POLITICS ARE ROUGH

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES AND ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS

WACAC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (GRAC)
PRESENTORS

• **ALYSON TOM** - atom@castilleja.org
  - NACAC Government Relations Committee (GRC)
  - Associate Director of College Counseling, Castilleja School

• **AMY BRENNEN** - amyebrennen@gmail.com
  - WACAC Government Relations & Advocacy Committee
  - College Counselor - Insight Education LLC
Educating WACAC Members on Legislative Issues Related to Higher Education, Counseling, and Student Access to College

- Visits with state and federal elected officials
- State legislative conference in Sacramento in February
- Organizing workshops, trainings, and webinars
- Collaborate and advise WACAC lobbyist
- National legislative conference in DC
- Serve on the NACAC Government Relations Committee
NATIONAL ADVOCACY
NACAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:
**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals**
California has the most DACA recipients

Top 10 states of residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of DACA recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>214,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>119,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>40,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>37,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>29,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>27,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>26,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>23,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>20,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>16,767</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: DACA approvals as of June 30, 2016. The program began in 2012.

Sources: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Undocumented Students in California: What You Should Know

**DEMographics**

1 in 13 Californians is undocumented.

750,000 K-12 students in California have undocumented parents.

More than 1 in 5 undocumented people in the U.S. reside in California.

240,000 young people in California have applied for DACA.

250,000 undocumented children 3-17 are enrolled in California schools.

California’s undocumented residents live across the state.

California’s undocumented immigrants hail from across the globe.

- Mexico 68%
- El Salvador 6%
- Guatemala 4%
- Honduras 4%
- China 3%
- India 3%
- Philippines 4%
- Vietnam 1%
- Other 8%
NACAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:
**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals**

- NACAC advocates for a **clean** DACA/DREAM Act solution
- On termination of DACA program (Sept 2017) - NACAC signed on to several letters, including HACU Letter (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities)

**What about the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act?**
- DREAM Act first introduced in 2001 by Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
- DREAM Act of 2017
- Visit NACAC’s **Knowledge Center** to learn more & take action
NACAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: REAUTHORIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

• NACAC OPPOSES HOUSE VERSION AND SIGNED ON TO SEVERAL LETTERS, INCLUDING AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION’S LETTER

• THE HOUSE BILL WOULD MOVE TO ONE LOAN, ONE GRANT AND ONE REPAYMENT PROGRAM (PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS WOULD BE ELIMINATED).

• ELIMINATE THE IN-SCHOOL INTEREST SUBSIDY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

• REDUCE FUNDING FOR THE TRIO PROGRAM BY $50 MILLION
NACAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:
Reauthorization of Higher Education Act

- **ELIMINATE THE SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**
  - FEDERAL ASSISTANCE GRANT RESERVED FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH THE GREATEST NEED FOR FINANCIAL AID TO ATTEND SCHOOL.

- **WOULD ELIMINATE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT, BORROWER’S DEFENSE (TARGETED AT FOR-PROFITS)**

- **OBAMA ADMINISTRATION 2014: GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT: OVERSIGHT, CUTS OFF LOANS TO COLLEGES IF THEIR GRADUATES DO NOT EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY OFF THEIR STUDENT DEBT**
NACAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:
Reauthorization of Higher Education Act

• Senate may start HEA reauthorization this spring
  • Senate Education Committee released a White Paper two weeks ago on what they hope to do; it includes dropping 90/10 rule and Gainful Employment Rule

• House and Senate will each pass their version of HEA and then will need to reconcile the two versions; if successful, compromise will go to president to sign (or veto)
NACAC LEGISLATE PRIORITIES:
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT
EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

SIGNED INTO LAW DECEMBER 2015: LESS FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT, MORE STATE/LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

• ESSA CREATED STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT GRANTS (SSAEG) --
  TITLE IV, PART A –

• THESE ELIMINATES AND CONSOLIDATES PROGRAMS LETS STATES DECIDE HOW TO SPEND THE FUNDS THEY RECEIVE

• MONEY WILL GO TO STATES AFTER CONGRESS PASSED SPENDING BILL
NACAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: EVERY STUDENT CONT’

EESA’S SSAEG (TITLE IV, PART A) PROGRAMS COMPETING FOR FUNDING INCLUDE
- ART
- COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING
- COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ACCELERATED LEARNING COURSES
- FOREIGN LANGUAGES
- INCREASED STUDENT ACCESS TO STEM
- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO STUDENTS
- MUSIC
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- NACAC SUPPORTS FULL FUNDING ($1.6 BILLION) FOR THIS PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGES STATES TO PRIORITIZE COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING.

- ENCOURAGE CA STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO UTILIZE SSAEG FUNDING TO SUPPORT POST-SECONDARY COUNSELING.
NACAC LEGISLATE ACTION CENTER: ACTION ITEMS

SUPPORT THE DREAM ACT OF 2017

• ENCOURAGE YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE DREAM ACT.

HELP PRESERVE THE PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

• NACAC HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM (PSLF) SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2007.

• HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS, COLLEGE ADMISSION STAFF AND OTHERS BENEFIT FROM THE PSLF PROGRAM.
NOW IT’S YOUR TURN TO TAKE CONTROL
WACAC AS A RESOURCE FOR LEGISLATORS & THEIR STAFF

- WACAC’S +2000 ACTIVE MEMBERS
- LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS
- ANECDOTES AND EXPERIENCES
- STATISTICS
- DATA
INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

• Tell a legislator your thoughts about one of these topics

• Consider:
  • Why does this issue matter to you personally? Share your story!
  • You are the expert!
  • Be specific
GROUP ACTIVITY: STAFFER AND CONSTITUENT

1. Give name and address

2. Why does this issue matter to you personally?

3. Staffer will listen to concern

4. You will not be expected to defend your position
GET OUT YOUR PHONE!
SAVE THAT NUMBER!
OR BETTER YET...
MAKE A CALL
1) FWS.us (automatic phone dialing) - call Congress easily

2) CallYourRep.co (phone number and office address)

3) CallMyCongress.com (includes voting record, Twitter, phone, video appearances in Congress)

4) Thesixtyfive.org (scripts)

5) Resistbot. Text “resist” to 50409
WHO ARE YOUR REPS?

1. FED: COUNTABLE.ORG
   - SEN. DIANE FEINSTEIN - (415) 393-0707
   - SEN. KAMALA HARRIS - (415) 981 - 9369

2. STATE: FINDYYOUREXP.LEGISLATURE.CA.GOV

3. LOCAL: VISIT THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION
TAKE ACTION NOW!

Visit NACAC knowledge center, WACAC Advocacy Center

Join the WACAC GRAC Facebook group

Visit the non-partisan Countable.org

Text ‘Resist’ to 50409

Join a local political group
THANK YOU!

NOW GO, CHANGE THE WORLD!