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# Proposal: DREAMers Success Resource Center (DSRC)

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## **Proposal: DREAMers Success Resource Center (DSRC)**

### ***Overview: Who are our Undocumented Immigrants and Students?***

According to the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), approximately 11.3 million undocumented immigrants were living in the United States between 2012-2016 (“Unauthorized Immigrant Population Profiles,” accessed 2020). In Oregon, the top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (37 percent of immigrants), China (6 percent), Vietnam (5.2 percent), India (4.1 percent), and Canada (3.6 percent) (“Fact Sheet: Immigrants in Oregon,” 2017).

When it comes to youth around the nation, MPI research finds that about 1.2 million are potentially eligible for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) since the Obama administration launched this program in 2012. DACA offers temporary relief from deportation and the right to apply for work authorization for certain unauthorized immigrants who came to the United States as children. MPI estimates that 55 percent of the 1.2 million youth who immediately met the program's criteria have applied (Batalova et al., 2014).

In Oregon, the estimated number of DACA-eligible immigrants is as follows:

- As of 2016, 82 percent of DACA-eligible immigrants in Oregon, or 12,049 people, had applied for DACA.
- An additional 6,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 4,000 would be eligible as they grew older. (“Fact Sheet: Immigrants in Oregon,” 2017).

The number of actual DACA recipients in Oregon (as of 2019) and the 2019 estimate of those “immediately eligible for DACA” are as follows (the number of DACA recipients and estimates of eligibility will no doubt be impacted by yet-to-be announced decisions regarding DACA from the Supreme Court of the United States):

- Number of DACA recipients (as of September 2019) in Oregon: 9,820.
- MPI’s 2019 estimates of the immediately eligible population in Oregon: 14,000 (“Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools,” accessed 2020).

### ***Clarification of Terminology***

This proposal will use the term “DREAMers” as an umbrella term to designate students who may identify as undocumented, DACA-mented, and/or unDACA-mented.

The term “DREAMers” originates from the Federal DREAM Act of May 11, 2011 (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act). The Senate failed to pass this act on June 28, 2011 (National Immigration Law Center, 2015).

“DACA” stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, an executive order enacted by President Barack Obama in 2012. “DACA-mented” designates individuals who have applied for DACA. “Un-DACA-mented” designates individuals who did not apply for DACA or whose DACA application has expired.

“HECC” stands for Oregon’s Higher Education Coordinating Committee.

DREAM PSU is a student club at Portland State University. Portland State University students formed the club in 2017. Its constitution was approved on March 14, 2018. For more information about this student club, click here:

<https://pdx.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/dream-psu>

### ***How many Portland State University students are DREAMers?***

For the number of DREAMers at Portland State University, the proposal authors use internal University data and the 2018 HECC report to provide answers to the question posed above (“Tuition Equity at Public Universities: Report to the Legislature on House Bill 2787 (2013”).

For spring 2020, 122 Portland State University students received tuition equity (DataMaster, 2020). However, this number does not account for all DREAMers, as further explained in the next section.

We understand that tracking DREAMers is a statistical challenge due to a variety of legal reasons (limits as to what the University can ask in enrollment applications, for example) and psychological factors (students may not disclose their legal status due to the fear of deportation, for example).

Still, the proposal authors recommend that the University’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning find ways, in collaboration with DREAMers who choose to participate, to track and share the statistics that HECC gathers, but focus it, whenever possible, on Portland State University DREAMers.

### ***HECC’s Report on Oregon’s Tuition Equity Program (2013-2014 and 2017-2018)***

Another way to provide an estimate of DREAMers at our University is to look at the number of students who applied for [Oregon's Tuition Equity Program](#). The proposal authors are aware that using this statistical model (i.e., using Oregon's Tuition Equity Program) has its limits. For example, both non-citizens and military relocation students also apply for Oregon's Tuition Equity Program.

HECC's 2018 report shows an increase in students' participation in this tuition equity program between 2013-2014 and 2017-2018:

- “The number of students participating in the Tuition Equity Program has risen steadily from 63 students in 2013-14 to a total of 564 students in 2017-18. Both non-citizens and military students experienced similar growth in participation.”

Table 1 shows the total number of tuition-equity students in Oregon based on their undergraduate and graduate student status (“Tuition Equity at Public Universities,” 2018):

## FINDINGS

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**Table 1. Number of tuition-equity students who applied and were accepted into Oregon public universities, academic year 2017-18.**

Tuition equity program	Number of students	Credits attempted
Undergraduate	529	18,215
Non-citizens and dependents	269	8,869
Military	260	9,346
Graduate	35	1,062
Non-citizens and dependents	8	217
Military	27	845
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>19,277</b>

Finally, table 2 below shows the number of credits attempted by tuition-equity students during the 2017-2018 academic year at Portland State University and our sister schools. Except for undergraduate military students, Portland State University generates the highest tuition-equity credit for both undergraduate students, with 3,679 credits, and graduate students, with 120

credits (“Tuition Equity at Public Universities,” 2018):

