

# **Serving Undocumented Students in the College-Going Process**

December 14, 2021

# Welcome!



**Kathy McDonald, MBA**

Assistant Director for Network Partnerships

Florida College Access Network

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@kathy\_mcdonald

# Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the box
- Share on social media
  - Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
  - #FCAN
  - #TalentStrongFL

*This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording*



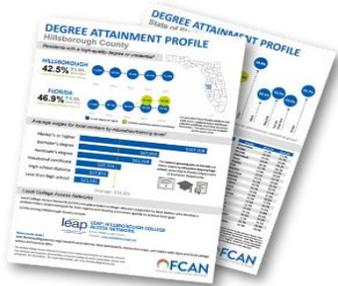
## **Our mission:**

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

## **Our vision:**

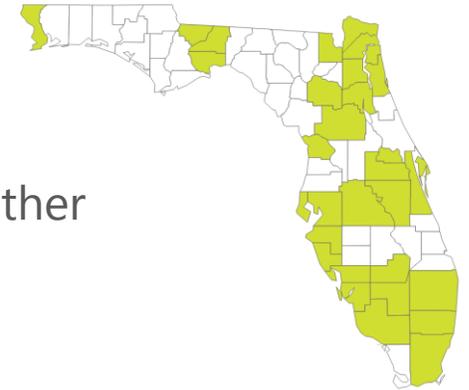
A Florida working together, where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

# FCAN's Work



**Research and Data** FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

**Local college access networks (LCANs)** LCANs support 82% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



**COLLEGE  
READY  
FLORIDA**

**Statewide Initiatives** FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that provides schools and community organizations resources to help students continue their education after high school.

## 7 Conditions for Success

**Opportunity for everyone:** To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

**Clear information and guidance:** Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

**Affordable:** Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

**Multiple pathways to success:** Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

**Lifelong learning:** No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

**Effective use of data:** Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

**Community collaboration:** When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.

# Introduction

# Guest presenter



**Luz Corcuera**  
Executive Director

UnidosNow



# UNIDOS **NOW**

Educate • Elevate • Integrate

FCAN Presentation  
December 2021

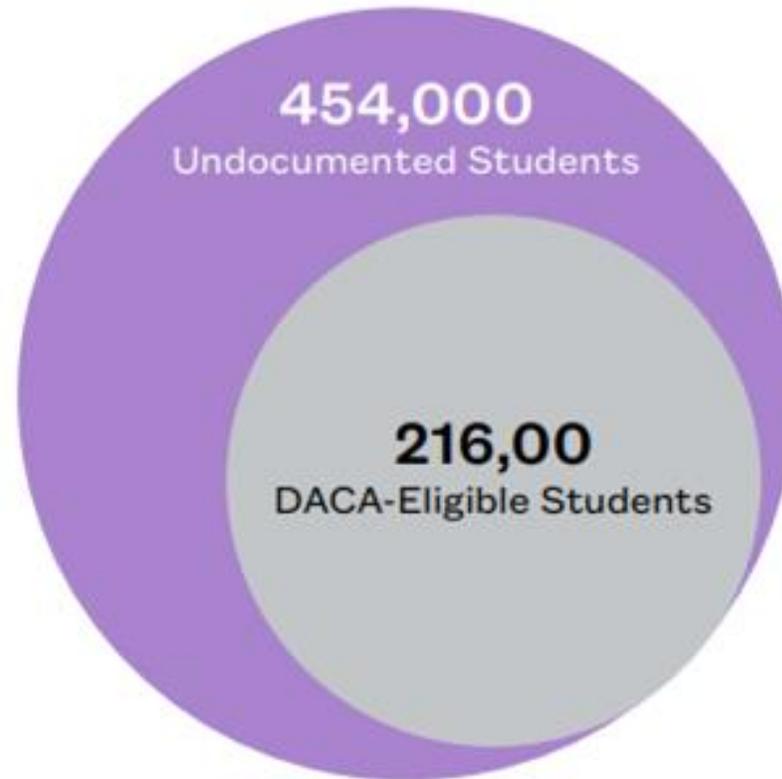
Luz Corcuera, MA  
Executive Director



# Mission Statement

To elevate the quality of life  
of the growing Hispanic/Latino community  
through education, integration, and civic engagement.

