FY 2020 Student Services Fee Proposal - Narrative
Immigrant Student Resource Center (ISRC)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The UA Office of Early Academic Outreach (EAO) is seeking three additional years of funding from SSF to increase the Immigrant Student Resource Center’s (ISRC) current services, resources, and overall support made available to students from immigrant backgrounds. With the support of SSF funding and other fundraising efforts, the ISRC will continue to provide a sustained level of support to retain and recruit students who have DACA \(^1\) and are undocumented \(^2\). We seek additional funding to better serve the growing needs of students from mixed-status families and refugee backgrounds.

SUPPORTING THE STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT MISSION
The ISRC is a nationally recognized center (see addendum) that remains the only center of its kind among Arizona’s public universities. It is also one of only 56 centers across all U.S. colleges and universities. As a result of the SSF board’s support, the ISRC is in a unique position to meet the needs of current and incoming UA students and serve as a model for what other Arizona colleges and universities can create. As part of EAO, the ISRC directly supports the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management mission in two ways. First, our work connects to the mission of the Student Affairs division by offering undergraduate and graduate student employment, for-credit internship and volunteer opportunities that help students make the most of life beyond the classroom. Second, the ISRC’s work is aligned with the Enrollment Management division mission by supporting the recruitment, retention and graduation of students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. By training faculty and staff, offering educational events, and leading the creation of a private scholarship fund for DACA recipients (UA President’s Directed Scholarship Fund), we are creating a campus culture that helps students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds feel welcomed.

REASONS FOR MAINTAINING THE ISRC
In fall 2016, with the help of the SSF board’s funding, the ISRC opened its doors as a way to intentionally support DACA students entering the university in large numbers for the first time in UA history. At the time, DACA students were allowed to pay resident tuition rates at the university and many other AZ public colleges. Since then, the political climate continues to deteriorate around DACA students and their peers from refugee and other immigrant backgrounds. Federal policies threaten the existence of DACA and increase deportations of students and family members who are undocumented or legal permanent residents. In Arizona, the state Supreme Court ruled in April 2018 to strip away the rights of DACA students to pay resident tuition rates. As a result, most UA DACA students now pay nonresident rates, which for many meant paying triple the tuition rate in fall 2018 in comparison to their tuition rate the previous semester. Throughout this collapse of support for DACA recipients, the ISRC remains a place of sustained support and innovation for students, faculty, staff, administrators, and families from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. While the creation of the ISRC was important in 2016, the center’s existence and growth is even more essential today. To maintain and grow the center’s reach, we request support for two primary areas.

1. STAFFING THE ISRC - The ISRC maintains a level of work that matches the outreach efforts of the other UA cultural and resource centers. In order to continue growing our outreach and retention efforts and remain committed to developing student leaders, we seek funding for the following positions:

   a. **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT STAFF:** We seek to hire five (5) College Navigators and two (2) Senior College navigators. All College Navigators will provide advising and support to the UA student population, implement campus events, and facilitate training sessions and meetings with the UA President and his cabinet members. Senior College Navigators will learn additional leadership and management skills by overseeing projects, co-managing our new initiatives to support students from refugee backgrounds, and leading the center’s advisory council. The staff will engage in a total of 3,910 hours of student support.

   b. **GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS:** We seek funding for two (2) Graduate Assistants that will engage in a total of 1,360 hours of advising, curriculum development, and event planning per academic year (each at 20 hours per week). One GA will co-lead the development of training curriculum and resources that support students from immigrant backgrounds, especially students who have DACA or are undocumented. The second GA will co-lead the outreach, training development, and support services for students from refugee backgrounds. Both GA’s will supervise student staff and oversee a committee within the ISRC team.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- **26,100 DACA recipients in AZ.**
- **4,000+ DACA recipients in Pima County.**
- **DACA recipients pay nonresident tuition at the UA.**
- The ISRC created a $500,000 private scholarship fund for UA DACA students.
- Immigrant students seek “safe spaces” and “allies” as primary forms of help on college campuses.
- The ISRC creates space and trains allies as one of 56 centers of its kind in the U.S.
- The ISRC received two national awards in 3 years for its support of Latinx students.
c. **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**: We seek to fund one (1) full-time Program Coordinator that will engage in over 2,080 hours of advising, curriculum development, and event-planning. The coordinator will oversee the development and management of the center’s resources, supervise team members, lead outreach efforts to high schools, co-lead efforts to provide private scholarships to DACA students, and serve as the liaison for the center to campus and community groups. The funding amount requested matches the pay rate of other coordinators working at the UA’s cultural and resource centers.

2. **OPERATIONS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAVEL** - We seek funding to cover $19,200 in total operations, professional development, and travel expenses. These funds will allow the ISRC to continue providing 20+ campus-wide events each year that increase campus awareness among students about immigration policies and resources. The funds will also help us host 9+ training sessions that provide resources to educators in order to better support students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. We seek additional funds to offer more legal support services to students through workshops led by local and trusted immigration attorneys. We provided this service in the 2017-18 academic year because of a partnership with the UA Immigration Law Clinic. However, the Clinic is no longer able to financially support this service. We also seek to fund student’s professional development and travel to conferences because they are increasingly asked to teach about the work of the ISRC.

**DIRECT IMPACT ON STUDENTS**
The ISRC will continue to directly impact students in three ways that focus on their holistic well-being. The numbers provided represent annual estimates for the 2019-20 year. They are based on the 569 individual students and 287 individual students that we directly impacted in the 2017-18 year and fall 2018 semester, respectively.

1. We seek to connect 40+ DACA students to over $150,000 in private scholarships each semester, at least 60 students to legal support from immigration attorneys, and offer a graduation recognition ceremony to at least 90 high school and UA students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.
2. We seek to offer student employment opportunities, in which two (2) graduate students and seven (7) students will engage in career-based and leadership development learning opportunities as ISRC staff.
3. We seek to reach 150 students through classroom and information presentations, over 350 students attending guest lectures and poetry events, and at least 35 students who participate in the Immigrant Scholarship Hustle (a scholarship writing program).

While the ISRC makes a significant direct impact on students, we also make an equally significant indirect impact by training over 200 educators each year to better support students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. We estimate that each educator impacts at least 30 individual students, which leads to the ISRC’s indirect impact on 6,000 students annually. This direct and indirect approach is what helps us create a more supportive campus culture.

**ASSESSING OUR WORK**
The ISRC will continue to implement assessment efforts using tools that are compliant with SSF funding requirements. We will utilize qualitative and quantitative tools recommended by the UA Student Affairs Assessment office. We seek to use online and in-person surveys to measure the growth in the knowledge and awareness of resources among participants at our campus events. We will also meet in small-group discussions with students to measure the success of events and direct services to students, especially students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. We also seek to continue measuring the success of our staff development by ensuring that all team members develop work plans and SMART goals that are reviewed in meetings throughout the year.

**ENSURING THE LONGEVITY OF ISRC**
The ISRC values the support of the SSF funds and recognizes the need for additional support to ensure our longevity. We ensure our longevity in three ways. First, we work with campus, community, and national partners who believe in our work. Second, campus and community partners contribute to our work with money, resources and volunteers. This includes UA Mexican American Studies’ offering of office space and programmatic support from ASUA and African American Student Affairs. Third, the ISRC continues to be invited to funding opportunities from campus sources including the UA Agnese Helms Haury Seed Fund and the new UA Strategic Plan.

**SOURCES**
1. *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)* is a federal program that grants a work permit and Social Security Number to qualified immigrant youth.
2. *Undocumented* refers to people who are residing in any given country without that country’s legal documentation.