

## About Adelante Student Voices

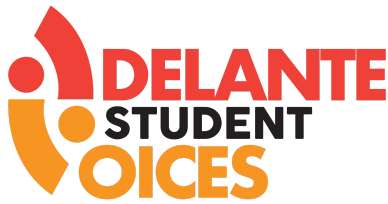
Adelante Student Voices has been supporting undocumented students in the Hudson Valley since 2016. Our mission is to provide undocumented students with the tools, resources, knowledge, and community they need to access higher education and advocate for themselves and their communities. Our work combines direct college access support, youth leadership development, community education, and advocacy to ensure that undocumented young people are not only able to pursue their educational goals but are also able to shape the policies and institutions that impact their lives.

### **Responding to the Current Moment**

Undocumented youth are navigating an increasingly uncertain environment. Recent federal challenges to state policies providing in-state tuition access to undocumented students have created new fears about whether college will remain financially accessible. At the same time, families are facing increased immigration enforcement, and young people, including minors, are being required to navigate an extraordinarily complicated immigration system. Schools and colleges no longer feel as safe due to surveillance of student activists and ICE presence in sensitive locations.

These realities intersect to diminish opportunities for undocumented young people across New York State. A young person cannot be expected to focus on college applications, financial aid, or their future while simultaneously worrying about whether they can afford college, whether their family will remain together, or whether they will have to navigate immigration court without an attorney. When an undocumented student who dreams of college does not make it there, that change not only impacts them, but robs the classroom of their perspective and contributions.

Adelante Student Voices is expanding our education, support, and community programming to meet this moment. We are available to partner with schools, community-based organizations, colleges, educators, counselors, and other institutions serving immigrant youth and families.



## Current Workshop Offerings

### **College 101 for Immigrant Students**

An introduction to the college process designed specifically for undocumented high school students. Topics can include:

- Understanding different types of colleges and universities
- College applications and admissions
- Understanding tuition and residency policies
- Scholarships and financial support
- The New York State DREAM Act
- Understanding students' rights

### **College 101 for Immigrant Parents and Families**

A family centered workshop that helps parents and guardians understand how to support their children through the college process, regardless of their own immigration status or familiarity with the United States higher education system.

The workshop can cover college applications, costs, scholarships, financial aid options, the New York State DREAM Act, college terminology, and questions families should ask colleges when supporting an undocumented student.

### **Financing College for Undocumented Students**

A workshop focused specifically on how undocumented students can build a realistic financial plan for higher education.

Topics can include the New York State DREAM Act, institutional aid, scholarships, tuition policies, community college and four year college pathways, understanding the true cost of attendance, and strategies for comparing financial options.

This workshop can be offered directly to students and families or as professional development for counselors and educators working with undocumented student populations.



## **Supporting Undocumented Students: Training for School Counselors and Educators**

Professional development for school counselors, college access professionals, teachers, administrators, and other educators who work with immigrant and undocumented students.

This training focuses on practical strategies for supporting undocumented students through college admissions and financial planning while creating school environments where students feel safe asking for assistance.

Participants will also learn how immigration status can intersect with college access, financial aid, family circumstances, and students' sense of safety and belonging.

## **New York's Educational Policy Landscape for Undocumented Students**

A training for those seeking a deeper understanding of the policies affecting undocumented students in New York State.

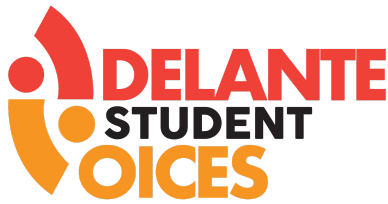
The session can examine the history and current landscape of in-state tuition, the New York State DREAM Act, financial aid access, institutional practices, and emerging federal challenges to state protections.

The goal is not simply to understand policy, but to help people identify what they can do to protect educational access and respond effectively when policies change.

This workshop can be offered directly to students or as professional development for counselors and educators working with undocumented student populations, including college professionals.

## **Undocumented Student Community Spaces**

Adelante offers virtual and in person spaces specifically for undocumented young people to connect with one another. These gatherings provide students with opportunities to express their concerns, ask questions, share resources, build community, and discuss what recent policy and immigration developments mean for their futures.



These spaces also create opportunities for students who are interested to move from processing the current moment toward collective action, advocacy, and organizing around the issues directly affecting their education and communities.

The best way for an undocumented student to join our invitation list for community events is to contact us directly or submitting an interest form for the Youth Circle. We also periodically share public gatherings on social media.

## Our Approach

Our response is rooted in a simple principle: **undocumented students deserve more than information. They deserve community, options, and the ability to imagine a future for themselves.**

Adelante's work existed before the NYS Dream Act passed, and is rooted in past struggles for in-state tuition. Even once those laws passed, implementation was challenging, especially in the small towns and rural areas where we work. We know what it looks like when students are told that higher education is not for them. We also know what becomes possible when young people, families, educators, and community organizations have accurate information and organize together.

Our role is to make sure students are not navigating these changes alone. We will continue providing direct support while building the capacity of the schools, organizations, and institutions that surround them.

### Partner With Us

Schools, community based organizations, colleges, youth programs, and community partners can invite Adelante Student Voices to provide these workshops and training sessions virtually or in person throughout the Hudson Valley and New York State.

Offerings can be adapted based on the audience, including students, parents and guardians, counselors, educators, community organizations, or institutional leadership.

Join us!