

Dream Project *Media Kit*



Contact Details



We are happy to hear from you. You can easily reach us using the following contact details.



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Social Media

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Instagram: [@dreamprojectva](https://instagram.com/@dreamprojectva)

Twitter: [@dreamprojectva](https://twitter.com/@dreamprojectva)

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/dream-project-va



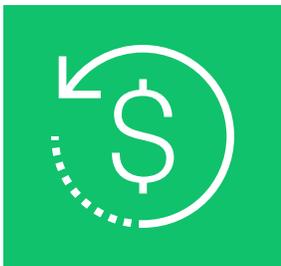
About the Dream Project



More than a decade after its founding in 2010, the Dream Project is still one of the only organizations in Virginia that focuses on educational opportunities for students who face barriers due to their immigration status.

Our mission is to empower Virginia students whose immigration status creates barriers to higher education.

We create a supportive and inclusive community where Dreamers and their families are empowered through education to achieve their full potential. Our work focuses on four key areas:



Scholarships



Mentoring



Scholar and Alumni Resources



Advocacy



Dream Project Experts

To request a quote from a Dream Project expert, please email us at hello@dream-project.org. Available for comment are:



Dr. Emma Violand-Sánchez
Founder and Board Chair

Dr. Emma Violand-Sánchez is the founder and chair of the Dream Project. She immigrated from Bolivia to Virginia unaccompanied when she was 16 to attend high school. She could not afford college, but received a scholarship to attend Radford University, where she graduated with B.S. and M.S. degrees, and later received her doctorate from George Washington University. Education is Emma's passion, and it changed her life: She has been a university professor and was the first Latina elected to the Arlington School Board (where she served a term as Chair). She earlier served as Supervisor of Programs and Services for the English Language Learners Office (PK-12) of Arlington Public Schools. Emma was founder of the non-profit Escuela Bolivia, now Edu-Futuro. For eight years, she served as a Northern Virginia Community College Board member representing Arlington County. Emma has expertise in education policy, curriculum development, family involvement, multicultural education and learning styles.



Karen Vallejos Corrales
Executive Director

Karen is a dedicated public servant and experienced advocate for the undocumented community. After witnessing the 2010 collapse of the federal DREAM Act, she was one of the founding members of the Dream Project and one of the first recipients of the Dream Project scholarship. Karen earned her juris doctorate from Washington and Lee Law School and has worked extensively in advocacy for immigrant rights and educational equity.



Marie Price
Scholarship Committee Chair

Marie Price is a Professor of Geography and International Affairs at the George Washington University. She is a migration scholar interested in integration policies and transnational linkages who has worked extensively in Latin America. In 2016 she became the President of the American Geographical Society, the oldest geographical society in the U.S. In 2012, she joined the Board of the Dream Project. She is also a non-resident fellow of the Migration Policy Institute, a think tank that focuses on immigration. Her publications include the following books: *Migrants to the Metropolis: The Rise of Immigrant Gateway Cities* (2008), *Migrants' Inclusion in Cities* (2013), *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment and Development*, 7th ed. (2017), and *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World*, 6th ed. (2020).



Robert Remes
Treasurer

Bob has been an immigration lawyer for over 40 years and has helped thousands of people receive immigration status through family relationships, employment, asylum, DACA, special immigrant juvenile status, and cancellation of removal. He has represented clients from a wide range of countries, including Pakistan, Iran, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and has appeared before immigration courts and CIS offices throughout the United States. Bob graduated from Cornell University and received his law degree from Boston University. He is a former president of the Washington, DC, chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Bob has served the Dream Project Board since 2017. Bob provides pro bono immigration advice to members of the Dream Project community and has explained immigration law and policy at many Dream Project events.



Dream Project Students
Scholar and Alumni Leadership Council

Dream Project students and alumni are available for interviews upon request. All Dream Project students have firsthand immigrant experience, and most have immigration statuses that present barriers to higher education.



At the **Dream Project**, we empower Virginia students whose immigration status creates barriers to higher education through mentoring, scholarships, resources, and advocacy.

98,000

students with undocumented status graduate from public high schools in the US annually



< 10%

of high school graduates with undocumented status go on to attend college, and even fewer go on to earn a degree



84%

of our students identify the Dream Project as a crucial factor in getting to and succeeding in college

PROGRAMS



MENTORING

We match immigrant high school seniors with mentors to prepare them for college admissions and a successful college career. Sessions are virtual and free of cost.



SCHOLARSHIPS

We award \$3,500 in renewable college scholarships annually to 100 high-achieving students, all of whose immigration status creates barriers to higher education.



