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Boxed In: The Untold Story of the Undocumented College Student

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BOXED IN

The Untold Story Of The Undocumented Student

This ten minute film will address an educational issue that is very much alive in our local community. SMU will be positioned as a leader in education by opening up discussion to a growing concern affecting many of our Dallas area students, Texas, and our Nation as a whole. As students, we will receive the valuable experience that comes with managing a successful project from start to finish, as will be with the planning, implementation, and culmination of our project, "Boxed In". We will measure the success of our project by counting the number of times our film is viewed and following the ongoing discussion in our blog.

There are approximately 1.2 million undocumented students attending U.S. schools. Each year, 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools. Though no fault of their own, they face unique barriers in their academic, personal, and professional lives. They come from various parts of the world and arrived to the United States as children. They cannot pursue careers that require state licensing, background checks or Social Security Numbers (nursing, law, teaching, etc.), regardless of having received their degrees in these fields from accredited universities in the U.S. For the large majority of them there is NO pathway to residency. We are continually outsourcing jobs due to lack of professionals in certain areas. We have the very talent we look for in our own backyards yet not many Americans know about it!



A UCLA student stages a protest calling for comprehensive immigration reform.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact any of our team members:

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We strongly believe that through this ten minute short film, SMU will be positioned as a leader in education by being at the forefront of discussion to a growing concern affecting many of our Dallas area students, Texas, and our Nation as a whole.

Student Research Team:

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DREAM ACT

What it is:

The DREAM Act ensures that the United States benefits from keeping the best and brightest students in the country by allowing them to become productive contributors to the country's economy.

It is a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation that responds to the demographic realities of American society by acknowledging the potential contributions of some of our nation's most talented, dedicated, and patriotic youth. This piece of legislation ensures that no child in American is denied their dream of having a better life if they are willing to work for it.

The DREAM Act would require that certain undocumented students obtain a higher education or join the U.S.' armed forces if they wish to earn a path to legalization.



Requirements:

Undocumented students eligible for earned legalization must have resided in the U.S. for more than five years, been brought to the U.S. prior to the age of 16, have no criminal records, and have successfully graduated from a four-year U.S. high school. They would then be required to attend an institution of higher education or join the U.S. armed forces to obtain conditional residency and subsequent permanent legal residency. **It provides zero benefits for immigrants who are not already here or who have lived in the US for less than five years.**

It applies only to those students who meet the above criteria. **Conditional resident status will not be granted to the students' parents or other family members.** In addition, strict guidelines for high performance are required for qualifying people to retain their status as conditional residents.

Within a six-year time span, the young students must prove their merits and earn permanent residence. The qualified person must have completed a two-year college, two years of credits in a four-year college program, or have served in the U.S. armed forces for at least two years.

What's in it for us?

Requiring students wishing to legalize their status to obtain higher education as one venue, will increase the economic strength of each state and nation. The DREAM Act completes the initiatives already spearheaded in eleven states that have passed legislation to allow undocumented students who meet certain criteria to attend that state's public colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates.

America has a rich history of educating and retaining the best minds in the world. The DREAM Act provides an educated, multilingual workforce for U.S. labor markets and the U.S. armed forces, as well as a future tax base of highly educated residents.

List of websites—> do we need permission???