**Table 2. Number of credits attempted by tuition-equity students and per-credit tuition by institution, academic year 2017-18.**

Tuition equity program	Credits	Resident tuition per credit	Nonresident tuition per credit	Tuition difference per credit	Resident tuition for all credits	Resident/nonresident tuition difference for all credits
Total undergraduate	18,215				\$3,484,426.84	\$7,364,192.99
Undergraduate non-citizens and dependents	8,869				\$1,704,481.21	\$3,582,789.76
Eastern Oregon University	206	\$153.95	\$405.00	\$251.55	\$31,713.70	\$51,819.30
Oregon Institute of Technology	357	\$176.01	\$560.24	\$384.73	\$62,835.57	\$137,348.00
Oregon State University	1,400	\$294.70 <sup>1</sup>	\$929.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$634.30 <sup>1</sup>	\$412,581.40	\$888,020.00
Portland State University	3,679	\$164.50	\$550.00	\$385.50	\$605,195.50	\$1,418,254.50
Southern Oregon University	326	\$165.04	\$506.00	\$340.96	\$53,803.04	\$111,152.96
University of Oregon	1,102	\$211.00	\$723.00	\$512.00	\$232,522.00	\$564,224.00
Western Oregon University	1,799	\$170.00	\$399.00	\$229.00	\$305,830.00	\$411,971.00
Undergraduate military	9,346				\$1,779,945.63	\$3,781,403.23
Eastern Oregon University	516	\$153.95	\$405.00	\$251.55	\$79,438.20	\$129,799.80
Oregon Institute of Technology	1,339	\$176.01	\$560.24	\$384.73	\$235,677.39	\$381,253.47
Southern Oregon University	1,601	\$165.04	\$506.00	\$340.96	\$264,229.04	\$545,876.96
University of Oregon	4,861	\$211.00	\$723.00	\$512.00	\$1,025,671.00	\$2,488,832.00
Western Oregon University	1,029	\$170.00	\$399.00	\$229.00	\$174,930.00	\$235,641.00
Total graduate	1,062				\$477,354.00	\$430,414.00
Graduate non-citizens and dependents	217				\$91,189.00	\$52,122.00
Oregon State University	62	\$457.00	\$843.00	\$386.00	\$28,334.00	\$23,932.00
Portland State University	120	\$401.00	\$605.00	\$204.00	\$48,120.00	\$24,480.00
Southern Oregon University	35	\$421.00	\$527.00	\$106.00	\$14,735.00	\$3,710.00
Graduate military	845				\$386,165.00	\$326,170.00
University of Oregon <sup>2</sup>	845	\$457.00	\$843.00	\$386.00	\$386,165.00	\$326,170.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,277</b>					<b>\$7,742,485.99</b>

<sup>1</sup> The weighted mean per credit tuition was used.

<sup>2</sup> Tuition costs at University of Oregon’s College of Arts and Sciences were used in this analysis.

Based on the tuition-equity credits statistics above, we conclude the following about why a DREAMers Success Resource Center is needed at Portland State University:

Given that Portland State University undergraduate and graduate students generate the highest number of tuition-equity credits across the higher education system in Oregon, the creation of a DREAMers Success Resource Center on campus will go a long way to address the needs of DREAMers who may fall in this statistical group and who are generating significant tuition dollars for our University.

### ***Educational Barriers***

When it comes to educational barriers, undocumented families experience specific challenges associated with poverty and lack of access to college recruitment resources (Olivérez, 2019):

- Undocumented families live in poverty at higher rates than those that are U.S.-born. In 2015, 24.5% of the undocumented population lived below the poverty threshold, and over half lacked health insurance.
- Undocumented students often have low-incomes and may also lack access to the resources that usually assist low-income college students.
- Undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial aid, including Pell Grants, government loans, and federal work-study.

In terms of retention and graduation rates in higher education, undocumented students have lower rates of college attendance and completion (Olivérez, 2019):

- In 2015, only 29.2% of undocumented immigrants age 18 or older had at least some college education, compared to almost 60% of the entire U.S. population.
- Less than 14.7% of undocumented immigrants had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to over 28% for all adults in the U.S.

### **Portland State University Communications in Support of a Sanctuary Campus and DREAMers**

In support of undocumented and DACAmented students, in 2016, former-Portland State University President Dr. Wim Wiewel communicated to students the following statement of sanctuary ("A message from President Wiewel on immigration," accessed 2020):

- "The Portland State University Campus Public Safety Office does not and will not enforce federal immigration laws as required by state law."
- "Portland State University will not facilitate or consent to immigration enforcement activities on our campus unless legally compelled to do so or in the event of clear exigent circumstances such as an imminent risk to the health or safety of others."
- "Portland State University will not share confidential student information, such as immigration status, with the federal government unless required by law."

