

In Their Own Words

“I am manifesting the DACAmended Dream”

DACA's impact on individuals, communities, and building a stronger economy.



Mission

TheDream.US

TheDream.US is the nation's largest college and career success program for undocumented immigrant students, having provided more than 8,750 college scholarships to Dreamers attending over 80 partner colleges in 21 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.

Golden Door Scholars

Golden Door Scholars exists to break financial barriers and help undocumented students access college with the goal of positioning students to obtain high-earning, sustainable careers upon graduation. In addition to awarding scholarships, Golden Door Scholars is a community of over 300 alumni and 250 active students who are supported through engaged mentoring and dynamic coaching.

DACA - Ten Years On

This June marked the 10 year anniversary of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Since DACA was announced in 2012, more than 835,000 undocumented immigrants who arrived to the United States at a young age have enrolled in the program and qualified for work authorization and deportation protections.

This year's Alumni Survey Report, a collaboration between TheDream.US and Golden Door Scholars, provides a firsthand look at the impact of over 1,400 undocumented college graduates across the country - the majority (86%) of whom are current DACA recipients.

The stories of our Alumni speak to the significance of a college degree and work authorization on the social mobility of undocumented individuals and their contributions to their communities and the American workforce.

With DACA currently under threat of termination and no pathway to citizenship, almost 600,000 current DACA recipients continue to renew their status every 2 years not knowing what their futures will look like despite their investment and hard work. In addition, many will never qualify for the program, and their futures continue to be limited in the absence of work authorization or pathway to citizenship.

This year's report demonstrates why we must acknowledge how integral undocumented immigrants are to the fabric of American society and end the constant state of uncertainty in which they live their day to day lives. Now is the time for Congress to act and pass legislation delivering permanent status for these individuals.

There are 3,200+ TheDream.US and Golden Door Alumni across the country

Over 1,400 of our Alumni graduating from 140 colleges and universities in 28 states and Washington D.C. participated in this year's Alumni Survey.

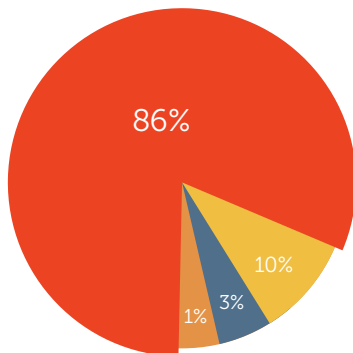
Meet this year's survey participants.

Current Median Age: 25
Median Age of Arrival to the U.S.: 4

Our Alumni have been living in this country for 20 years and consider the U.S. their home.

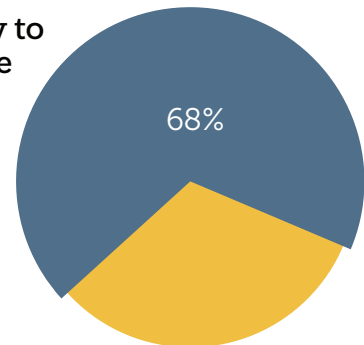
Immigration Status

- DACA
- Permanent Resident
- TPS
- Other



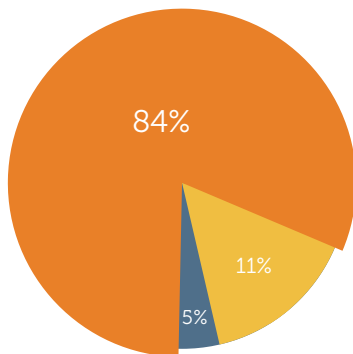
First in Family to Attend College

- Yes
- No



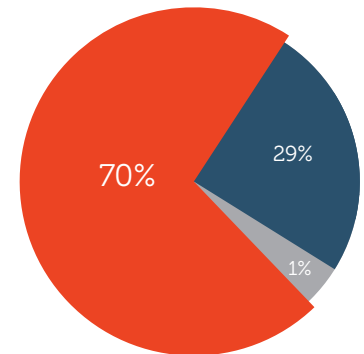
Countries of Origin

- Latin America
- Asia & Pacific Islands
- Other



Gender

- Female
- Male
- Not Specified



Note: The 2022 Alumni Survey was administered online in February-March, 2022. Data for median age of arrival to the U.S. and countries of origin were available for TheDream.US Alumni Survey participants only.

