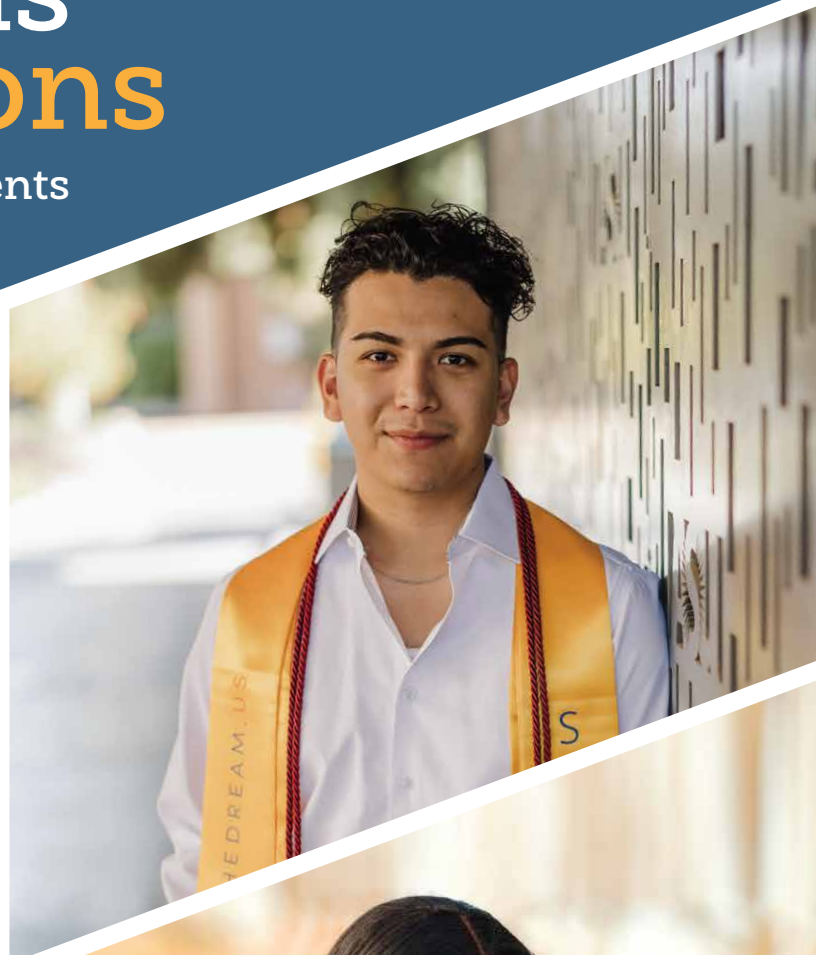


10 Year Impact Report



From Dreams to Destinations

A Decade of Immigrant Achievements
and the Future Ahead



Despite the Odds, They Rise:
11,000+ Scholars, 4,000+ Graduates

February 2025

OUR Mission 10 YEARS

TheDream.US is the nation's largest college and career success program for undocumented immigrant students, having provided more than 11,000 college scholarships to Dreamers attending close to 80 Partner Colleges in 20 states and Washington, DC. We believe everyone, regardless of where they were born, should have equitable access to a college education, a meaningful career, and opportunities to contribute to the communities they call home.

“

Thanks to TheDream.US, I am now a Registered Nurse, specializing in advanced gastrointestinal procedures and providing quality patient care. I was born in Venezuela, and immigrated to the United States at the age of 15, settling in Miami, Florida – where I call home to this day. My mother's generosity and compassion for others was my inspiration to pursue nursing. I look forward to pursuing a master's degree to further my career and continue supporting my loved ones.

Andrea

Miami Dade College Graduate
(Spring 2022, Bachelor's in Nursing)
Registered Nurse at University of Miami Health System



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LETTER

from the Founders

Ten years ago, the three of us agreed to start a scholarship fund for undocumented students—the students called Dreamers. As Americans, we felt their treatment was cruel, unworthy of our country. No matter how young they were when they arrived, no matter if they were the valedictorian or the class president, the Dreamers could not get the federal grants and loans that made college possible for their classmates. We decided on a bare-bones program—we would pay tuition and fees to low-cost, good-quality colleges where we could do so. We were doing what the Dreamers told us they needed. Our staff was tiny—just our then President, Candy Marshall, and Program Director, Gaby Pacheco.

In our wildest dreams, we could not have imagined the outcome: TheDream.US has enrolled 11,000 students in close to 80 Partner Colleges. 76% of those who chose four-year colleges have graduated. Most Dreamers chose careers in health care, business and education—just where America needs them. 93% of those with work permits have full time jobs (or, in a few cases, are in graduate school) six months after graduation. By the way: those students came to the U.S. at an average age of 4. But they have no path to a green card—ever—no matter how much they accomplish. All three of us have spent much of our lives in education-related programs. This is the most motivated group of students we have ever met.