More recently, on June 25, 2019, current Interim Portland State University President Dr. Stephen Percy affirmed the University's commitment to being a sanctuary campus and

supporting DREAMers. He states: “I write today to reaffirm Portland State University’s commitment to our student ‘Dreamers’ who came to Oregon as children of undocumented parents and are recognized under the federal Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA) program” (Percy, 2019).

### ***How was this Proposal Developed?***

This proposal is a culmination of three years of events, testimonies, and surveys by and for Portland State University DREAMers (fall 2017-Present).

In the past three years, DREAM PSU has been at the forefront of DREAMer-related work at our University with more than 22 events (see list below).

The proposal authors take this opportunity to honor DREAM PSU’s work and its student club president/director, Fatima Preciado Mendoza. While we honor their work, the authors want to highlight that a student club (run primarily by undergraduate students) has been at the forefront of supporting the retention of DREAMers and educating the University community about the aspirations and challenges of being a DREAMer in higher education.

Creating a DREAMers Success Resource Center will show DREAMers and the student body that our University does not rely on the emotional and intellectual labor of its students to support and retain its students.

Four activities helped shape the writing of this proposal (A-D):

- A. DREAM PSU events: 22 events
1. 2017-Present / DREAM PSU officer meetings each term
  2. 2017 / MEChA (*Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán*) Conference
  3. 2017/ Educate Student Panel
  4. 2017/ Undocumented in Higher Education
  5. 2018 / Share your Story
  6. 2018 / PSU Latinx Meet Up
  7. 2019 / Loteria Battle Royale
  8. 2019 / DREAM Center Student Collaboration Session
  9. 2019 / Budgeting for College
  10. 2019 / Movie Night
  11. 2019 / End of Term Dance
  12. 2019 / University Studies’ Race and Social Justice Panel
  13. 2019 / Driver Licenses for All

14. 2019 / Coming out of the Shadows
15. 2019 / H.E.C.C. Public Meeting
16. 2019 / DACA Renewal Workshop
17. 2019 / Party in the Ballroom
18. 2019 / Bowling Night
19. 2019 / DACA Panel with the Social Work Student Association
20. 2020 / DREAM PSU with Student Health and Counseling Services
21. 2020 / Know Your Rights Workshop
22. 2020 / Immigration Action Day Volunteer Sign-Up

B. Board of Trustees meeting

DREAM PSU and Portland State University DREAMers met with Portland State University's Board of Trustees on Monday, May 13, 2019. DREAM PSU read a letter requesting the creation of a DREAMers Center. PSU DREAMers also shared their testimonies of need and aspiration.

C. Empowerment Retreat (in-person) & Online and In-Person Surveys, February 21-22, 2020.

Portland State University's School of Social Work sponsored and funded this retreat.

D. Online survey to the general student population, responses due May 1, 2020.

The results of this survey describe additional evidence for the need and service-focus of a center. Dr. Óscar Fernández co-created this survey (with Interim Assistant Vice President Perla Pinedo and co-author Jhoana Monroy-Espinoza) to get responses from students who may not attend DREAMer-related public events at Portland State University due to fears associated with their immigration status. Fernández distributed the survey to University Studies students. Perla Pinedo, Interim Assistant Vice President of Diversity and Multicultural Services and Director of Multicultural Retention Services and Coordinator of the Diversity Scholars Program in the Diversity and Multicultural Student Services Department, shared the survey with the Multicultural Retention Services & Cultural Resource Centers staff. The survey was also sent to Global Diversity and Inclusion and DREAM PSU listserv.

***Proposal Design Centered on Students' Testimonies***

This proposal was designed to provide a summary of the students' experiences at Portland State University and their ideas to create a safer and more welcoming campus for

undocumented students. We use students' testimonies to direct the recommendations for developing and implementing a support system through a DREAMers Success Resource Center.

### *Sharing Statements of Need by Portland State University DREAMers*

The following statements are some examples of experiences undocumented students face at Portland State University. Due to the fear of deportation and/or retaliation, students' names will not be provided in the statements and findings throughout this proposal.

The statements below were gathered during the Empowerment Retreat (February 21-22, 2020):

#### *Fears of sharing my status with faculty and staff*

- "People assume things because of the way I look. I find myself with the need to disclose, again and again, to be able to get an opportunity. I feel uncomfortable with people's responses when disclosing my status."
- "My parents are frustrated and beaten down from the system. I am torn because my parents want to go back, and I am here."

#### *Lack of coordinated supports and inclusive services in higher education*

- "Advising - they don't know what resources are available. It is double work for me. I cannot identify with them; none of them look like me. It feels important for me to have someone who looks like me as an advisor."
- "Before I see an advisor, I plan ahead, and I mentally train myself to open up about my status."

#### *Inclusion concerns and struggles in the classroom*

- "I feel like what I do is never enough. There is a constant struggle of doubting myself in class. I question, should I be here or not?"
- "The curriculum taught in class is catered to mainstream students. I am left with teaching my classroom about my experience, needs, and support. Portland State University is not taking action towards inclusion."