## Undocumented and DACA-Eligible Students in Postsecondary Education<sup>6</sup>



*Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2018  
American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.*

# Who is an undocumented student?

- (1) entered the U.S without inspection or with fraudulent documents
- OR
- (2) entered legally as a nonimmigrant but overstayed.





Were brought to the U.S. before the age of 16.

Lack lawful immigration status.

Bill aimed to provide permanent relief to DREAMers.

It hasn't become a law yet.

Executive order signed.

Provides DREAMers relief from deportation.

Temporary social security number and work permit.

No path to citizenship.

Granted to eligible nationals of certain countries or parts of countries.

Cannot be detained by DHS based on their immigration status.

No path to citizenship.



## Many college-bound undocumented/DACA/TPS students...

- Have lived in the US most of their lives
- Have been brought to the U.S. by their parents at a young age
- Learned English and identify themselves as Americans
- Attended elementary, middle, and high school in the U.S.

# Steps Students Can Take When Applying

- Research different schools (visit websites such as College Greenlight)
  - Prioritize undocumented/DACA/ TPS friendly schools
  - Selective private schools may meet 100% or a high percentage of a student's financial needs.
- Apply to fly-in programs.
- Keep up with immigration news that may change the available options.
- Don't underestimate demonstrated interest.



# Steps Students Can Take When Applying

- Some colleges may consider undocumented students as international students.
  - Higher cost of tuition
  - TOEFL

If the student has attended a high school in Florida for 3 consecutive years immediately before graduating from a high school in FL

and the student applies for enrollment at a FL institution of higher education within 24 months after high school graduation

THEN

The student can request an out-of-state tuition fee waiver.



# Financial Aid



- Contact the school's financial aid office to see what they need
  - Students may be asked to complete the CSS profile.
- Students are not eligible for federal or state financial aid
  - Bright Futures, FAFSA, most scholarships from public universities.
- If the student has a social security number, they CAN fill out the FAFSA to receive a report, but they will not be eligible for federal financial aid.
- Students may look into local foundations, undocumented/DACA/TPS specific scholarships, sponsors, private scholarships, LEDA Scholars, and QuestBridge.

# CASE STUDY

	Value	Comments
ACT Test Score (1-4)	21	No test prep, no study time due to work schedule
Extracurricular Activity (1-4)	NA	Limited school or community engagement; works 40 hrs/week
Grades/Unweighted GPA (1-4)	3.9	9 AP classes, including 4 in senior year
Uniqueness – Essay (1-4)	NA	Came to country 7 yrs ago, works to support family
Recommendations (1-4)	NA	Good grades but limited school involvement or teacher interaction
<b>Average</b>		
Other (0.1-0.4)	NA	Seeking asylum, no savings, no government aid

Less Selective			Somewhat Selective			Very Selective		Most Selective	
1.0-1.3	1.4-1.6	1.7-1.9	2.0-2.3	2.4-2.6	2.7-2.9	3.0-3.3	3.4-3.6	3.7-3.9	4.0+
		Likely	Target	Reach					

# CASE STUDY

	Current Value	Current Score	Target Value	Target Score	Actions
Scores (1-4)	21	1	25	2	Take ACT test prep with UnidosNow
Extracurricular Activity (1-4)	NA	2		3	Get involved in the UnidosNow club
Grades/Unweighted GPA (1-4)	3.9	3	3.9	3	No senioritis – keep grades up
Uniqueness – Essay (1-4)	NA	2		3	Bring more color and imagery to the typical immigrant story
Recommendations (1-4)	NA	2		2	Make request early
<b>Average</b>		<b>2.0</b>		<b>2.6</b>	
Other (0.1-0.4)	NA	0.2		0.3	Improve research – seek a good fit school
<b>Score</b>		<b>2.2</b>		<b>2.9</b>	