What makes us sad is that the political situation of the Dreamers is much worse than it was ten years ago. Then, DACA had given thousands of young undocumented people who earned it a work permit and new opportunities; now, a court decision has ended new DACA enrollments and the status of DACA recipients is uncertain. When we launched this initiative, we believed—then and now—that investing in Dreamers is not just good for them, but for our nation as a whole. Dreamers are integral to America's future, yet they still face a country that has not fully embraced them. These young people have proven themselves; many have earned the trust of the U.S. government through their hard work, while others simply want the chance to do so. We acknowledge the complexities of our immigration system and like most voters we too believe we need a secure border. But we also recognize the obvious: the undocumented immigrants who have lived in this country for years—including Dreamers—deserve the opportunity to stay and build a future.

Now, as we look ahead, it is our hope to continue expanding this vision. With Gaby Pacheco taking the reins as President and CEO, we are more determined than ever to offer a college education to many more Dreamers. And beyond that, we are committed to seeing Dreamers receive the path to citizenship they have earned. Our work is far from over. The next chapter of TheDream.US is focused on preparing for the future—on supporting policy change, ensuring that our Scholars and Alumni have the support they need to succeed, and, most importantly, securing a future where Dreamers can live, work, and thrive in the country they call home.

Don Graham.

Don Graham

Henry A. Muñoz

Henry Muñoz

Carlos Gutierrez

Carlos Gutierrez

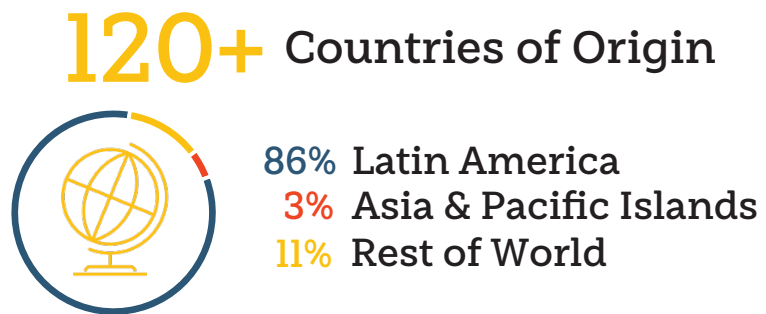


WHO We Serve

Every year, **98,000** undocumented students graduate from high school. Despite their aspirations, very few can afford college.

We support highly motivated Dreamers who arrived as toddlers from around the world, and have grown up thriving in our communities and K-12 systems. When they graduate from high school, they face the steepest barriers to enrolling in college. They have no access to federal financial aid and loans, including Pell Grants and federal work study. They are only eligible for in-state tuition in 25 states and state financial aid in 19 states and Washington, D.C. Sadly, they are blocked from in-state tuition rates in half of the states and 3 states ban them from enrolling in public institutions of higher education.

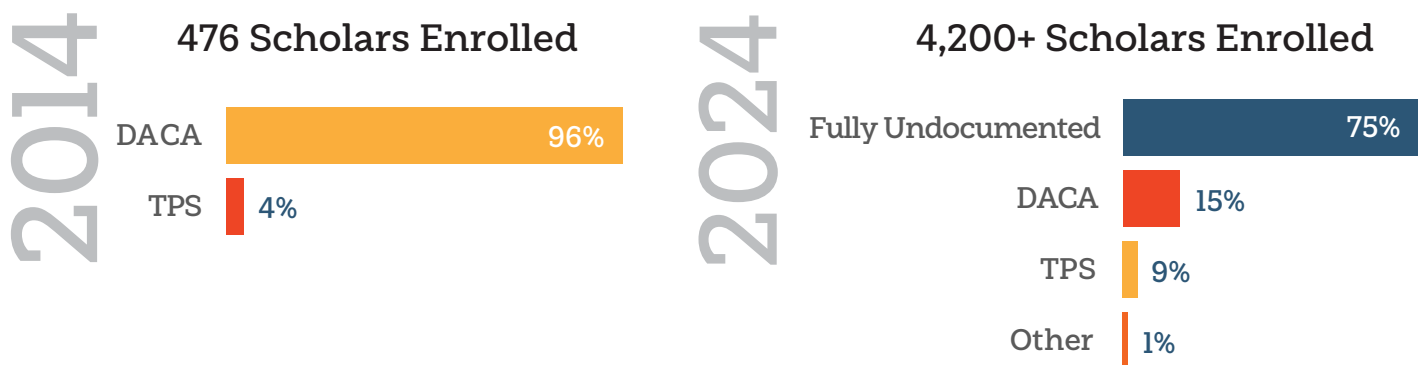
 **4**
Median Age of
Arrival to the
United States



A new generation of Dreamers seeks higher education.