#### *Paying for school and lack of scholarships for DREAMers*

- "Who wants to volunteer when you need money to pay for school?"
- "There is not a specific scholarship for undocumented students. We have to pit ourselves and share our story, but that's traumatizing. All for the money. It is very stressful."

#### *Safety concerns with armed on-campus police*

- “Police on campus discourage students from coming to campus. It feels unsafe to be on campus with them. How could Portland State University look like without police? Safety for Undocumented students is important.”

*Feelings of mistrust*

- “I feel a lack of control - the system is in control. It is hard to trust PSU.”

## Sharing Findings from Two Surveys

### *Survey 1: Empowerment Retreat Survey (February 21-22, 2020)*

Moreover, the survey distributed before the Empowerment Retreat (February 21-22, 2020) shows additional statements of need. Eleven students completed this online survey. The names of students are intentionally withheld due to the fear associated with immigration status and/or the fear of retaliation.

*73% of surveyed Portland State University DREAMers do not feel supported by our University*

- Survey question: “Do you feel supported by Portland State University?”
- Yes: 3
- No: 8

*82% of surveyed Portland State University DREAMers do not know any specific staff supporting DREAMers*

- Survey question: “Do you know of any designated/specific staff to support DREAMers at PSU?”
- Yes: 2
- No: 9

*100% of surveyed Portland State University DREAMers would like to see a resource center on campus*

- Survey question: “Would you like to see a DREAMers Resource Center at the PSU campus?”
- Yes: 11
- No: 0

*82% of surveyed Portland State University DREAMers are worried about dropping out*

- Survey question: “Are you worried about dropping out?”
- Yes: 9
- No: 1
- Maybe: 1

*Impact testimonies by surveyed Portland State University DREAMers*

- Survey question: “How would the DREAMers Resource Center impact you?”

*Fear of sharing my status with faculty and staff*

- “I think having someone that's in the same position as me would be very helpful because I'd feel more comfortable. I'd be more willing to ask questions, without worrying if the other person can understand me. For example, I have two mentors in the PSU programs I am in, but it's difficult for me to bring up my status without knowing what their reaction will be. It's also limiting because either my mentors or staff might not know a lot of resources for DREAMers.”

*A DREAMERS resource center helps Portland State University DREAMers help other students*

- “I would be able to help other students who are DREAMers.”

*Creating a feeling of belonging*

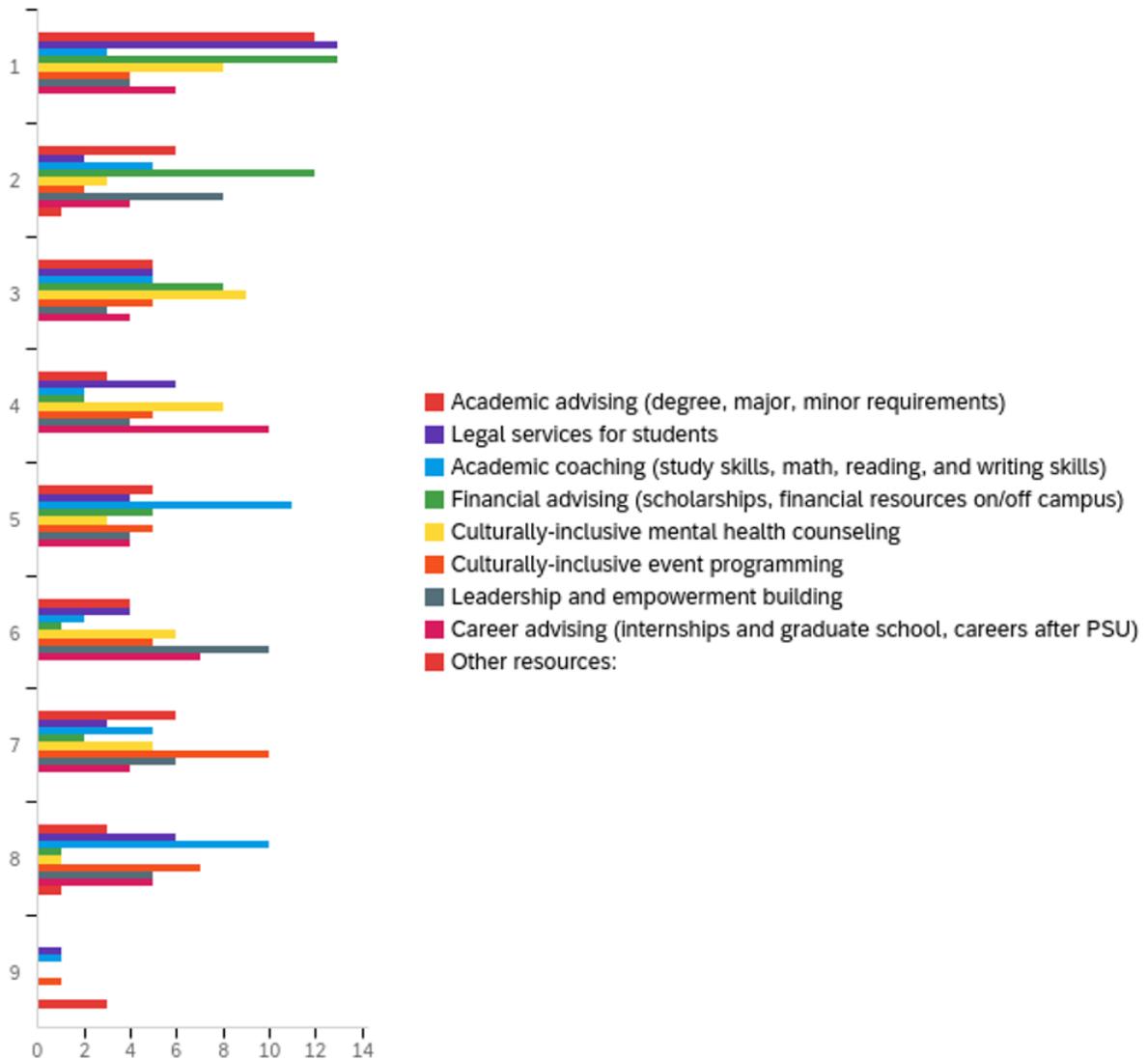
- “It would make me feel like I actually have somewhere on campus to go to when I'm dealing with any barriers related to my status. It would make me feel like I belong, and like people actually care to support my education.”