Less Selective			Somewhat Selective			Very Selective		Most Selective	
1.0-1.3	1.4-1.6	1.7-1.9	2.0-2.3	2.4-2.6	2.7-2.9	3.0-3.3	3.4-3.6	3.7-3.9	4.0+
				Likely	Target	Reach			

# SEGURO SCORE CASE STUDY

	Current Value	Current Score	Target Value	Target Score	Actual Value	Actual Level	Actions
<u>Scores</u> (1-4)	21	1	25	2	24	2	Targeted test optional schools
<u>Extracurricular Activity</u> (1-4)	NA	2		3		3	President of UnidosNow Club; branding of “work”
<u>Grades/Unweighted GPA</u> (1-4)	3.9	3	3.9	3		3	No senioritis; maintained rigor
<u>Uniqueness – Essay</u> (1-4)	NA	2		3		4	Genuine, emotional
<u>Recommendations</u> (1-4)	NA	2		2		3	Early communication; message alignment (branding)
<b>Average</b>		<b>2.0</b>		<b>2.6</b>		<b>3.0</b>	
<u>Other</u> (0.1-0.4)	NA	0.2		0.3		0.4	Good fit; test optional; ethnic and geographic diversity; need-blind; full need; DACA friendly; <b>demonstrated interest</b>
<b>Score</b>		<b>2.2</b>		<b>2.9</b>		<b>3.4</b>	

Less Selective			Somewhat Selective			Very Selective		Most Selective	
1.0-1.3	1.4-1.6	1.7-1.9	2.0-2.3	2.4-2.6	2.7-2.9	3.0-3.3	3.4-3.6	3.7-3.9	4.0+
						Likely	Target	Reach	

Essay and “other” were weighted higher than other elements; scores were not considered

# ACCEPTED!



Middlebury

- 15% of applicants admitted
- ACT Mid-Range = 31-34
- Cost of Attendance: \$75,000/year

## \$300,000 in financial aid



**Learn more about Us**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**<https://unidosnow.org/>**

# Social Media



**YOUTUBE**

[youtube.com/unidosnowchannel](https://youtube.com/unidosnowchannel)



**INSTAGRAM**

[@unidosnow](https://www.instagram.com/unidosnow)



**TWITTER**

[twitter.com/UnidosNow](https://twitter.com/UnidosNow)



**FACEBOOK**

[facebook.com/unidosnow](https://facebook.com/unidosnow)