Almost all Dreamers enrolling in college now are fully undocumented. Unlike their peers from previous cohorts, they are unable to access and are ineligible for programs like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) that provide renewable status, crucial opportunities such as work permits, and deportation protections.

Undocumented Status of TheDream.US Scholars Over 10 Years



WHAT We Do

TheDream.US offers 2 scholarships depending on a student's state of residence.

The National Scholarship

For undocumented students eligible to receive in-state tuition in their home state and have significant, unmet financial need. The award is up to \$16,500 for an associate's degree, up to \$33,000 for a bachelor's degree, and up to an additional \$6,000 in stipends.

Scholars enroll in 1 of 78 Partner Colleges in 19 states, Washington D.C. or online.

The Opportunity Scholarship

For undocumented students residing in "locked-out" states, where they are ineligible for in-state tuition. Scholars must move out-of-state to enroll in 1 of 5 Partner Colleges in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Tennessee, or Washington D.C.

The award is a full-ride scholarship, up to \$100,000 for tuition, fees, on campus housing and meals for up to 4 years to earn a bachelor's degree.



Scholar Profile

67% Female Scholars

82% First in Family to Attend College

\$25K Median Household Income

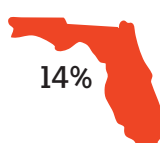
Top States of Residence



New York



Texas



Florida



Illinois



Arizona

Our 4,200+ Scholars Enrolled in College are Pursuing Degrees in High-Demand Fields



28% Science, Math & Technology

16% Health and Medicine

2% Interdisciplinary Studies

23% Business

5% Public and Social Services

1% Undecided

19% Social Sciences

5% Arts and Humanities

1% Trades and Personal Services

Our previous cohorts with DACA or TPS were concentrated in applied fields such as health and medicine and education. Our recent cohorts of fully undocumented Scholars do not have access to work authorization and professional licensure. Despite the odds, they continue to find ways to thrive by seeking degrees leading to careers as entrepreneurs and independent contractors.

When provided an opportunity TheDream.US Scholars excel, outperforming all college students in the U.S.

Academic Outcomes¹

1st Year Persistence

Overall Persistence

Graduation Rates

National Student Clearinghouse Benchmarks

88%

79%

72%



92%

75%

76%



97%

78%

85%

¹Academic Outcomes data is as of Spring 2024; Graduation Rates reflect 6-year graduation rates; National Student Clearinghouse benchmarking data reflects first-time, full-time degree seeking students at public 4-year institutions starting in Fall 2016; TheDream.US data subject to change.

10 Years in, there are now
4,000+ Alumni
Thriving Across the Country

Our Alumni are driven to pursue careers that address barriers immigrants and every day Americans face in accessing essential resources.

Meet our Graduates

Throughout this report, you will meet and hear from our Alumni, their families, and their colleagues. Their stories exemplify the ripple effects of providing a college education to Dreamers.



Meet Aiat

7th Grade English Teacher
at NYC Department of Education

Country of Origin: **Brazil**
Age of Arrival to the U.S.: **2**

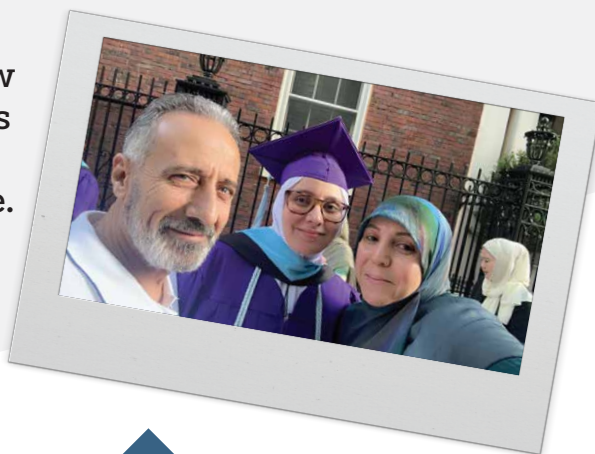
Received DACA in 2014 at 16 years
old, and has since renewed 5 times.



I will forever hold TheDream.US dear for opening doors for me to become an English teacher in the New York City Public Schools system. I now serve students in the same city that raised me and guide them in being advocates for themselves and agents of change.