***Survey 2: Envisioning a DREAMers Center (May 1, 2020)***

During a two-week period (April 20-May 1, 2020), Portland State University students responded to an anonymous survey. Students who are part of the University's Cultural Resource Centers, Multicultural Retention Services, President's Equal Access Scholarship and University Studies listservs received the Qualtrics survey. A total of 44 students completed the survey. (The complete survey report will be shared with the Administration via a separate attachment.)

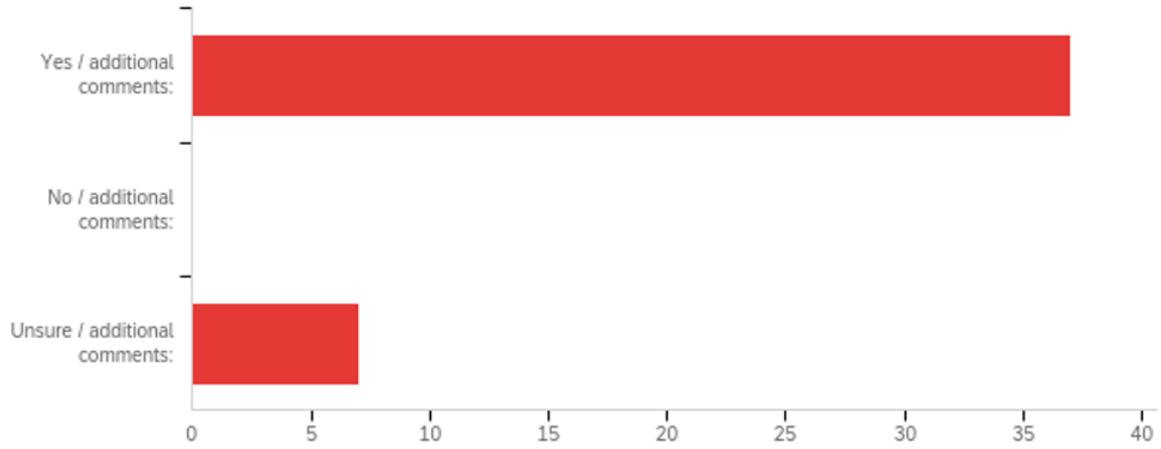
*Respondents report that three student resources are their number one priority: 1. legal (29.5%); 2. financial advising (29.5%); and 3. academic advising (27.2%)*

- Survey question: “Which student resources are your priority? Please rank in order of priority which resources you need as you envision a DREAMers Success Center at PSU. (1 = high priority to 9 = low priority)”



84.1% of respondents want a visible location near other student resource centers. 15.9% of respondents answered “unsure.”