Our Alumni are embedded in the American workforce

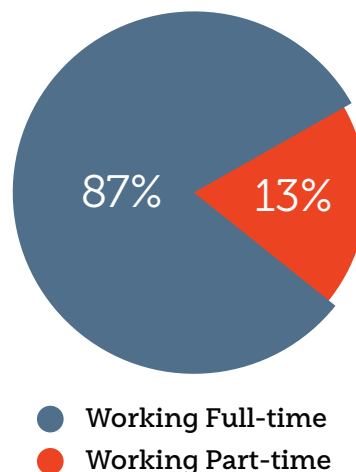
Almost all of TheDream.US and Golden Door Scholars' Alumni have grown up in America's K-12 public school systems and have come of age in colleges and universities across the country.

Now they are putting their education to work.

94% of our Alumni are employed or self-employed and contributing to the American economy.

TheDream.US and Golden Door Scholars' Alumni work at companies including Microsoft, FedEx, Amazon, Labcorp, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Apple, Northwell Health, Bank of America, and IBM. They are also teachers and public service workers or have started their own business or work as independent contractors.

Of those working, 87% are working full-time. Of the 13% working part-time, 1 in 4 are also in graduate school.



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I am able to give back to my community being a 6th grade Math Teacher. I want to be a role model for all my students and let them know that you can be anything you want in life.

Jesus Monsivais

University of North Texas at Dallas
(Spring 2021, Education-Math)
Teacher at Dallas Independent School District

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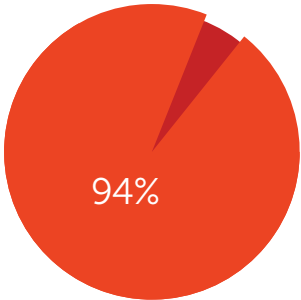


Our graduating Class of 2021 are outpacing their peers in landing career opportunities post-graduation

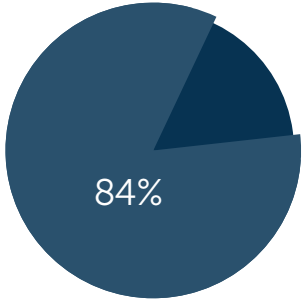
Dreamers are more likely to be working than their college graduate peers, regardless of immigration status. They are ready to seize opportunities when provided with work authorization.

Career Outcomes Rate (% employed and/or in graduate school)

TheDream.US and Golden Door Scholars Class of 2021



All U.S. College Graduates in Class of 2021



I went from being worried about attending college due to lack of financial means, to not only attending but thriving in a university where I served in Student Government and interned on Wall Street. Now I have a job where I get to support my family.

Mayer Estinville

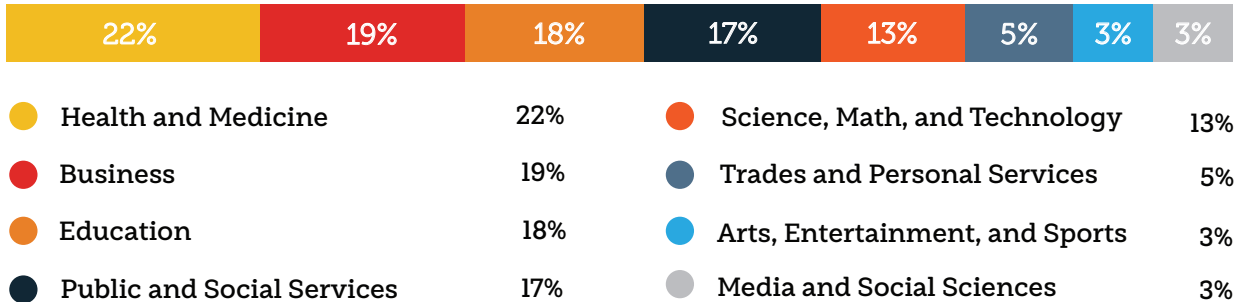
Baruch College (Spring 2021, Finance)
Management Consultant at Kearney



Note: Career Outcomes benchmark for all U.S. College Graduates is from the National Association of Colleges and Employer's First Destinations for the College class of 2021 [Report](#).

With labor shortages across the country in essential fields such as Healthcare and Education, our undocumented college graduates are rooted in industries of high need and represent a talent pool essential to this country's pandemic recovery.

Our top industries of employment are Health and Medicine, Business, and Education.