Hunter College Graduate

(Spring 2020, English Secondary Education)
(Spring 2024, Master's in Literacy Education)



"We emigrated to this country to give our children a better life. Watching Aiat grow has been an honor for all of us. Her contributions to this country will continue to make us very proud." - **Soraia, Aiat's Mom**



"I admire Aiat's constant need to improve her instruction for her students from various backgrounds and levels. With an educator like Aiat, students will get all the help they need, mixed with compassion and a kind heart." - **Damantia, Aiat's Colleague**

"I connected to you as a student the most. I wish there were more words to describe how grateful I am to have a teacher who had the same experiences as me." - **Sarah, Aiat's Student**

OUR Model of Success

We go beyond scholarships to support undocumented students' college and career success. Our approach is unique and designed to deliver scalable, sustainable impact.

TheDream.US Partner College Model

- Each of our close to 80 Partner Colleges must enroll at least 10 Scholars per academic year, ensuring that students are part of a peer and campus community
- Every campus has a designated Scholar Advisor who builds meaningful relationships with our Scholars – individually and as a cohort
- We host a monthly "Partner College Power Hour" where on average 100+ Partner College staff join TheDream.US Team and guest speakers to share promising practices in supporting undocumented student success



I am honored to provide holistic Scholar Advising to our TheDream.US Scholars here at Nevada State University. The tools and information provided also assists us in helping students reach their academic, wellness, and professional development goals.

Mariana Sarmiento Hernández, MSW
TheDream.US Scholar Advisor
Manager for Undocumented Student Program
Nevada State University



My Scholar Advisor, Mariana, guided me through the most difficult times of college by offering support in every area, including mental and physical health. She is extremely dedicated to making sure all students have access to resources and opportunities.

Reyna
Nevada State University Graduate
(Summer 2024, Business Administration)



Our Career Readiness program

Career Connections: Launched in 2021, our Career Connections program prepares our Scholars with and without work authorization to transition into successful careers through:

- Paid and inclusive internships and fellowships
- A fund for Partner Colleges to host career development events
- Career exploration webinars and resources to educate Scholars on viable career pathways

Entrepreneurship: The majority of our TheDream.US Scholars today are fully undocumented and without work authorization. As a result, we have increasingly focused on pathways to career success through entrepreneurship by:

- Creating a holistic entrepreneurship curriculum for undocumented students
- Developing an Entrepreneurship Academy with practical business training, coaching support, and financial resources to launch self-employed careers
- Launching digital and video campaigns to highlight Alumni entrepreneurship

700+

Scholars participated
in internships and
fellowships

15 

Partner Colleges
hosted Career Events
on-campus, reaching
500+ Scholars



Thousands of Scholars
and Alumni participated
in virtual career
panels and sessions



“

TheDream.US transformed my journey as a fully undocumented Scholar by opening doors I once thought were closed. Their support allowed me to access fellowships and internships that helped me grow professionally and personally. I've been able to travel and present at events that have expanded my horizons and connected me with inspiring individuals. Being an active member and advocate has given me the chance to share my story and uplift others in our community, shaping who I am today.

Rosa
Scholar at Baruch College

”

Graduate School Supports

77% of TheDream.US Alumni want to pursue graduate school

Graduate school is essential for our Alumni, as they grow their careers. More than 70% of Alumni say graduate school is important for increased job opportunities and salaries. However, Dreamers face even steeper barriers than accessing college when it comes to graduate school, due to high costs of attendance, dearth of graduate scholarships, and continued ineligibility for any federal loans and restrictions on taking out private loans.

For Alumni whose career journey requires a graduate degree, TheDream.US:

- Provides test preparation resources and financial assistance for standardized exams
- Shares information and resources on graduate school pathways
- Provided guidance on the creation of a graduate loan program for Dreamers
- Created a Graduate Loan Scholarship for Alumni to help repay graduate school loans



“

I was admitted to graduate school but had to defer my enrollment because there was no way for me to pay. I made the difficult decision to take out one of the few loans I was eligible for, because I trusted the resources shared by TheDream.US. I then applied for TheDream.US Loan Scholarship, to help pay down the loan. I am proud to have finished my Master's degree in one year and further amplify my experience and leadership in the higher education and non-profit sectors.

Azeez

Lehman College Graduate (Spring 2021, Social Work)
Columbia University Graduate (Spring 2024, Masters in Social Work)
Community Liaison at KAVI | Kings Against Violence Initiative

