When immigrant-origin students succeed, colleges, universities, local communities, and the economy succeed alongside them.”

Miriam Feldblum, Executive Director, Presidents’ Alliance
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENTS’ ALLIANCE
CO-CHAIRS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Greetings! It has been another active and impactful year at the Presidents’ Alliance. Our Alliance continues to be a critical resource that activates the collective voice of over 500 college and university presidents and chancellors on the immigration issues impacting our students, campuses, and communities. Over the past year, we have developed closer working relationships with key offices and staff members in the White House and in the departments of Homeland Security, State and Education, which now look to the Alliance for policy expertise, advocacy and messaging support. We have also established closer ties with business and immigrant and refugee serving organizations and charitable funders who share our goal of enacting sensible, welcoming immigration policies, including the ability of Dreamers and others already present in our country to gain lawful status.

We have much to celebrate, even as we look forward to the challenging work ahead. Listed below are just some of the ways we have made noteworthy progress this past year in bringing together a range of partners with higher education leaders to advocate for our collective goals.

- Staunchly defended DACA and undocumented students in the courts, and through engagement in the rule-making process with the Biden Administration.
- Advocated for a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and other undocumented youth and community members with Congress.
- Successfully engaged the Administration to implement many of our recommendations to welcome and support undocumented, international, refugee and other immigrant students and scholars on our campuses.
- Affirmed the value of international students and worked with partners and the Administration to improve visa policy and processing.
- Launched a new initiative to increase refugee students’ access to U.S. higher education.
- Collaborated with other higher education organizations on sign-on letters, resources, and events.
- Highlighted the intersections of immigration status and racial equity for immigrant students in the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, and continued to advocate for better policies for Black, Asian, Brown and other immigrants who are disproportionately affected by our broken immigration system.

We know that reforming our nation’s immigration laws will not be easily achieved, but we are optimistic that working in partnership with others to marshal the facts, arguments and personal stories about how our students and alumni are strengthening our country is making a difference. Looking ahead, we see possible narrow pathways for federal reform, including for lawful status for Dreamers and other undocumented individuals, for policies to recruit and retain international students, and for an increase in refugee admissions.

We will be working to capitalize on these opportunities. We also are documenting how higher education access and equity for immigrant students varies by state, and are bringing attention to the best practices and policies for supporting such students.

Our work would not be possible without the support and engagement of our members and the generosity of our funders and partners.

With your continued support, the Presidents’ Alliance will work relentlessly to inform stakeholders about immigration priorities, organize members and coalitional partners around the issues that matter, and mobilize resources to advocate with and alongside our undocumented, international, refugee, and other immigrant students.

Thank you for being a part of our Alliance!

Louis Caldera  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee  
Senior Adviser, Presidents’ Alliance  

Elsa Núñez  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee  
Eastern Connecticut State University  

Nancy Cantor  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee  
Chancellor, Rutgers University - Newark  

Miriam Feldblum  
Executive Director  
Presidents’ Alliance  

CO-CHAIRS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENTS’ ALLIANCE
CO-CHAIRS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
We provided technical assistance to 60+ campuses, state policy makers, nonprofits, and other organizations and delivered webinars, trainings, FAQs, and toolkits, including legal FAQs for campuses on experiential and funding opportunities for undocumented students and our updated report with New American Economy, *Undocumented Students in Higher Education*. We held specialized trainings for colleges and universities on issues related to undocumented students and their higher education and career access and equity.

31 members-only conversations, rapid response briefings and webinars on critical issues – all with specialized resources.

6,000+ registrants for our briefing, *Will International Students Return in Fall 2021? A Vital Resource at Risk.*

80 media hits for the Presidents’ Alliance and 15 press releases on our major issue areas.

The Higher Ed Immigration Portal had 73,400 page views and 27,400 users across all 50 states and D.C. and about 120 countries in nine months.

979 registrants and 703 institutions and organizations represented in our briefing, *Will International Students Return in Fall 2021? A Vital Resource at Risk.*
Presidents’ Alliance Steering Committee member and Antioch President Jane Fernandes at July 2021 Capitol Hill Press Conference calling for the passage of Dream legislation.