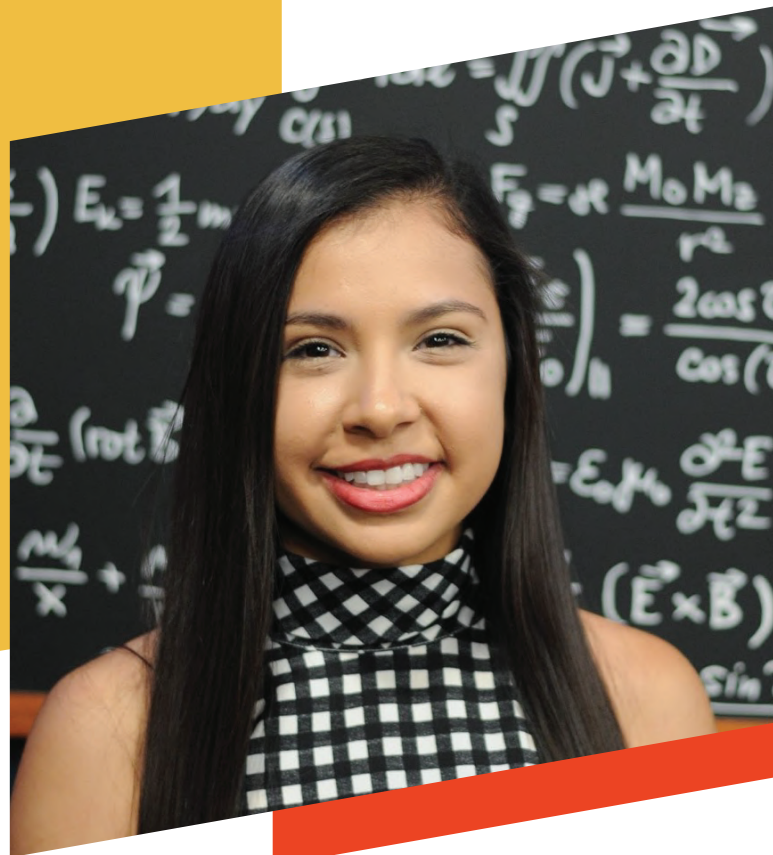
Our Alumni are nurses, educators, and a part of the [343,000](#) DACA recipients employed in essential jobs nationwide.



My life-long dream of becoming a nurse is now a reality. Having a scholarship made it possible to focus on school instead of working full-time or taking out loans. It really provided some peace of mind during a tumultuous political time and unstable status.

Mariana Cifuentes

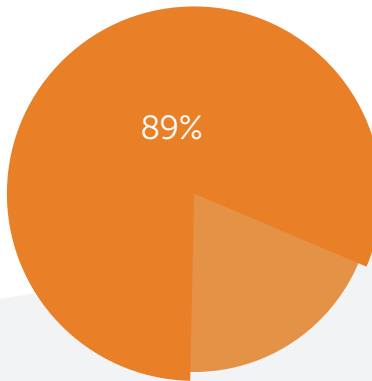
Florida Southwestern State College
(Spring 2020, Nursing)
Lead Covid Nurse at the Department of Health



Undocumented college graduates are diverse in their ethnic identities and bring experiences and skill sets needed in a global economy

89% Bi-/Multilingual
35 languages spoken in addition to English

- Bi-/Multilingual
- 35 Languages spoken in addition to English



It never crossed my mind that I would go to college. Yet here I am, now a licensed Social Worker with a master's degree. I love connecting with students and empowering them so that it reduces barriers for the next generation.

Yessenia Hernandez

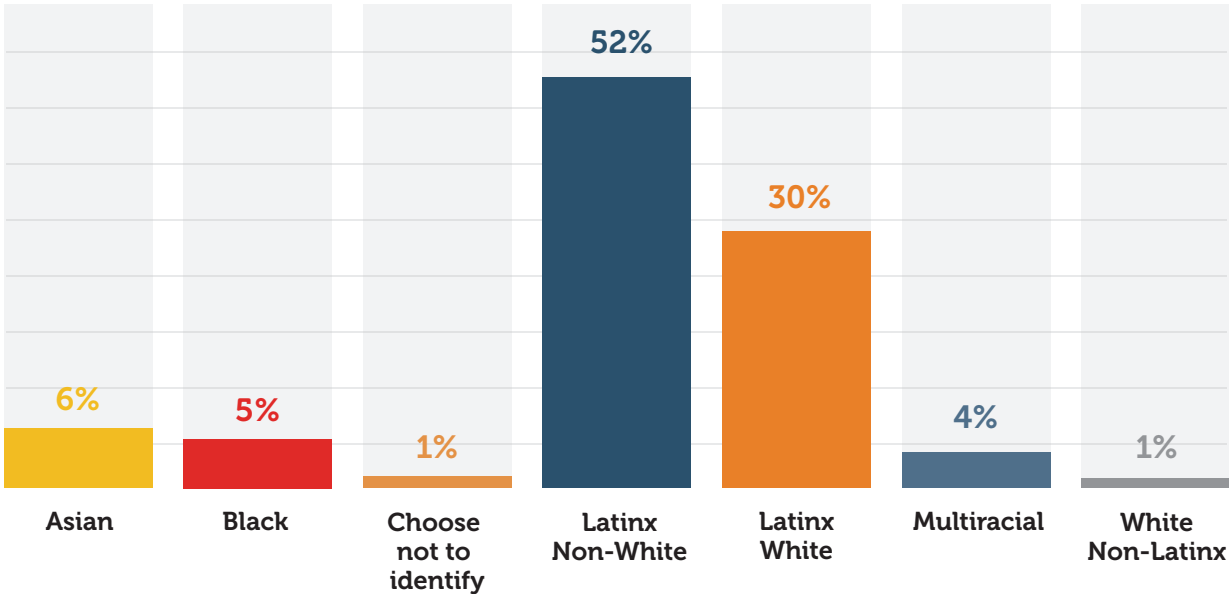
Dominican University (Spring 2021, Sociology)
Assistant Director, Center for Cultural Liberation at Dominican University