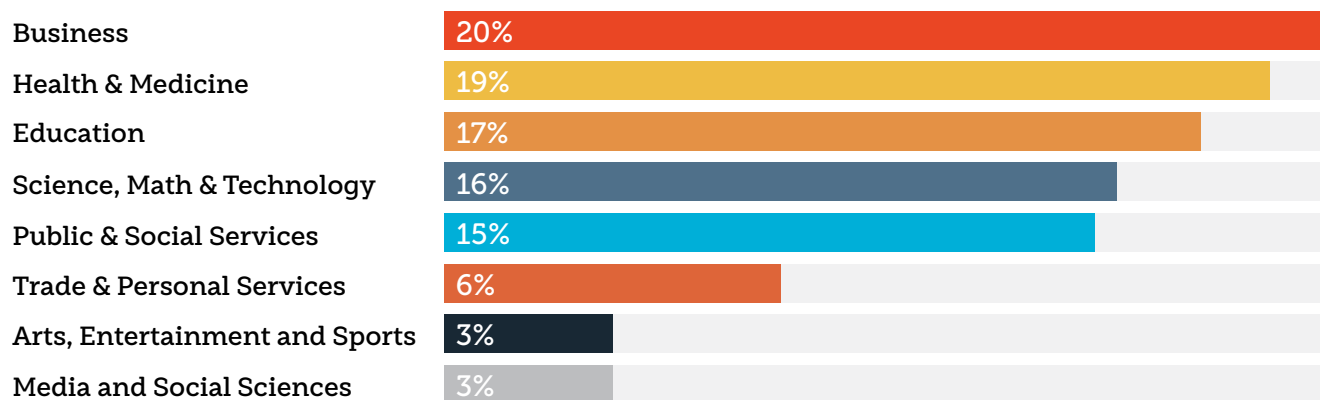
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OUR Impact

Our **4,000+** Alumni nationwide are proof of our model of success

TheDream.US launches Dreamers into their careers. **93%** of our Alumni with work authorization are working and are a vital part of the American workforce.

Over half of working Alumni are in the fields of Business, Health and Medicine, and Education.



Our Alumni are among the almost 600,000 DACA recipients collectively earning nearly \$27.9 billion, paying \$9.4 billion in taxes annually and contributing nearly \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare each year.

TheDream.US Alumni work at companies including



Other companies include: Accenture, Amazon, American Express, Asurion, AT&T, Baptist Health, Boys & Girls Club of America, Charles Schwab, Cigna Healthcare, Citi, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Estée Lauder, Goldman Sachs, KPMG LLP, Labcorp, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NYU Langone, PwC, ScribeAmerica, Summit Health, Target, Wells Fargo, YMCA, and many more.

SOCIAL Mobility

With a degree and growing career, our Alumni are giving back to their families and communities. **63%** are outearning their parents combined, **14%** are homeowners, and **26%** are primary providers for their family.



Meet Misael

Global Resource Management Lead
at Johnson & Johnson

Country of Origin: **Mexico**
Age of Arrival to the U.S.: **5**

Received DACA in 2012 at 19 years
old, and has since renewed 6 times.

I told my mom if she got her license, I'd give her my car. A few months later I proudly handed my mom keys to the car, which has given her more freedom and flexibility. Getting my degree set off a domino effect of possibilities that I could only dream of.

Rutgers University - New Brunswick Graduate
(Spring 2022, Human Resources)

"Misael's strength and determination is something to admire. He is an amazing partner and father to our son. I love how committed he is to driving long-term stability and success for himself and for our family."

- Daniel, Misael's Partner



"Misael is my role model. I am so thankful for the guidance he provides me as I go through my college and first job experiences. If I ever need advice, he is the first one I call."

- Evelin, Misael's Niece

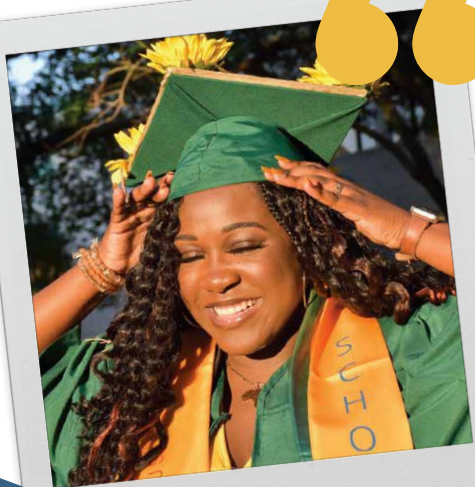


Fully Undocumented Alumni

are just as ready to put their degrees to work

They need the opportunity to demonstrate their potential as independent contractors, small business owners, and entrepreneurs. With the right supports, they will join the over 3 million immigrant entrepreneurs in this country.

A U.S. college education has always been a critical piece in the broader discussion of immigration. An update to federal policy in June 2024 ensures that U.S. college graduates are able to fill critical jobs in their field of study through non-immigrant employment-based visas. Some of our Alumni benefitted from this.



Meet Lizzie

Staff Accountant at United We Dream

Country of Origin: **Gabon**

Age of Arrival to the U.S.: 9

As a former, fully undocumented professional, college seemed so far out of reach. However, I persevered and with my degree, I took charge of my career. I grew my own business as an independent contractor and secured projects that furthered my knowledge and experience. I know that if I want to go far, I need to apply everything I learned in school.

