saheequality@yahogroups.com

Glendale Community College
Voces Del Mañana
Email: voces_dm@yahoo.com

San Bernardino Valley Community College
MEChA de SBVC
Email: sanbernardinodream@yahoo.com

Riverside Community College
MEChA
Email: rccdreamers@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES

CSU Dominguez Hills
Espiritu de Nuestro Futuro
Email: espitudenuestrofuturo@yahoo.com

CSU Fullerton
Alliance of Students for an Equal Education (ASEE)
aseeofcsuf@yahoo.com

CSU Los Angeles
Student United to Reach Goals in Education (SURGE)
Email: surge@calstatela.edu or csula_surge@yahoo.com

CSU Long Beach
Future Underrepresented Educated Leaders (FUEL)
Email: fuelcsulb@yahoo.com

CSU Northridge
Dreams To Be Heard
Email: dreamstobeheard@yahoo.com

CSU Pomona

Demanda Estudiantil Para La Igualdad Educacional (DEPIE)

Email: depie_calpolypomona@yahoo.com

San Jose State University

Student Advocates for Higher Education (SAHE)

Email: ab540students@yahoo.com

UNIVERSITIES OF CALIFORNIA

University of California, Berkeley

Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education (RISE)

Email: ucb_rise@yahoo.com

University of California, Davis

Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS)

Email: ideas_ucd@yahoo.com or ucdavis_ideas@yahoo.com

University of California, Irvine

Dedication for the Realization of Education and Always Motivated for Success (DREAMS)

Email: dreamsatuci@yahoogroups.com

University of California, Los Angeles

Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS)

<http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/ideas>

Email: ideas@ucla.edu

University of California, Santa Barbara

Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS)

Email: ideasatucsb@yahoo.com

University of California, Santa Cruz

Student Informing Now (SIN) Verguenza

Email: porlacausadelosestudiantes@yahoo.com

University of California, San Diego
Migrant and Immigrant Rights Awareness at UCSD (MIRA)
Email: ucsdiversity@yahoo.com

University of Southern California
Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA)
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa>



Legal organizations

Legal Aide Foundation of Los Angeles
8601 S. Broadway Ave, Los Angeles CA 90003
(213) 640-3884
<http://www.lafla.org>

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational
Fund
634 S. Spring St 11th Fl, Los Angeles CA 90014
(213) 629-2512
<http://www.maldef.org>

Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles
County
714 W. Olympic Blvd Ste 450, Los Angeles CA
90015
(213) 749-2889
<http://www.mabalawyers.org>

National Immigration Law Center
3435 Wilshire Blvd Ste 2850, Los Angeles CA
90010
(213) 639-3900
<http://www.nilc.org>

Asian Pacific American Legal Center
1145 Wilshire Blvd 2nd Fl, Los Angeles CA 90017
(213) 977-7500
<http://www.apalc.org>

Immigration Legislation contact

Senator Cedillo's Office
State Capital Rm 5100
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 651-4022
www.sen.ca.gov/cedillo



Los Angeles community organizations

Central American Resource Center
2845 W.7th St, Los Angeles CA 90005
(213) 385-7800
<http://www.carecen-la.org>

Coalition for Human Immigration Rights of Los Angeles
2533 W. Third St Ste 101, Los Angeles CA 90057
(213)353-1333
<http://www.chirla.org>

Korean Resource Center
900 S Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90019
(323)937-3718
<http://www.krcla.org>

Salvadoran American Leadership and Education Fund
1625 W. Olympic Blvd Ste 718, Los Angeles Ca 90015
(213) 480-1052
<http://www.salef.org>



Orange county community organizations

Alliance of Students for an Equal Education of Cal State Fullerton

Email: aseeofcsuf@yahoo.com

CA Dream Act

<http://www.cadreamact.org>

Email: lserrato@cadreamact.org, creyes@cadreamact.org,
carlos@cadreamact.org

Orange County Dream Team

<http://www.istillhaveadream.org>

PowerPac Organization

<http://www.powerpac.org>

Frequently asked questions for undocumented students:

Q: What does it mean to be undocumented?

A: An undocumented person is a non-citizen who entered the U.S. without legal immigration status or who stayed after the period he/she was authorized to be here.

Q: If I am undocumented and interested in applying for residency, what should I do?

A: In order to find out if you are eligible to apply for legal permanent residency, contact a licensed immigration lawyer/attorney (abogado). DO NOT give your money to a notary public (notario). In the U.S., a notario is not a lawyer/attorney and cannot help you establish residency.

Q: If I am undocumented, can I go to college?

A: YES, if you are an undocumented student you can go to any college or university in California as long as you are admitted/accepted. To avoid paying out-of-state tuition, you need to meet the AB 540 requirements listed in Section 2 of this guide. NOTE: Students attending a California Community College have as an alternative to AB 540, the ability to apply under Title 5, Chapter 2 "Residency Regulations and Requirements for Undocumented Aliens" 2.22. Admission under this classification allows you to apply for the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) state aid providing you meet the income guidelines.

Q: If I am undocumented, can I apply for financial aid?

A: As an undocumented student, you ARE NOT eligible for state (Cal Grant) and federal (FAFSA) financial aid. Some colleges and private organizations may offer financial assistance to undocumented students. Visit your college's EOPS, financial aid and scholarship offices to find out..

Q: Where can I go to find out about scholarships for undocumented students?

A: There are several places where you can find scholarship lists that do not require you to be a US citizen or legal permanent resident, and that do not ask for a social security number. The following websites include scholarship lists: www.maldef.org, www.salef.org, www.usc.edu/chepa, and www.fastweb.com.