ORGANIZE

We collaborated closely with our members and partners, our advisory groups, and directly impacted students and practitioners, along with 30+ higher education organizations, business groups, advocacy organizations, and nonprofits whose interests overlap with ours. We organized dedicated meetings with other higher ed organizations and the incoming administration on higher ed immigration priorities and held a special briefing involving presidents and chancellors and the new administration. Many of the recommendations we made then have already been implemented by the Biden administration.

MOBILIZE

In 2021, we accelerated our advocacy efforts on behalf of Dreamers, international students, other immigrant students, and refugees. We developed comprehensive legislative recommendations for the new Congress and Administration regarding immigrant students in higher education and published legislative and agency recommendations for restoring U.S. competitiveness for international students.

Organized over 60 organizations and institutions in support of college and university sponsorship of refugee students.

In less than 24 hours, 60 institutions joined the Presidents’ Alliance and signed onto an amicus brief, led by United We Dream, in support of DACA.

Coordinated more than 150 higher education institutions to support amicus brief in support of Optional Practical Training (OPT) for international students.

Facilitated monthly meetings since August to discuss resources and share initiatives to support Afghan parolees on campuses.

REASONS TO CELEBRATE:

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVOCACY SUCCESSES

We achieved positive visa policy and processing changes:

✓ Priority visa processing for students in advance of the fall 2021 academic term.
✓ Waiving visa interviews where practical.
✓ Restoring consular guidance to help students acquire visas without being subjected to speculative determinations about their future intent.

Stopped the threat of pending regulations that would have deterred prospective international students, including:

✓ Changes for duration of status proposed by the Trump administration.
✓ H-1B wage prioritization requirements that would have made it more difficult for recent international graduates to work in the U.S.
✓ Attempts to eliminate optional practical training.

39 Presidents’ Alliance letters, comments, and templates/toolkits advocating for DACA, OPT, Dream legislation, and other issues.

16 policy briefs, guides, and FAQs to highlight key policies, improve support, and empower advocates.

Coordinated comments and resources to the Proposed Rule to Fortify DACA and 38 colleges, universities, and systems submitted comments.

Numerous engagements with congressional offices and agency staff.

Legal victories in the H-1B and OPT cases.
SPOTLIGHT: HIGHER ED IMMIGRATION PORTAL

The Higher Ed Immigration Portal, launched in March 2021, brings together a coalition of national, state, and local partners to better support immigrant and international students. A dynamic and living resource, the Portal integrates data, policy analysis, and resources about DACA and undocumented, refugee, other immigrant, and international students to:

- Fuel change at the state and campus level
- Support federal immigration reform
- Build a diverse coalition of partners and stakeholders advocating alongside students
- Convene partners and contributors that produce relevant resources, showcases their work, and sustains this network

The Portal’s Theory of Change identifies the key challenges addressed by the initiative, our guiding principles, the process to effect change, key stakeholders, and desired outcomes (see next page for Theory of Change).

The Portal’s partners and contributors include leaders and experts in higher education and immigration fields, stakeholders representing campus leaders and impacted students, and national and local organizations.

KEY DATA

The Portal has proven to serve as an useful policy intervention tool, with higher education institutions and policymakers across the country relying on its analysis and resources, including:

- State scans of four key state policies for all 50 states and D.C.
- Top 5 State Pages by Views:
  - Texas
  - Georgia
  - California
  - Virginia
  - North Carolina
- Data on undocumented, first and second-generation immigrant, international, and refugee students

FEATURES

- Number of undocumented, international, and immigrant-origin students by state
- Analysis of Higher Ed-related Immigration Federal Policies
- Tracker of 50 State Policies on In-State Tuition, State Financial Aid, Professional Licensure, and Driver Licenses for undocumented students
- Effective Practices for Colleges & Universities
- Student and alumni Narratives

THEORY OF CHANGE

The HIGHER ED IMMIGRATION PORTAL is addressing gaps in awareness and building coalitions with relevant stakeholders to advance policy reform according to the following THEORY OF CHANGE:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WE BELIEVE:

1. HIGHER EDUCATION IS A CRITICAL PATHWAY TO BUILDING THE AMERICAN TALENT POOL.
2. IMMIGRATION IS INTERSECTIONAL.
3. NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLICY ENVIRONMENTS ARE BEST WHEN INCLUSIVE.