University of South Florida Graduate

(Spring 2022, Accounting)

Staff Accountant at United We Dream

"I mentored Lizzie and watched her help raise her siblings alongside her mother, all while attending college and working full-time. Lizzie is a self-starter, operates with integrity, and never leaves a job unfinished."

- Dana, Lizzie's Former Contractor

"Watching Lizzie graduate from college debt-free, secure a high-paying contract, and move out-of-state into her first apartment reminds us that, despite the odds, we have the power to shape our destiny. Lizzie brings us immense joy and ignites a fire within us to embrace the impossible."

- Sidonie and Lindsay, Lizzie's mother and sister



TIMELINE A Look Back

Highlights from the last decade



2015

TheDream.US expands to 70 Partner Colleges and enrolls 900+ Scholars.

2017

TheDream.US welcomes its largest cohort to-date of over 1,000 New Scholars, reaching 3,000+ total Scholars.

2019

TheDream.US reaches 5,000+ total Scholars and celebrates its largest graduating class to-date of 339 graduates.

2021

First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden delivers the keynote speech at a TheDream.US Virtual Commencement, telling our graduates, "You didn't just receive an education, you worked for it, you fought for it. So, I know that you'll value it and put it to tremendous use in your own lives and in the life of our nation."

2023

TheDream.US awards a record 1,800 scholarships and reaches 10,000+ total Scholars.

2014

TheDream.US launches with a \$25 million fund and welcomes its first cohort of 476 National Scholars.

2016

The Opportunity Scholarship launches for students in "locked-out" states, with the first cohort of 76 Opportunity Scholars at Delaware State University and Eastern Connecticut State University. 93% went on to graduate in four years.

2018

Record application round with over 10,000 started applications and \$200 million raised for scholarships.

2020

TheDream.US Scholars go virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2022

With 3,000+ graduates, TheDream.US releases Alumni Survey Report "In Their Own Words: I am Manifesting the DACamented Dream" highlighting the power of work authorization and a college degree on the social mobility of undocumented college graduates.

The Road to
Success
Continues...

2024

Highlights from Our Tenth Year



February

TheDream.US celebrates its tenth anniversary at a gala held at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.



May

TheDream.US President & CEO, Gaby Pacheco, testifies before Senate Judiciary Committee on the urgent need to protect Dreamers. 1,600+ Scholars and Alumni sign onto a letter urging Congress to act.



June

700 TheDream.US Scholars graduate in 2024, bringing the total number of Alumni to 4,000+.

July

TheDream.US launches the Dreamers' Options Network, an initiative providing comprehensive support to explore all professional and immigration pathways available to Scholars and Alumni. The initiative pilots a program providing Alumni 1:1 legal screenings with an immigration attorney. 450+ were screened by December, with more than half discovering potential pathways to adjust their status, ranging from family petitions to employment-based visas, provided they have access to critical resources like Advance Parole.

August

TheDream.US reaches 11,000+ Scholars served to-date and 4,200+ Scholars enrolled.



December

A cohort of 30 TheDream.US Alumni received Advance Parole to travel to Mexico City to participate in an Education Research Symposium in partnership with the Mexican government. TheDream.US Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Hyein Lee, presents her research on Dreamers and Alumni share their own experiences. Upon return to the U.S., the group of Alumni have a chance to work toward resolving their immigration status.

OUR Work Ahead

Meeting the evolving needs of TheDream.US Scholars and Alumni

Our commitment to supporting Dreamers has never been more crucial. Over the next five years, TheDream.US will:

- **Remain steadfast** in our support of Dreamers' access to higher education and college success, in partnership with our close to 80 Partner Colleges
- **Provide Dreamers access** to critical immigration and legal resources available to them through the Dreamers' Options Network
- **Prepare Scholars** to be skilled workers or entrepreneurs to contribute to local economies and meet workforce needs
- **Broaden awareness** of effective practices and our model of supporting undocumented student success
- **Share our rich data** and Scholar and Alumni stories to make the case for permanent protections, employment authorization, and legal pathways for Dreamers

“

Our Dreamers are among the best students in every field of study at the University, and it's clear that they are on a mission for their families, their communities, and for each other. We are all proud that they chose us and are committed to helping each of them realize their highest aspirations. At Delaware State University, our vision is to be the nation's most substantively diverse, contemporary, and unapologetic HBCU. Our Dreamers embody that pursuit.

