

2010

Boxed In: The Untold Story of the Undocumented College Student

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Recommended Citation

Balderas, Daniela; Burgos-Soto, Erik; Tudon, Leticia; and Nieto, Teresita, "Boxed In: The Untold Story of the Undocumented College Student" (2010). *Big iDeas 2010 Spring Updates*. 3.
https://scholar.smu.edu/big_ideas_2010_spring/3

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BOXED IN:

The Untold Story of The Undocumented College Student



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THE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT

- 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** obtain financial aid (many grants, scholarships, loans, etc....) from many institutions of higher education.
- 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.
- They **cannot** obtain a United States issued Drivers License or I.D.
- They **cannot** lawfully obtain a job.
- They are at the mercy of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E) with a constant fear that they can be deported at any time.
- For the large majority of them there is **NO pathway to residency!** (Regardless of the numbers of years they have been living in the US.)

A BRIEF HISTORY: UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN TEXAS

- 1982 - Plyer v. Doe: Supreme Court rules that K-12 education should be provided without regards to country of origin and immigrant status.
- 2000 - Dallas & Houston Community Colleges start a pilot program for in-state tuition for immigrant students.
- 2001 – In June the 77th Texas legislature passes H.B. 1403 (Noriega Bill) with the following requirements for instate tuition:
 - ✓ 3 years residing in Texas
 - ✓ Graduation from a Texas high school or a GED
 - ✓ Signature of affidavit with the intent to become a citizen when the opportunity arises.
- 2005- 79th Texas legislature passes S.B. 1528: Opens in-state to ALL individuals who have lived in the U.S a significant part of their lives (international students)

In a 40-year span:

High School Graduate
\$1.2 Million

Bachelor's degree
\$2.1 Million

Master's degree
\$2.5 Million

Contributed
\$462,560

in taxes and welfare annually



ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Reduce cost of recruiting foreign professionals

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- According to the US Department of Commerce, a high school graduate earns \$1.2 million in a 40-year span compared to **\$2.1 million for a person with a Bachelor's degree.**
- A person with a master's degree has an average earning of **\$2.5 million in a 40-year span** (Economics and Statistics Administration, Census Bureau. (2002) Available: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-210.pdf>)
- Therefore, a single person with a bachelor's degree who earns an average \$60,000 of taxable income will contribute \$11,564 to taxes and welfare annually; in a 40-year span he/she will have **contributed \$462,560** (2006 Tax Table. Available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040tt.pdf>).
- Why is addressing this educational issue important? It would **reduce the cost of recruiting foreign professionals**, as processing times for visas range from one to three years, not including the time spent for acculturation and learning the language.
- We have the very talent we look for in our own backyards yet not many Americans know it!

BOXED IN

What?

- 10 minute short film documentary
- 3 stories (all from local Dallas-area)
 - Community college
 - Undergrad
 - Recent college grad

Why?

- Negate the common stereotypes.
- Present the economic benefits we are missing out on.
- Brief history of DREAM act history

How we are using planning grant?

- Legal expenses
- Research
- 2 flip cameras
- Partner with Meadows students and other on /off-campus resources.
- Create and maintain a website host with blog to upload final film.