IMMIGRANT STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER: OUR STORY

The courage of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 SSF Boards and DACA & undocumented youth led to the creation of the ISRC. The themes below highlight our ambitious effort to create a campus culture where students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds can thrive.

2016-17 | CREATE A FOUNDATION

- 1 of 56 centers in the U.S. 1st in Arizona.
- Created a new space for students from immigrant & refugee backgrounds
- Opened an office. Hired a team.
- Created a logo, website & social media presence
- Served 800+ students, faculty, staff & community members.
- Trained 287 educators.
- Retained DACA students & increased DACA student enrollment

2017-18 | PROVIDE STABILITY & SOLUTIONS

- Provided stability for immigrant youth & families during DACA rescindment (9.5.17) and loss of resident tuition rates (4.9.18)
- Served 749 students, faculty & staff. Trained 269 educators.
- Created private scholarship fund & helped grant $61,000 in scholarships to retain DACA recipients
- Developed free legal consultations for immigrant students
- Co-hosted scholarship & graduation events for immigrant students
- Received national award from NASPA

2018-19 | BE RELIABLE & GROW

(Fall 2018)
- Helped grant $149,000 in scholarships to retain DACA recipients
- Received training on serving refugee students
- Received national Student Success award from ACPA Latin@/x
- Helping Pima Community College establish a center like the ISRC

(Spring 2019)
- Will help grant $149,000 more in scholarships to DACA students
- Developing curriculum on how to go to college for refugee youth

2019 & BEYOND | EXPAND SERVICES

With continued SSF funding & other resources...

- Build statewide fund to offer scholarship money to DACA students (in progress with Chicanos Por La Causa)
- Increase population of students from refugee backgrounds at UA
- Build pipeline for DACA students to transfer between Pima Community College & UA
- Stabilize FAFSA process for UA students from mixed-status families
The following quotes come from staff and students who were impacted by the ISRC.

(All individuals pictured provided permission to use their image. Pseudonyms were used to protect students’ identities.)

"I was finally able to enroll in my Spring 2019 courses today. I am very thankful to be receiving this scholarship again. It was such a huge help last semester. I definitely would not have been able to attend UofA without it."

Greisa
UA Presidents’ Directed Scholarship Recipient

"Thank you for the great news about the scholarship and for everything. It has been a big weight off my shoulders and I definitely feel the U of A backing us up now. Thank you again and have a great winter break."

Daniel
UA Presidents’ Directed Scholarship Recipient

"Thank you so much. The majority of students cited the ISRC as their highlight. Your training has helped us to uncover some growth areas and think about ways we as a unit can better support DACA and undocumented students."

Teejay Brown
Assistant Director, UA Thrive Center

"I was so moved by your workshop, and continued to think about it long after. Really appreciate the time, energy, thought, and care you put into it. Thank you!!"

Alejandra
Participant, UA Feminist Liberation & Learning Conference