Tony Allen, Ph. D.
President
Delaware State University



”

OUR One-of-a-kind Data

Our Scholar and Alumni stories demonstrate why America's future will be strengthened through supportive policies for Dreamers

TheDream.US remains an essential nonpartisan and expert voice in federal and state policy discussions, underscoring the importance of pathways to permanent status and expanding access to in-state tuition, state aid, and professional licensure.

We strive to help this nation see the value and humanity we see in Dreamers:

- TheDream.US and Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration announced the submission of an [amicus brief](#) filed with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Texas v. United States* in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program
- In 2023, we proudly supported TheDream.US Alumna Ewa's advocacy efforts to pass a bill in Maryland that now allows all immigrants who meet the criteria to apply for health care licensure or certification
- In December 2024, Gaby Pacheco appeared on ["Meet the Press NOW"](#) to lift Donald Trump's recent comments that he wanted to forge a bipartisan fix for Dreamers



Being a recipient of TheDream.US scholarship has been one of the biggest blessings in my life. Today I am working in my dream role as a Higher Education Policy Analyst. Receiving the scholarship removed a major hurdle in accessing and completing my undergraduate education. I wholeheartedly believe that TheDream.US transforms the lives of undocumented students and impacts the society we live in because each recipient grows to become change agents for their communities.

Ewa

Trinity Washington University Graduate
(Fall 2020, Political Science)

JOIN US

We Need Your Support

Supporting Dreamers' quest for a college education is one of the most important and cost-effective investments we can make in the future of our country.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the mass exodus of workers through the "Great Resignation," and demographic changes with baby boomers retiring across occupational levels are driving the urgent need to fill millions of job vacancies across industries, and especially in essential industries such as [healthcare and education](#).

The work of TheDream.US has never been more critical and we need your support. You can support highly-motivated Dreamers fulfill their potential and contribute to the stability and advancement of our country.

Your support can transform the lives of Dreamers. Join us and make a donation to TheDream.US today at www.TheDream.US/donate.

100% of our donors' contributions support Dreamers like Jonathan.

“ Having the privilege of acquiring a college degree brought financial stability into my life, opened many doors in my STEM field, and most importantly allowed me to provide for my family. Every day I wake up happy to go to a job I am passionate about, knowing that I contribute to research that has the potential to help millions of people one day. Simply knowing that I am part of something bigger than myself lets me know that it was all worth it.

Jonathan

University of Houston Graduate
(Fall 2022, Biology)
Research Associate and Biochemist at UTMB Health



MEET Our Team

**María Gabriela
"Gaby"
Pacheco**
President
and CEO

**Dr. Hyein
Lee**
Chief
Operating
Officer

**Maria
Vanegas**
Chief
Financial
Officer

**Susan
Collins**
Chief of Staff
and Government
Affairs

**Sylvia
Wong**
Chief Development
Officer

**Elena
Salorio**
Director of
Scholarship
Programs

**Fermin
Vasquez**
Director of Strategic
Communications
and Engagement

**Vernisa
Donaldson**
Senior
Research
Analyst

**Camila
Salkov**
Risk Data &
Reporting
Manager

**Yajaira
Gonzalez**
Scholarship
Program
Manager

**Nicole
Wesley**
Senior Program
Manager,
Career Supports

**Chris
Aviles**
Senior Program
Manager,
Partner College &
Scholar Supports

**Nicole
Mejia**
Program
Associate

Advisory Board

**Andrew S.
Rosen**
Chairman and CEO,
Kaplan Inc.

**Carlos
Gutierrez**
Former U.S. Secretary
of Commerce

**Deborah A.
Santiago**
Co-Founder and CEO of
Excelencia in Education

**Don
Graham**
Chairman Emeritus,
Graham Holdings
Company

**Dr. Eduardo J.
Padrón**
President Emeritus of
Miami Dade College

**Georgia
Levenson
Keohane**
CEO of the
Soros Economic
Development Fund

**Henry R.
Muñoz III**
Activist & Finance
Chair Emeritus of the
Democratic National
Committee

**Jill
Nishi**
Chief Executive Officer,
Philanthropy Northwest

**Jose Antonio
Vargas**
Journalist, Filmmaker,
Activist, and Founder of
Define American

**Katharine
Gin**
Founding Director,
The Legalization Project

**Lupe
De La Cruz**
Vice President of
Government Affairs &
Corporate Citizenship
for PepsiCo

**Miriam
Feldblum**
Executive Director,
Presidents' Alliance on
Higher Education and
Immigration

**Patricia
Stonesifer**
Philanthropy and
Corporate Advisor

**Patricia
McGuire**
President of Trinity
Washington
University

**Kai
Martin**
Development Manager,
Greater Washington
Partnership and
TheDream.US Alumna

**Diana
Won**
Program Director,
Pershing Square
Foundation

**Mei-Yin
Ireland**
Deputy Director,
Bill and Melinda Gates
Foundation

Meet Gaby Pacheco

From Dreamer to President & CEO of TheDream.US

In alphabetical order, they called students down to talk to their college advisors. My last name started with “P,” so I spent months drowning in anxiety. Finally, my name was said over the PA system—a voice I likened to God summoning me to discuss my future. Despite years of hard work and the dream of college that took root in the 5th grade, the words my college counselor spoke hit like a thunderclap: “Without an immigration status, you cannot go to college.”

