

Semillas

"They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds."

Welcome

Hello!

My name is Alejandro Martinez, and I am a graduate student at the Brown School of Social Work focusing on mental health. As an undergrad at WashU, I studied psychology and was involved on campus through ALAS, the CDI, and ResLife. This semester, I am



working with the Office of Scholar Programs, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and the Office of International Students and Scholars on increasing the resources for undocumented and DACA students.

I am originally from Waukegan, Illinois. Many of my childhood friends are undocumented and the recent policy shifts has made my passion for advocating for this group stronger. While my experiences are very different, I hope to be an additional resource for undocumented and DACA students on campus in any way I can, whether that's in an advocacy role or as an ear to listen.

The first of my projects this semester will be sending out this biweekly newsletter. It will feature info about campus and national updates on immigration policy, local resources or events, some current media articles, spotlights on movies, stories, etc., and anything else you may want to see! I hope to also have some movie nights or smaller events throughout the semester as need be.

I am physically available on Wednesdays from 9:00a to 12:00p in the Office of Scholar Programs (Women's Building) and from 12:00p to 5:00p in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (DUC 3rd Floor). If you are ever interested in talking in person, come in and say hi! We can find a space to talk.

Please feel free to reach out to me via email, too, if you have any suggestions, concerns, or just want to talk! My email is amartinezjr@wustl.edu.

DACA Update

On September 5, 2017, President Trump's Administration announced rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Following this announcement various lawsuits were filed challenging rescission of the program.

On January 9, 2018, a federal judge in California issued a nationwide order reinstating the DACA program for individuals who have already applied for and received benefits under the program. The order directs the Department of Homeland Security to post reasonable public notice and prescribe a process to resume receiving DACA renewal applications for these individuals.

As of January 11, 2018, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) DACA webpage indicates that information on renewal applications is forthcoming. Until additional information is released by USCIS, the American Immigration Lawyers Association recommends that DACA beneficiaries wait to file renewal applications in order to avoid the possibility of any confusion or delay in processing. Please also note that the order does not reinstate the DACA program for individuals who do not already possess DACA status. The Court's order will remain in place until a final judgment or other order is issued in the case.

Media Spotlight



"Beyond the Dream" gives voice to three young immigrants as they navigate the uncertainty of their twenties and legal status. Hear immigrants tell their stories in their own words, on their own terms. Explore the experiences of Alexis, Rachel, and Pratishta: three immigrants who were brought to this country at a young age, and have been temporarily granted partial—but not full—protection against deportation. "Roadtrip Nation: Beyond the Dream" is available for free on PBS.

Campus Contacts



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Call for Stories

This semester, I hope to begin to sharing students stories anonymously and without identifiable information on the CDI website. If you are interested in potentially sharing your story, we can talk about it in person or via email before taking any major steps to ensure comfortability and safety. A current Brown School student, Robert, will have his story featured online within the next week!