Our Alumni originate from 65 countries around the world and bring perspectives crucial to an inclusive workplace

Racial Identity

%



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I came from South Korea when I was 6, and later realized in high school that I may not be able to go to college. I had the opportunity to pursue my passion in STEM and earn my degree in engineering. That degree landed me my current job and started my career in commercial building design. Without it, I would not be living in the city I’m in, with the community I’m surrounded by. I plan to expand my technical knowledge, develop my soft skills, and seize opportunities to give back.

Min-Seo Song

Christian Brothers University
(Spring 2021, Electrical Engineering)
Electrical Engineer at Innovative Engineering Services

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A college degree and work authorization means social mobility

Undocumented college graduates have deep roots in this country. Through their education and work, they are increasing the quality of life for not just themselves, but for their families and communities they call home.

50% are outearning their parents combined



61% have 1 or more family members depending on their income



72% own their own vehicle



“

I am the first in my family to graduate college. The first in my family to obtain a higher paying job. The first in my family to finance a car, obtain health insurance and a job with benefits. I am breaking with generational trauma and hoping to break generational financial hardships.

Estéfani Peña Figueroa

Metropolitan State University of Denver
(Fall 2020, Health Services Administration)
Undocumented Student Resource Coordinator
at University of Colorado Denver

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The almost 600,000 current DACA recipients living across the U.S. are raising 300,000 U.S.-citizen children and paying \$9.4 billion in taxes each year

Among TheDream.US and Golden Door Scholars' Alumni:



1 in 10 are parents

1 in 5 are primary providers for their family

Our Alumni are also among 68,000 homeowners across the country with DACA, making \$760 million in mortgage payments annually



1 in 10 are homeowners



Because of my college degree, I am a more suitable candidate in my profession. I am happy to be an example to my children by showing them that despite the obstacles that life throws at you, it is possible to graduate as long as you persevere and believe in yourself.

Brian Ortega

Northeastern Illinois University
(Fall 2020, Business Management)
Community Relations & Advocacy Manager at Acero Schools



Now is the time for Congress to act

On June 15, 2012, when President Obama announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, he said, "This is not a path to citizenship. It's not a permanent fix. This is a temporary stopgap measure that lets us focus our resources wisely while giving a degree of relief and hope to talented, driven, patriotic young people."

No one could have imagined the impact this program would have on our country and the individuals who have benefited from it. As seen in this report, our undocumented immigrant population are representative of the nearly 600,000 DACA recipients with great potential through the support of legal status.

Ending DACA will be disastrous for its recipients and our economy. Halting new DACA applications has already prevented over 100,000 DACA-eligible individuals from obtaining work authorization, driver's licenses, and the ability to contribute like their peers to their households and communities.

DACA is intended to be a temporary solution. Yet 20+ years since the DREAM Act was first introduced in 2001, Congress has still not provided Dreamers with or without DACA with a permanent path to legal status.

We cannot wait for the day when the DACA program is terminated and companies, schools, and hospitals lose their trained workforce because of Congress's inability to pass a bi-partisan solution. Before the end of the 117th Congress, we need to pass a bi-partisan Dream legislation that protects all Dreamers.



DACA has been a dream and a nightmare. DACA has opened many doors like getting my law license, but it is stressful and traumatic because I still live in uncertainty. At any moment, my goal of becoming an immigration attorney can disappear.

Lisa Cho

John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Spring 2020, Criminology)
Community Engagement Editor at CUNY Law Review
Student Attorney at Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic
J.D. Candidate at the City University of New York Law School

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