Those words weren’t just far from the truth—they were flat out wrong. That moment ignited a fire in me to fight not just for me but for everyone who dreams of achieving equitable and fair access to a college education.

I was admitted to Miami Dade College that fall after knocking on every door, enrolling as an international student at four times the tuition rate of my peers. My family pooled their money to pay for my first semester, unsure of how we’d afford the next. Determined to succeed, I found believers who supported my journey, recognizing that access to education benefits both individuals and society. With their help, I graduated with a bachelor’s in K-12 Exceptional Education.

I had job offers galore; even school superintendents tried to find ways to hire me but ultimately came up empty-handed. Because of my undocumented status, once again, doors were closed, but I was determined to find another path forward. I realized that being a teacher doesn’t always mean working in a traditional school setting. So, I set up a mini classroom and began my journey as an entrepreneur, creating a tutoring business to help children with learning gaps after school and on weekends. By using my skills and passion, I built a career outside the classroom. Barriers will always exist, but it’s up to us—and our community—to ensure they don’t clip the wings of our youth.

As a leader who believes in the power of perseverance and community, I have kept going, from spearheading the Trail of Dreams, a 1,500 miles walk from Miami to DC to leading the campaign that paved the way for DACA to helping pass in-state tuition in Florida and other life-changing legislation, I have dedicated my life to building pathways for justice and opportunity for all.



LETTER

from the President & CEO

Today, as the President and CEO of TheDream.US, I lead the largest college and career success program for Dreamers in the nation, an organization dedicated to providing opportunities. My journey from an undocumented student to a U.S. citizen to a national advocate is a testament to the power of education, belief, and support.

Like the more than 11,000 TheDream.US Scholars we have supported, I grew up in this nation, attended its schools, and received the gift of education thanks to believers in my potential. Like me, I know our Scholars and our 4,000 Alumni (and counting) have a lot to offer—if given continued opportunities to help our nation thrive.

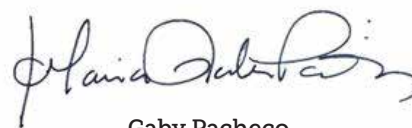
Unfortunately, despite their achievements, talents, and deeply rooted lives in the U.S., TheDream.US Scholars and Alumni face a future in flux. Their opportunities are imperiled, and many live in a constant state of anxiety and uncertainty. Yet, in this pivotal moment, there are certainties that we hold firm:

- TheDream.US will remain steadfast in supporting our Scholars, future Scholars, and Alumni
- We will adapt to meet the evolving needs of our Scholars and Alumni, ensuring they maximize their chances for college and career success
- We will proudly share our data, stories, and voices to show that Dreamers' success is America's success. Policies and opportunities that empower Dreamers strengthen our campuses, communities, and nation's competitiveness, economic vitality, and workforce potential

Our commitment to supporting Dreamers has never been more crucial. A college education is not just a piece of paper—it's a passport to new worlds, new experiences, and opportunities to grow beyond the limits of what society tells us is possible.

I couldn't have achieved what I have if I had believed my college counselor's words. I achieved what I did because so many others believed in me and supported me. Likewise, TheDream.US and our small but mighty team of 13 cannot achieve this mission alone.

We need you. Together, we can empower more dreams, uplift more lives, and strengthen this nation, ensuring no young person's potential is stifled. Will you join us?



Gaby Pacheco

Our mission and values
are rooted in what we know to be true:
Immigrants are not just good for this
nation, they are human beings deserving
of happy, fulfilling lives.

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It has been 7 years since I was honored to receive TheDream.US National Scholarship. This invaluable support has been instrumental in advancing my career in the biomedical sciences. Thanks to this scholarship, I was able to complete both my bachelor's and master's degrees debt-free. I am now working in a research laboratory focused on investigating environmental stressors that contribute to multiple sclerosis, a currently incurable neurological disease. Being able to uncover the complexities of this disease to help patients is what motivates me. I will be pursuing my Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2025. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the generous support of this scholarship, for which I am deeply grateful.

Cinthia

Arizona State University Graduate
(Spring 2020, Biology & Spring 2022, Master's in Biology)
Research Technician at Barrow Neurological Institute



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Get in touch

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