

9th Annual Immigrant Youth Empowerment Conference: Borders Divide, Struggles Unite

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Dear Students, Parents, Educators, and Allies,

In the past year, the undocumented community has faced great struggles: sanctuary cities are in danger of being dismantled altogether, the Priority Enforcement Program was instituted this past June, and Donald Trump's inflammatory hate speech has ignited a wave of anti-immigrant sentiments throughout the nation. With this political climate, the continued work of organizations serving the undocumented immigrant community is especially important. As one such organization, the AB540 Project works to increase awareness about the undocumented struggle, and about the available legal and financial resources for undocumented students, with the ultimate goal of promoting socio-economic mobility and higher education within the undocumented community.

The AB540 Project cordially invites you to attend our:

9th Annual Immigrant Youth Empowerment Conference (IYEC) UCLA Ackerman Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, California 90095 Saturday, May 28th, 2016

> Breakfast: 8am – 9am Registration: 9am – 10am Conference: 10am – 5pm

Each year, about 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools across the United States, with more than 25,000 graduating from California alone. However, only 5-10% of undocumented high school graduates pursue higher education at two-year community colleges and four-year universities. Though legislations like the California Dream Act, Assembly Bill 540 (AB540) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) have helped increase accessibility to higher education, undocumented students are often discouraged from applying to college out of fear, legal and financial obstacles, and lack of emotional and psychological support.

The annual Immigrant Youth Empowerment Conference comprises numerous workshops to educate, empower, and to explain how undocumented youth can pursue higher education and create change to better their communities.

By attending this conference, attendees will:

- Be eligible to attend an appointment-based DACA Clinic
- Learn about different legislations affecting undocumented students, such as AB540, CA Dream Act and DACA
- Attend a wide array of workshops pertaining to education, financial and legal resources, intersectionalities within the undocumented community, mental health and student activism
- Network with different organizations that support undocumented students
- Become eligible for the annual IYEC Scholarship funded by IDEAS at UCLA

General Deadline to RSVP: To RSVP for the conference, please fill out the following form by May 16, 2016: https://goo.gl/ZTHkQj

DACA Clinic Deadline: To RSVP for the DACA Clinic, please fill out the form by **March 21, 2016**: https://goo.gl/Qgn9dJ. Please note that we can only accept the first 50 people that submit this form.

Raising awareness about resources available for undocumented students since 2004, the AB540 Project mentors high school and community college students and presents workshops across Los Angeles



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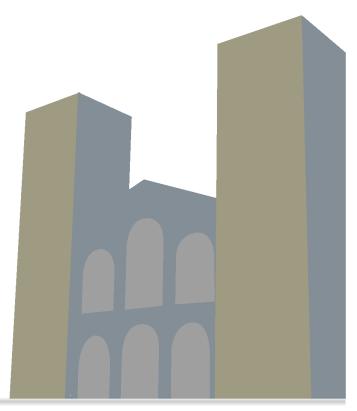
Liliana Moran

Administrative Project Director <u>Transportation Request Deadline</u>: If you are bringing a group of 25 people or more, you are eligible to submit a transportation request. Please fill out the following form by <u>April 4th 2016</u>: http://goo.gl/forms/PNECGWLZiL.

Kindly forward this invitation to other educators, students, and community members who would benefit from this event. Parents are encouraged to bring their young children and toddlers, as we will be providing daycare throughout the event.

For any questions, please email us at ideas.ab540project@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at IYEC 2016.

Sincerely, *The AB540 Project*



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