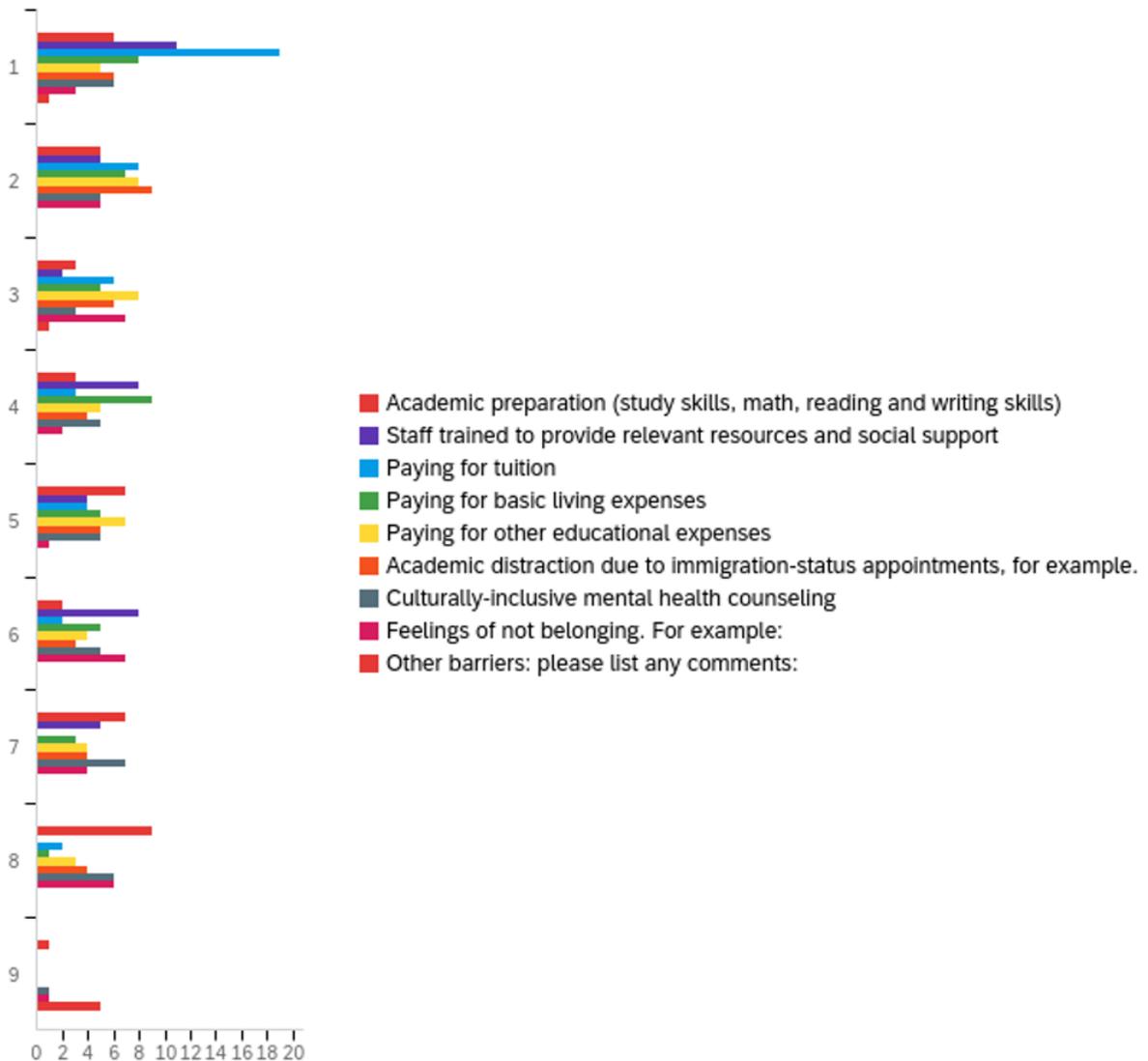
- Survey question: “Do you want the Center to be located in a visible location near other student resource centers?”



*[The proposal continues on the next page / intentionally left blank.]*

Respondents report three persisting barriers to higher education as their number one priority: 1. paying for tuition (43.1%); 2. staff trained to provide relevant resources and support (25.5%); and 3. paying for basic living expenses (18.6%).

- Survey question: “What persisting barriers to higher education do you want to share with DREAMers Success Center staff? Please rank in order of priority which persisting barriers you want PSU DREAM Center staff to be aware of as you navigate PSU. (1 = high priority to 9 = low priority)”

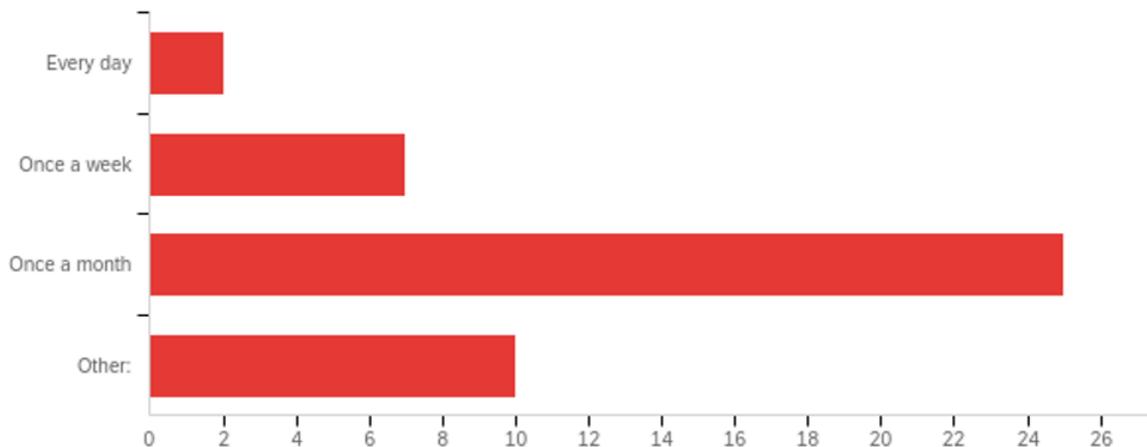


*38.6% of respondents would visit the Center once a week*

- Survey question: “How frequently do you see yourself visiting the DREAMers Success Center?”
- Every day: 22.7%
- Once a week: 38.6%
- Once a month: 18.2%
- Other: 20.45% (The full report includes open responses to “Other.”)