**Thank you!**

**Questions?  
Comments?**

# Guest Presenters

## **Daniel Barkowitz**

Assistant Vice President Financial  
Aid / Veteran Affairs  
Valencia College



# FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES FOR NON-US CITIZENS

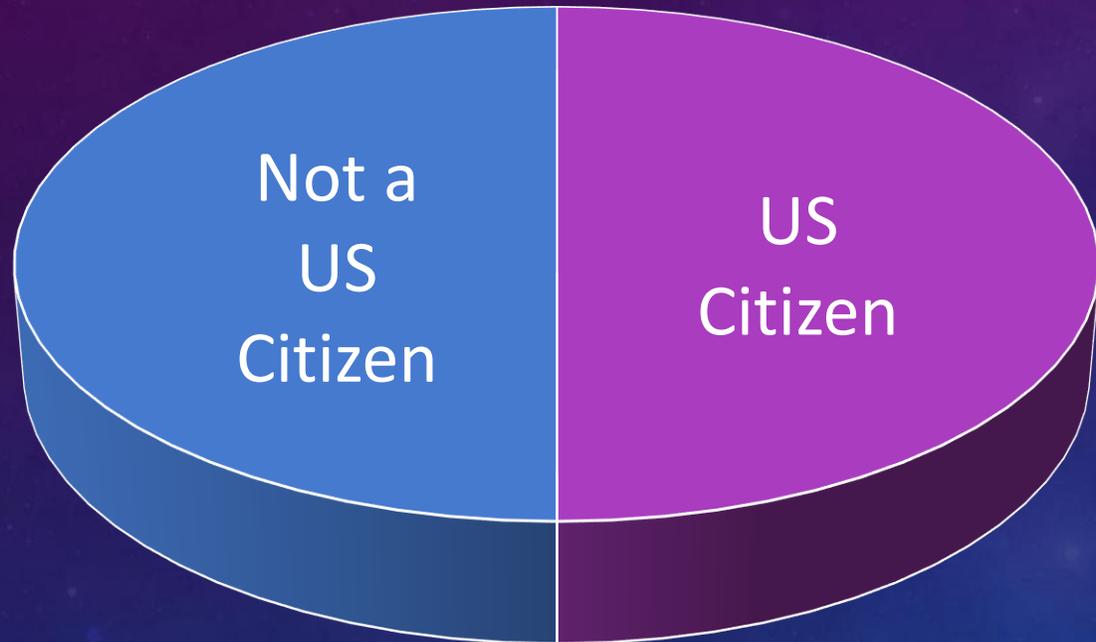
DANIEL T. BARKOWITZ

AVP, FINANCIAL AID & VETERANS AFFAIRS

VALENCIA COLLEGE



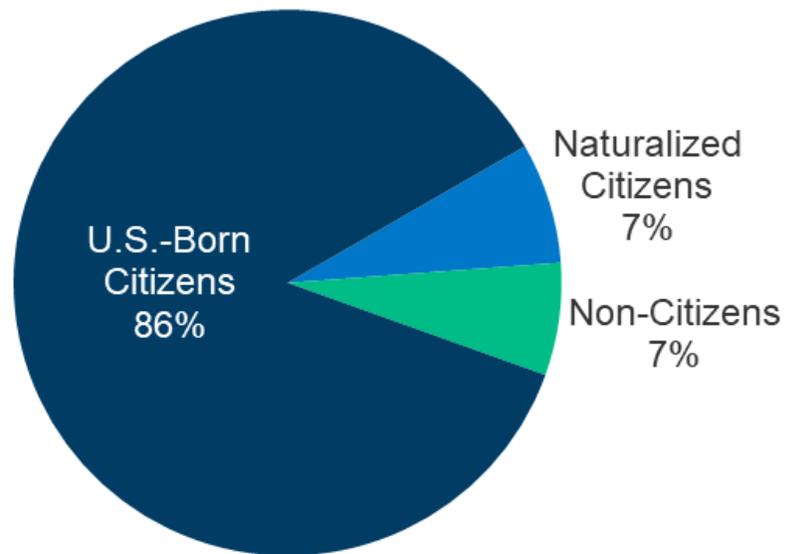
HOW SOME MIGHT SEE THE WORLD...



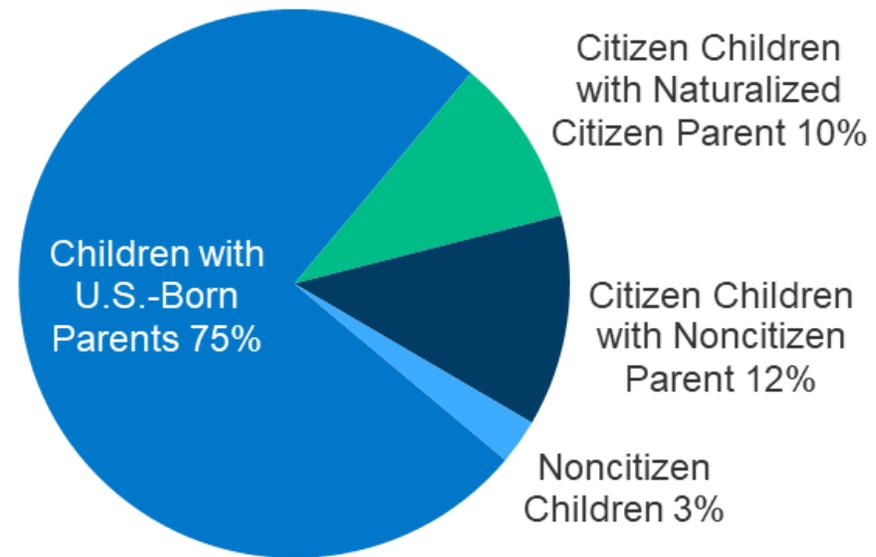
# WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT THE US POPULATION?