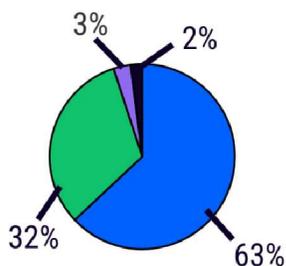
SCHOLAR RESOURCES

We connect students with the tools to thrive in college - emergency funds, mental health resources, support through the transition into college, and guidance on professional development.

OUR FINANCIALS

BUDGET

\$331K DIRECT STUDENT AID
\$190K PROGRAMS & ADVOCACY
\$643K TOTAL BUDGET



FUNDING SOURCES

- Individuals
- Foundations
- Faith Organizations
- Corporations

OUR GOALS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



Increase the Dream Project scholarship amount annually



Pilot a certified vocational training scholarship program



Strengthen our core programs and partnerships

"As a first-generation, low-income DACA student, college seemed unattainable due to my financial circumstances. Thanks to the generosity of the Dream Project, I have been able to realize my dreams of graduating college. None of this would have been possible without your help. My gratitude for your contribution to my future success is immeasurable."

-Milenia, Dream Project alumni

Key Issues



The following are just a few of the challenges faced by students with undocumented status, the key population served by the Dream Project:

- ✓ **Students without documentation are blocked from accessing federal funding and grants, including FAFSA**
[Read more from the [Department of Education](#)]
- ✓ **Current college-aged students are ineligible for DACA and other forms of relief, in growing numbers.**
[Read more from [US Citizenship & Immigration Services](#)]
- ✓ **More likely to be vulnerable to unprecedented emergencies, including Covid 19.**
[Read more from the [World Health Organization](#)]
- ✓ **Difficulty accessing adequate employment opportunities.**
[Read more from [Columbia University](#)]
- ✓ **Unfamiliarity with US college admission processes.**
[Read more from the [Urban Institute](#)]
- ✓ **Feelings of fear, hopelessness, and discouragement in response to myriad barriers to achievement.**
[Read more from the [American Psychiatric Association](#)]



Student Quotes

anonymous to protect privacy



"When I received the Dream Project Scholarship... I sat in silence for a good 20 minutes. I couldn't believe it—I was overcome with happiness! I felt as if it was a sign from the universe telling me that I was headed in the right direction."

"I have learned a lot and developed a lot of skills since moving to college and the Dream Project had a LOT to contribute to it in different ways, so I am extremely grateful for the amazing community I got involved with."

"The Dream Project provided mentorship on a number of things but most importantly provided support to another frazzled first-gen student determined to achieve higher education but unsure how to proceed."



100

renewable Dream Project scholarships are granted each year to students in Virginia whose immigrant statuses present barriers to higher education.



100+

alumni of the Dream Project have access to programs providing financial support, mental health services, networking opportunities, and more.

"I am eternally grateful for the Dream Project mentors that have encouraged me, fought for my rights, and lifted me up during many battles that are all too familiar within the immigrant community. "

"As a first generation, low income DACA student, college seemed unattainable due to my financial circumstances. Thanks to the generosity of the Dream Project, I have been able to realize my dreams of graduating college. None of this would have been possible without your help. My gratitude for your contribution to my future success is immeasurable."

"I have been a part of the Dream Project for three years now, but every year I am as amazed and overwhelmed as I was the day they first announced I was awarded a scholarship."

"I appreciate the support of The Dream Project and all the donors who in these 12 years have trusted and supported young people with a great desire to improve and continue to grow educationally regardless of our immigration status. I hope one day to be able to give back to the community and be able to return to you this great support you are giving me."

Further Reading



The following are selected publications featuring Dream Project affiliates that further demonstrate the state of inequity for immigrants in Virginia:



The Role of Immigrant Parents in Their Kids' Post-High School Education (2022)
[In-house report compiled by a Dream Project alumna]



DACA and the Differentiated Landscape for College Access: Experiences from a New Destination State (2020) *[Co-authored by Dream Project board member Marie Price for the Geographical Review]*



The ordinary lives and uneven precarity of the DACAmented (2020) *[Co-authored by Dream Project board member Marie Price and alumna Giancarla Rojas for the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies]*



Living the Dream? Virginia's Undocumented Youth and the Dream Project (2016)
[Co-authored by Dream Project board members and alumni for Virginia Journal of Education]



New Beginnings: Milenia's Story (2022) *[Written by a Dream Project alumni]*



The Sky is the Limit: Manuel's Story (2022) *[Written by a Dream Project alumni]*



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