Q: How do I qualify to pay in-state tuition?

A: In order to qualify for in-state tuition (at a public California college or university) under AB 540 you must have completed 3 years of high school in California and graduate or obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma. You must also complete an AB 540 affidavit (California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request form) at the college/university that you will attend stating that you meet AB 540 eligibility requirements. Each school has different procedures for completing the AB 540 affidavit so contact the admissions/registrars office at the college/university that you will attend and ask about how and when to complete and submit the AB 540 affidavit. See the table in Section 4 for more information. Or, if you or your family have taken steps to obtain or legalize your status (e.g. permanent resident, asylum, family unity program, etc.), you may also apply for in-state tuition under California Community College Title 5, Chapter 2 "Residency Regulations and Requirements for Undocumented Aliens" 2.22; through this process you would then be eligible for state aid, provided you meet any additional requirements set forth by those programs (e.g. Low income).

Q: Is the process for applying to college and university for undocumented students any different when applying under AB 540?

A: For all UC and most CSU, you must apply in November of the year before you wish to begin the following fall. Two sections must be left blank:

- 1) Social Security Number slot should be Left BLANK or enter zeros.*
- 2) Immigration Status slot should be left BLANK*

Everything else should be filled out completely. Additional materials should NOT be sent with the application. Once you have been accepted by the

university, you should fill out and send the AB 540 affidavit (California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Request form).

For community colleges, you are required to turn in the AB 540 affidavit when you submit your college application. The section requesting your social security may be left blank or you may enter "please assign an ID number". For "immigration status," you may list "AB 540"

Q: What happens if I have already given the school a false SS# or stated citizenship?

A: If you qualify for AB 540 but have falsified information in the past, you should seek legal advice about how to correct the information. For a list of low cost or nonprofit legal referrals in your area see Section 6 of this guide.



DREAM ACT: SB 1301 & AB 2083

The California Dream Act (SB 1301) and the Student Financial Aid Eligibility Act (AB 2083) are state legislative proposals that allows U.S. citizen and undocumented "AB 540" students to apply for financial aid at California public colleges and universities *without* the use of the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA).

Background

The United States Census Bureau estimated that in the year 2000, approximately 2.5 million undocumented youth under the age of eighteen were living in the United States. [Furthermore, approximately 65,000 undocumented students would graduate from U.S. high schools each year. Of this number, roughly 40 percent, or 26,000 undocumented youth reside in the state of California (Pew Hispanic Center).] Many undocumented students are honor students, athletes, student leaders, and aspiring professionals, but because of their immigration status they are unable to access higher education.

Statistics

California's population exceeds 37,172,015 of which: 39.7% of CA workforce growth are foreign born Latinos (3 Million); <1% (13,000) CA college students are undocumented; 45-52% Latino/40-44% Asian constitute undocumented at CA UCs³

Demographically, California is: 44.4% white 34.9% Hispanic 11.9% Asian 6.4% Black 0.4 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0.3% Alaskan Native

What is the Problem?

Currently, California high school graduates that are AB540 eligible and have been accepted to our public colleges and universities are unable to access higher education. These students confront a difficult challenge of financing their college education because they are unable to apply for any federal, state, or institutional financial aid yet must pay into these funds.

What will the California Dream Act specifically change?

Institutional Student Aid: **SB 1301/ AB 2083** would allow AB 540 students to apply and compete for institutional aid administered by the attending college or university (i.e. State University Grant, UC Grant, scholarships, and loan programs)

Political Climate

After Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the California Dream Act, SB 160, in 2005, students continued to play a leading role in the movement for this bill and the bill was resubmitted last year. Although the Governor vetoed the last version of the California DREAM Act in 2007, the bill garnered overwhelming support in both houses and across the State. Because of the breadth of support the California DREAM Act, **SB1301**, was reintroduced in with greater confidence that this year.

With a broad coalition of students, youth, faith, chambers of commerce, labor, and community groups the California Dream Act campaign will work to ensure its passage by September 2008.

1. California Demographic Futures –Dowell Myers, John Pitkin, Julie Park, February 2005. *Illegal-immigrant students pin hopes on reform* –San Bernardino Sun 5/21/07. UC Office of the President⁴. State Dept of Finance, current population survey

References

- <http://www.decolonizing.com/ab540.htm>
 - <http://powerpac.org/>
 - <http://www.maldef.org/ab540/ab540.cfm>
 - <http://krcla.org/en/AB540>
 - USC Center for Higher Education Policy: *The College And Financial Aid Guide for AB 540 undocumented Immigrant Students: The AB 540 College Access Network*
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✓ Purpose of the AB 540 Sticker:

- ✓ To help current and future students.
 - Feel safe to talk to the staff and faculty members .
 - About their issues and concerns as an AB540 student.
- ✓ This will create an environment for any AB540 student to feel comfortable discussing AB540 issues.

An advocacy on behalf of Alliance of Students for an Equal Education of Cal State Fullerton

A sticker with a white background and a green ribbon graphic. The text "AB 540" is at the top, "SAFE" is in the middle, and "ZONE" is at the bottom, all in a bold, black, serif font. The ribbon is positioned behind the text, forming a loop around the "5" and "4".

**AB 540
SAFE
ZONE**

For more information and presentations, please contact:

- Carlos Reyes
abcarlos540@csu.fullerton.edu
- Janet Perez-Molina
jmperez@fullerton.edu
- Alliance of Students for an Equal Education
aseeofcsuf@yahoo.com