Figure 1

## Immigrants and Children of Immigrants as a Share of the Total U.S. Population, 2019



Total U.S. Population:  
319.2 Million



Total Children (Ages 0-18):  
75.3 Million

NOTE: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.  
SOURCE: KFF analysis of 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

# AND HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THIS FROM A FINANCIAL AID PERSPECTIVE?

<p>14. Are you a U.S. citizen? Mark only one. See Notes page 9.</p>	<p>Yes, I am a U.S. citizen (U.S. national). Skip to question 16. .... <input type="radio"/> 1 No, but I am an eligible noncitizen. Fill in question 15. .... <input type="radio"/> 2 No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen. Skip to question 16. .... <input type="radio"/> 3</p>	<p>15. Alien Registration Number</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>A</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	A														
A																	
<p>16. What is your marital status as of today? See Notes page 9.</p>	<p>I am single ..... <input type="radio"/> 1    I am separated ..... <input type="radio"/> 3 I am married/remarried <input type="radio"/> 2    I am divorced or widowed <input type="radio"/> 4</p>	<p>17. Month and year you were married, remarried, separated, divorced or widowed. See Notes page 9.</p> <table border="1"><tr><th colspan="2">MONTH</th><th colspan="4">YEAR</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	MONTH		YEAR												
MONTH		YEAR															
<p>18. What is your state of legal residence?</p>	<p>STATE</p> <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			<p>19. Did you become a legal resident of this state before January 1, 2017?</p> <p>Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 No <input type="radio"/> 2</p>	<p>20. If the answer to question 19 is "No," give month and year you became a legal resident of that state.</p> <table border="1"><tr><th colspan="2">MONTH</th><th colspan="4">YEAR</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	MONTH		YEAR									
MONTH		YEAR															

# BUT WHAT MAKES SOMEONE AN “ELIGIBLE” NON-CITIZEN?

1. U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swains Island) or [U.S. permanent resident](#) with a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C (Permanent Resident Card, Resident Alien Card, or Alien Registration Receipt Card), also known as a "green card."
2. Have an [Arrival-Departure Record \(I-94\)](#) from U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” “Cuban-Haitian Entrant,” “Conditional Entrant” (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980), or “Parolee” (must be paroled for at least one year, and be able to provide evidence from USCIS the intention is to become a U.S. citizen or permanent resident).
3. Hold a T nonimmigrant status ("[T-visa](#)") (for victims of human trafficking) or parent holds a [T-1 nonimmigrant status](#).
4. Are a "[battered immigrant-qualified alien](#)" who is a victim of abuse by citizen or permanent resident spouse, or are the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
5. Citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau. If this is the case, may be eligible for only certain types of federal student aid:
  1. Citizens of the Republic of Palau are eligible for [Federal Pell Grants](#), [Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants](#), and [Federal Work-Study](#).
  2. Citizens of the Federal States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are eligible for Federal Pell Grants only.





# WHO'S LEFT OUT?

- Students without documentation of other status
  - DACA Students
  - So-called “undocumented” students
  - Employment Authorized: Employment Authorization Card or document from USCIS
  - Temporary Protected Status: Stamped on I-94 record or document from USCIS
  - Withholding of Removal order-Document from USCIS
  - U-Visa holders: Document from USCIS
  - Other nonimmigrant visas: may include work visa, visitor and foreign government officials (M-1, N(NATO), A2,A3,B-1,B,2,H series, L series, G series)
  - I-171 or I-464: Notice of approval to apply for permanent resident
  - Family Unity Status: I-817 or document from USCIS
  - Temporary resident: No longer eligible
  - Amnesty program: Document from USCIS