*56.8% of respondents would set up appointments with Center staff once a month.*

- Survey question: “How frequently do you see yourself setting up one-on-one meetings with DREAMers Success Center staff?”



The survey also asked two open-ended questions regarding reasons why students would visit (or would not visit) this Center. We share some of the responses.

*86.4% of respondents completed this prompt: “I see myself visiting the DREAMers Success Center because . . .”*

- “I want to feel welcomed.”
- “It would be a specific center for DREAMers that I could access regarding specific concerns as a DREAMer myself, which could allow me to feel more comfortable in the space.”
- “It would be a center location with all the information.”
- “Having one at PCC [Portland Community College] Rock Creek was beneficial!”

*13.6% of respondents completed this prompt: “I don’t see myself visiting the DREAMers Success Center because . . .”*

- “DREAMer status does not apply to me.”
- “I am an online student.”
- “I’m graduating.”

### ***Educational Barriers in Higher Education***

The statements of need and survey findings above (“Sharing Statements of Need”) reflect nation-wide research about the particular barriers that DREAMers experience in higher education (Olivérez, 2019):

- Undocumented students may be unaware of state policies providing in-state tuition and financial aid depending on the information available at their high school or community college.
- Despite state policies that provide greater access to higher education, college affordability continues to be a challenge for many undocumented students;
- Some undocumented students do not meet the requirements for Tuition Equity or ORSAA (Oregon Student Aid Application, which makes attending college significantly more expensive.
- Undocumented students often encounter a lack of coordinated supports and services on college campuses; in some instances, they may experience blatant hostility or discrimination.
- Undocumented students are often the first in their families to attend college. Identifying Benefits of a Portland State University DREAMers Success Resource Center.

During their visioning session (Empowerment Retreat, February 21-22, 2020), the DREAMers identified the following benefits of having a DREAMers Success Center at Portland State University:

- creating awareness about on-campus and off-campus opportunities so students can prepare for success after graduation
- building bridges between K-12 and college, includes developing mentorship connections and resources for traditional and non-traditional students entering Portland State University
- making on-campus and off-campus scholarships available for undocumented students that are separate from general “diversity scholarships”
- increasing higher rates of retention, completion, and graduation
- improving career preparation for Portland State University DREAMers
- creating a safe, welcoming environment for students from any country

### **Proposal**

The following proposal was developed with input from Portland State University DREAMers during an Empowerment retreat on February 21-22, 2020. The proposal was developed from findings from two surveys: Empowerment Retreat (February 21-22, 2020) and a general survey of the student population (May 1, 2020).

Moreover, the proposal authors bring personal, professional, and advocacy experiences when it comes to DREAMers in community colleges and at Portland State University. At the end of the proposal, please find a list of authors who helped complete this proposal.

It is recommended that DREAMer students review and refine this first draft of mission and vision statements as the DREAMers Success Resource Center becomes a reality at Portland State University.

- Name: DREAMers Success Resource Center (DSRC)
- Vision: Our vision is to provide a space that houses all resources needed for DREAMers to be successful at Portland State University and their communities.
- Mission: To support, guide, and empower Portland State University DREAMers in obtaining a higher education
- Services: Creating new services and connecting DREAMers with existing services.

Although this Center seeks to collaborate deeply with existing academic, health, legal, advising, and student leadership services from across the University, its coordinator—and with input from DREAMers—may request additional services specific to this student population:

- academic and career advising
- mentoring
- tutoring resources
- counseling services
- scholarship resources for DREAMers
- immigration information, resources, and legal support
- outreach to students and other support organizations
- connections to educational institutions, K-12, two-year colleges, four-year universities
- workshops and programs
- study lounge in a safe and supportive environment
- access to technology: computers, laptops, printers, etc.
- access to health supplies and services
- access to school supplies and materials

### ***Implementation Options***

In their visioning session, the PSU DREAMers outlined two potential implementation options to establish the DREAMers Success Resource Center. The implementation options below also reflect responses to two online surveys: Empowerment Retreat Survey (February 21-22, 2020) and Envisioning Survey (May 1, 2020).

The two options are presented on the following pages.

