

Final SSF Report - August 2019

Project Scope: Please provide a brief summary of the project being supported by the Student Services Fee. Funding from the SSF grant continues to support the existence and growth of the UA's Immigrant Student Resource Center (ISRC). The ISRC supports current and incoming students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds in two ways. First, the center supports the holistic well-being of undergraduate and graduate students by providing employment opportunities and campus events. ISRC staff also work closely with the university administration and UA foundation to provide access to private scholarships that help recruit and retain students with DACA. Second, the ISRC advances knowledge about immigration across the campus community by training faculty, staff, students, and administrators on how to effectively support students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. ISRC staff complete this by leading training events on campus, presenting at regional and national education conferences, and co-hosting a statewide conference for educators across AZ education institutions.

Outcomes: What were the goals of your proposal and were the goals met?

For the 2018-19 academic year, the ISRC sought to accomplish five goals that advance the mission of the UA Student Affairs & Enrollment Management mission. The goals and our level of achievement are described below.

Goal 1: Increase likelihood of retaining and recruiting DACA students (MET GOAL)

Through our online and in-person assessments of DACA students' needs, the ISRC staff determined that in order to recruit and retain this student population, the university would need to provide academic, career, counseling and financial support. The ISRC staff worked with the UA Admissions and Enrollment Management office to identify DACA students who then received over \$290,000 in private scholarships in the 2018-19 academic year. Additionally, through a partnership with the UA Cultural & Resource Centers, the ISRC established a system to refer students to CAPS counseling services for no cost. Finally, the staff met with every DACA student through online and in-person interactions and connected them with academic and career-readiness resources on campus.

Goal 2: Engage in support services for 75 DACA students (DID NOT MEET GOAL*)

*While the ISRC interacted with every student with DACA currently attending the university, the overall enrollment of students with DACA dropped in the beginning of the fall 2018 semester. This student population began being charged nonresident tuition rates as a result of an Arizona Supreme Court ruling in April 2018, which drastically tripled their tuition rates. While some students with DACA can access a lower 150% AZ High School tuition rate, no students with DACA can access federal and state financial aid making the university unaffordable. The current private scholarship fund being is being used to support current and incoming students. The awareness of the fund has helped increase the enrollment of students with DACA for the fall 2019 semester.

Goal 3: Meet the growing requests for training of faculty and staff (EXCEEDED)

The ISRC staff trained 266 educators in the 2018-19 academic year. The ISRC updated all training curriculum to address the ongoing changes to immigration policies and their impact on immigrant students. In order to meet the diverse needs of faculty and staff, the ISRC staff diversified their training offerings by providing introductory and advance-level sessions that help participants develop foundational knowledge and create action plans to better serve students from all immigrant and refugee backgrounds. 198 UA faculty and staff attended 10 ISRC training events and discussions during the 2018-19 academic year, including 79 members of the Thrive Center staff. 68 educators from UA and other education institutions also participated in a day-long AZ Educators Conference co-sponsored by the ISRC and ScholarshipsA-Z.

Goal 4: Meet the needs of students from other immigrant and refugee backgrounds (MEETING)

Most of the 752 individual students, staff, and faculty who attended ISRC events in the 2018-19 academic year come from various immigrant and refugee backgrounds not represented by having DACA. The ISRC updated the training curriculum to better address the needs of students from mixed-immigration status families. Additionally, the ISRC staff received training from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) on how to best serve the needs of students from refugee backgrounds and developed a draft curriculum that will be used in fall 2019 to teach youth from refugee backgrounds how to enroll and attend the UA and other colleges.

Goal 5: Support the development of five (5) undergraduate student staff (EXCEEDED)

The ISRC hired six (6) undergraduate student staff for the 2018-19 academic year.

Goal 6: Graduate Assistant will engage in 640 hours of college advising and career-based learning (EXCEEDED)

The ISRC Graduate Assistant engaged in 750 hours of college advising, career-based learning, and holistic support services for UA students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. The GA gained supervision experience and developed event-planning skills by supervising two student staff, hosting a campus-wide health and wellness event for over 178 students, and leading the implementation of a community wide immigrant graduation celebration for over 120 attendees.