# WHOSE CITIZENSHIP MATTERS FOR FINANCIAL AID?



It's the student who matters...  
not the parent(s)

# WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT FINANCIAL AID FOR EACH SET OF STUDENTS?

- Eligible non-citizens
  - Qualify for all types of Federal and State Aid.
  - Apply using the FAFSA (and CSS Profile, Florida Financial Aid Application, and any school application)
- International students
  - *May* qualify for institutional aid (depending on the institution)
  - *May* need to complete the CSS Financial Aid Profile (if required by the school) or some other financial aid application from the school
  - *Will not* qualify for Federal financial aid or state financial aid
    - *Exception for HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds)*

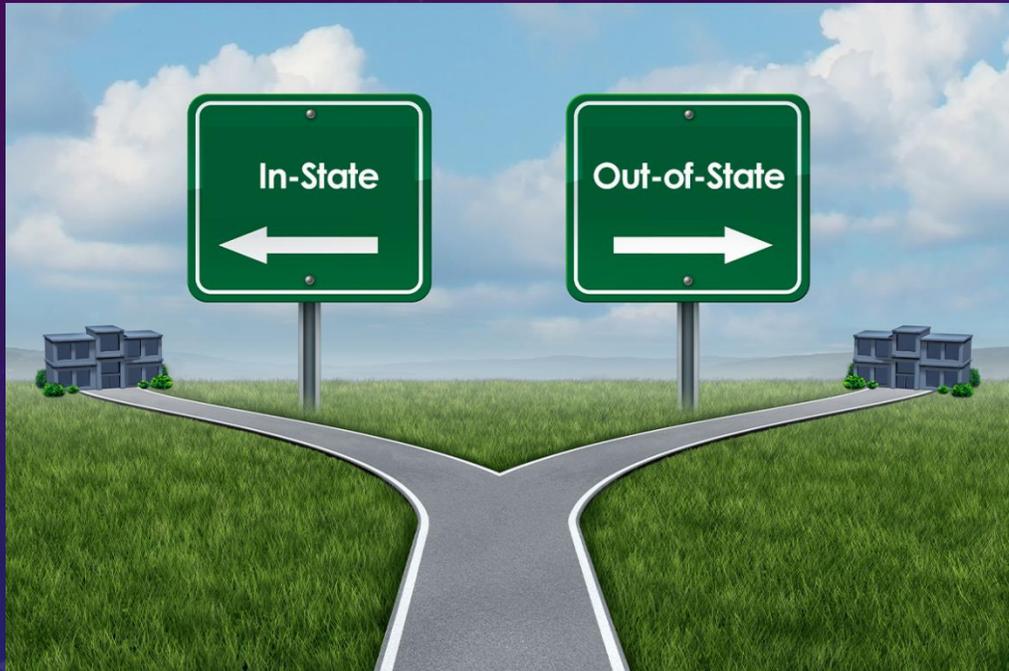


# FOR OTHER STUDENTS

- Will not qualify for Federal Financial Aid or State Financial Aid
  - Exception for HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds)
- May qualify for institutional aid depending on the institution
  - In Florida, SUS institutions may not use institutional funds for ineligible non-citizens.
  - No such restrictions on State Colleges or Private Colleges in Florida
- May qualify for private or foundation scholarships
- DACA students may be asked to complete a FAFSA
  - Has been some advocacy to try to allow DACA students to be eligible for Federal Aid
- Some foundations or agencies (like [TheDream.us](https://www.thedream.us)) specifically provide scholarship funding to students of this type



# WHAT ABOUT RESIDENCY (FOR TUITION PURPOSES)?



- To qualify for in-state tuition, student needs to prove Florida residency
  - Usually requires documentation such as Driver's License, Passport, Social Security Card, etc.
  - Allowance in Florida for those who cannot prove their residency in any other way BUT have graduated from a Florida Public High School AND have been enrolled in Florida public high schools for at least 3 years to automatically qualify non-resident tuition waiver (allowing in-state rate).