#### ***Option 1: Fully Resourced DREAMers Success Resource Center***

##### Space and Services:

- The DREAMers Success Resource Center to be housed in an accessible, and visible location equipped with work stations for students and staff, as well as accessible and adaptive furniture, a welcoming space with art appropriate for DREAMers, computers, and resources for students to gather, work, study, and promote community
- Financial resources, include scholarships, DACA renewal assistance funds and workshops, mentorship programs, and emergency funds
- Information regarding scholarships, jobs, internships, ORSAA (Oregon Student Aid Application), and other information relevant to DREAMers
- Events such as Know Your Rights, Allyship training, and other culturally-relevant events:
  - ❖ Immigration Action Day
  - ❖ DACA Renewal Workshop
  - ❖ applying for Scholarships Workshop
  - ❖ budgeting for College
  - ❖ share your Story
  - ❖ coming out of the Shadows
  - ❖ Student Health and Counseling Services Workshop.

##### Staffing:

- a coordinator and administrative support staff to coordinate and manage the center, develop programming, and assist students with Tuition Equity Grant applications and direct students to both on campus and off campus fundraising sources
- funds for on-going professionalization of coordinator and support staff due to the changing legal and cultural landscape for DREAMers
- student leaders and mentors to assist with policy development and events
- legal support, preferably an attorney in the center from Student Legal Services (SLS) and/or support contacts designated by SLS, to help students with immigration and legal issues

- coordinator to connect with existing counseling services from SHAC (Student Health & Counseling) – preferably a counselor with a deep understanding of DREAMers and what it means to be undocumented and a student
- coordinator to connect with existing advising services – a dedicated advisor who is familiar with the challenges of undocumented students with the help from key administrators, we recommend that the coordinator work with HECC to begin state-wide conversations about how Oregon students in higher education need to be better supported across colleges and universities. One possible initial project is for HECC to fund a state-wide 24/7 hotline for Oregon’s DREAMers in higher education. This hotline would answer questions about applying for college and share immigration-related services offered by colleges and universities

#### Organizational Structure:

- DREAMers recommend a house space for the center that would be housed under Global Diversity and Inclusion. It is strongly recommended to have academic units (departments, colleges, for example) and their faculty be named as sponsors and mentors for DREAMers. It is essential to highlight that visibility across academic units and departments is crucial for the new center.
- It is recommended that stakeholders work with DREAMers to clarify the organizational structure further.

#### Student Leadership Structure Recommendations:

- The DREAMers Empowerment Retreat participants recommend creating a student-lead advising board to direct the work of the Center. The advisory board will be composed of DREAMers who will form a leadership team and get compensated through the Educational Leadership Stipend Awards.

### ***Option 2: Mid-Range Service Level***

#### Space and Services:

- the DREAMers Success Center to be housed in an accessible, and visible location equipped with work stations for students and staff, as well as accessible and adaptive furniture, a welcoming space with art appropriate for DREAMers, computers, and resources for students to gather, work, study, and promote community
- economic resources include scholarships, DACA renewal assistance funds and workshops, and a mentorship program
- information regarding scholarships, jobs, internships, ORSAA (Oregon Student Aid Application), and other information relevant to the DREAMers
- events such as Know your Rights, Allyship training, and other culturally relevant events:
  - ❖ Immigration Action Day

- ❖ DACA Renewal Workshop
- ❖ applying for Scholarships Workshop
- ❖ budgeting for College
- ❖ share your Story
- ❖ coming out of the Shadows
- ❖ Student Health and Counseling Services Workshop

#### Staffing:

- a coordinator and administrative support staff to coordinate and manage the center and develop programming
- student leaders and mentors to assist with policy development and events
- coordinator to connect with existing counseling services from SHAC (Student Health & Counseling) – preferably a counselor with a deep understanding of DREAMers and what it means to be undocumented and a student
- advising services – a dedicated advisor who is familiar with the challenges of undocumented students

#### Organizational Structure:

- House a temporary center in the School of Social Work (SSW) due to the community environment, values, and culture. We trust that SSW will advocate for the advancement of the center. The SSW has provided physical, moral, and economic support; therefore, SSW seems like a safer space for students who are not ready to “come out of the shadows.”
- It is recommended that stakeholders work with DREAMers to clarify the organizational structure further.

#### Student Leadership Structure Recommendations:

- The DREAMers Empowerment Retreat participants recommend creating a student-lead advising board to direct the work of the Center. The advisory board will be composed of DREAMers who will form a leadership team and get compensated through the Educational Leadership Stipend Awards.

### **Conclusion**

Upon receipt of this proposal, we would like to set up a meeting with the Portland State University Administration to discuss the next steps during July 2020 or August 2020. The proposal authors will provide the Administration with a list of student leaders who want to meet in person (remotely due to COVID-19).

The proposal authors intentionally end this proposal with the voice of one DREAMer and how a center would impact them:

“The DREAMers Resource Center would impact me positively. Perhaps a space in which I can speak freely about life's struggles, the ups and downs of life as a DREAMer.”

Creating a DREAMers Success Resource Center at our University will not only positively impact DREAMers themselves but also their families. It is our deepest hope that the Administration will show DREAMers that Portland State University lives up to the ideals of being a sanctuary campus by creating a DREAMers Success Resource Center.

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- Cesar Santiago Perez, Psychology Major, and Business Minor, Class of 2021
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