Student Response: Please provide a brief summary of the impact this project has had on students including the number of students served and/or the type of service provided.

The ISRC continues to impact students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds by being the central hub to keep students updated on immigration policies and help them navigate the university campus. To assist with outreach in the community and develop a pipeline into the UA, the ISRC team worked with Pima Community College to officially launch their own Immigrant & Refugee Student Resource Center in November 2018. The ISRC also continues to inform and engage the general UA student population with events that center discussions about the different components of immigration and migration. The direct impact on students can be seen in the following services being provided by the ISRC:

- The ISRC helped connect students with DACA to over \$290,000 in private scholarships. The scholarship helps lower the cost of DACA students' tuition rates back to residency rates.
- The ISRC staff connected students to counseling services at UA CAPS by partnering with the UA Cultural & Resource Centers to cover most costs for the services.
- The ISRC collaborated with ScholarshipsA-Z, ALAS and Pueblo High School in Tucson, AZ, to implement the Immigrant Scholarship Hustle (ISH). ISH is a four-Saturday program that helped 30 immigrant high school youth identify scholarships to attend colleges, including the UA. All ISH participants applied to at least one scholarship and 20 participants enrolled in college, including three students who started at the UA in fall 2019.
- The ISRC co-hosted two (2) DACA clinics and 40 hours of individual sessions to help over 56 students complete DACA renewal applications.
- The ISRC offered three (3) health and wellness events for the campus community that provided tools for 178 students to create self- and community-care strategies. This included a writing workshop, poetry event & wellness event with therapists.
- The ISRC hosted a four-part discussion series that focused on the empowerment of immigrants and refugees and reached 142 students. The discussions were collaborations with the LGBTQ Resource Center, Binational Migration Institute, the crew from the "Advance Parole" film, and WGRC. Topics included migration, the impact of borders on communities, refugees in the U.S. education system, and how immigrant and queer identities intersect.
- The ISRC worked with the Pima IRSRC and ScholarshipsA-Z to co-host a community-wide immigrant resilience graduation event to recognize 23 graduates from the UA, PCC and local high schools who come from immigrant backgrounds.



ISRC
IMMIGRANT STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

2018-19

Below are highlights from the 2018-19 academic year that exemplify our efforts to create a campus culture where students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds can feel safe, welcomed, dignified, and thrive.

CREATED SPACES WHERE STUDENTS GROW

- The ISRC is one of 58 centers in the U.S. and one of two in Arizona.
- 6 undergraduate and 1 graduate ISRC staff members co-facilitated 10 training sessions, implemented 1 statewide educators conference, and hosted 12 campus wide events
- The Immigrant & Refugee Resource Center at Pima Community College launched in November 2018 with the help of the ISRC



SUPPORTED STUDENTS' HOLISTIC NEEDS

- The ISRC hosted 12 campus events for over 450 unique student participants that centered wellness, health, and empowerment of immigrant and refugee communities
- The ISRC connected 40+ students with DACA to over \$290,000 in private scholarships in the UA Foundation
- The ISRC partnered with UA Law School, Cultural & Resource Centers, immigration attorneys and CAPS to connect students to free counseling and legal services

”

Without all your help I wouldn't be preparing to graduate right now. I feel deeply humbled to have been helped out and to have had my situation acknowledged by you and all the members of ISRC. My family is so proud of me.

~Jonatan

”

TRAINED EDUCATORS TO BECOME ALLIES

- The ISRC student staff facilitators trained 119 UA faculty and staff who attended 10 ISRC training events and discussions during the 2018-19 academic year
- The ISRC student staff facilitators trained all members of the Thrive Center staff in January 2019 (79+ attendees)
- The ISRC co-hosted the 6th AZ Educators Conference with ScholarshipsA-Z and trained 68 educators from UA and other education institutions