# RESOURCES



- <https://scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships/> - list of scholarships for which students without documentation may be eligible
- <https://thedream.us/> - scholarship provider to students without documentation who arrived prior to November 1, 2016
- <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/> - for International students (and some students without documentation) where the school may provide institutional financial aid and requires this form
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx> - US Department of Labor scholarship search (includes scholarships for students without documentation)
- <https://educationusa.state.gov/> - a resource for non-citizens and international students considering study in the US

# Guest Presenters

## **Pedro Hernandez**

Director of Outreach Services  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Florida Department of Education



**PEDRO HERNANDEZ**

Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

850-245-1821



# Serving Undocumented Students in the College-Going Process



# Agenda

- What is the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance's (OSFA) Role
- Where do I find financial aid?
- How and When do I apply?
- Who can help me?



## Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

### Mission Statement:

serves as a guarantor for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and the administrator of Florida's scholarship and grant programs. The OSFA mission is to facilitate higher education access and services by providing exemplary customer attention, comprehensive financial aid information, and convenient and efficient products.





# Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

Mission Statement:

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF) was created by OSFA to strengthen financial skills of young adults through financial aid awareness and financial literacy education.





# What is Financial Aid?

Monies received from Four Sources:

1. Federal
2. State
3. Institutional
4. Private



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# NyFF

## Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

[www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org)

- The Florida Financial Aid Application opens **October 1\*** of the senior year
  - Apply early - must be completed prior to August 31 of high school graduation year
- One application is used for multiple programs, not just the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
  - Must log-in to check status, online notifications and award history



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# FFAA-Florida Financial Aid Application

[www.Floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org](http://www.Floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org)



**Florida Student Scholarship Grant Programs**

Office of Student Financial Assistance

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

**First-Time Applicants**  
 Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (\*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first [Create a Student Account](#). After logging into your account, you may proceed to complete the FFAA.

**Eligible Institutions**  
**High Schools:**  
 Verify if your high school is a participating Florida public or private high school.  
**Postsecondary Institutions:**  
 Verify if the postsecondary institution you are planning to attend is eligible to disburse state aid.

**NOTE:** We recommend downloading the newest version of your preferred browser for the best experience. (Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Safari)

**State Scholarship and Grant Programs**

- Benacquisto Scholarship Program (FAQ)
- Bright Futures Scholarship\*
- Effective Access to Student Education
- First Generation Matching Grant
- Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship\*
- Florida Student Assistance Grant - Career Education
- Florida Work Experience Program
- Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program
- José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant\*
- Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship
- Minority Teacher Education Scholarship
- Ocoee Scholarship Program
- Rosewood Family Scholarship\*
- Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans\* (Award Amounts)

**APPLICATIONS**  
 Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)  
 Reinstatement/Restoration Application  
 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  
 Document Upload

**REPORTS**  
 Annual Report to the Commissioner - (Archives)  
 End-of-Year Reports - (Archives)  
 Bright Futures Statistical Reports

**RESOURCES**  
 Federal Student Aid  
 Financial Aid Terms and Definitions  
 Money for College Brochure  
 Navigating Your Financial Future  
 State Scholarship and Grant Calendar

**STATUTES AND RULES**  
 Florida Statutes  
 State Board of Education Rules  
 Legislative Changes  
 Postsecondary Compliance Audits  
 Postsecondary Eligibility Requirements



## Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) Contacts

- Email:  
[osfa@fldoe.org](mailto:osfa@fldoe.org)
- Telephone:  
1-888-827-2004
- OSFA Director Outreach Services:
  - Pedro “Pete” Hernandez | 850.245.1821 | [Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org](mailto:Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org)

# Guest Presenters

**Oscar Portillo**

Student

University of South Florida



# Questions?

# Up next - webinar:

## **Preparing students in foster care for postsecondary success**

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 1-2 pm

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# Conclusion