THE CHALLENGE

- Fragmentation of stakeholders working on the intersection of immigration and higher education
- Decline in the global appeal of the U.S. as a destination for educational and professional advancement
- An outdated immigration system presents barriers for immigrants and needs to be updated
- Immigration laws present barriers for immigrants. Our immigration system needs to be updated

OUTCOMES

1. STATES AND CAMPUSES EXPAND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION REGARDLESS OF A STUDENT’S IMMIGRATION STATUS.
2. U.S. WELCOMES AND RETAINS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.
3. HIGHER EDUCATION IS A RESETTLEMENT PATHWAY FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS.
4. AWARENESS OF THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF IMMIGRANT AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Students | Colleges & Universities | Higher Ed Associations | Advocates | Multilateral Organizations
U.S. Congress | Governor Offices | State Legislatures | Government Agencies | Public/Media | Philanthropy
More than 10 National and State-level Portal Partners and Contributors

THE SOLUTION

The HIGHER ED IMMIGRATION PORTAL is building coalitions with relevant stakeholders to advance policy reform according to the following THEORY OF CHANGE:

COALITION BUILDING

- Convenes partners and contributors that produce relevant resources, showcases their work, and sustains this network

CASE MAKING THROUGH EVIDENCE

- Centralizes data, research, and storytelling on undocumented, refugee, other immigrant students in one location

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

- Advances communication and engagement strategies to establish the Portal as a trusted source of information

POLICY CHANGE

- Becomes one of the main policy intervention tools to advance immigration and higher ed reform

See Note for Sources and More Background Information
In May 2021, the Presidents’ Alliance, with partners, designed a college and university sponsorship program that would significantly increase refugee student entry into the U.S. to pursue higher education. The process brought together current and former refugee students, leaders of refugee resettlement, higher education institutions, philanthropic organizations, and experts in advocacy, international education, and student admissions to develop a robust policy framework and program model for university sponsorship of refugee students.

Forced displacement has reached historic levels. Among the displaced are hundreds of thousands of students dreaming about continuing their education, but while 39% of students are able to access higher education worldwide, only 5% of refugees ever enroll in higher education programs. As the global refugee crisis continues to grow, now is the moment for the U.S. to expand not only refugee admissions, but also to create a complementary education pathway through university sponsorship.

### Existing Pathways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F-1 VISA BARRIERS:</th>
<th>Refugees are admitted to the U.S. through existing refugee definitions, vulnerability based resettlement criteria and vetting.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Need to show financial support for length of program</td>
<td>Resettled refugees who arrive via these categories may seek to access higher education after they have arrived in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No a durable solution for protection - student must show intention to return to their home country</td>
<td>• P-1 (Priority 1): Individuals referred by the UNHCR, a U.S. embassy, or certain NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limited access to permanent residences and work authorization</td>
<td>• P-2 (Priority 2): Groups of special humanitarian parole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Less than 1% of refugees worldwide are resettled</td>
<td>• P-3 (Priority 3): Family reunification cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No immediate pathway to education - focused on economic self-sufficiency via employment within 90 days of arrival</td>
<td>P1-P3 BARRIERS:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PROPOSED NEW COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PATHWAY

Refugee students would enter the U.S. through a UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Selection criteria would be based on academic qualifications and potential. To be eligible, students would need to meet the refugee definition.

If you’re going to be a great institution of learning, you have to have an open and clear policy of tolerance, and of generosity. And to open your doors to refugees is... a moral imperative on the part of universities.”

Leon Botstein, President of Bard College

---

The report *University Sponsorship of Refugee Students: Initiative on Increasing U.S. Education Pathways for Refugee Students* has been covered by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, the *Pil News*, and other outlets.
WHAT IS UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP?

University or college sponsorship of refugee students is an education pathway for refugee students to be admitted as a student into a U.S. higher education institution (HEI) and as a refugee into the U.S. with a path to permanent residence.

THE RESPONSE CAMPAIGN

The “RESPONSE” Campaign refers to “Refugee Sponsorship for Education,” and is an effort to spread awareness and education about university sponsorship of refugee students. Our campaign responds to the challenge and engages colleges and universities to provide an education pathway for refugee students to study, resettle, and obtain legal permanent residence in the U.S. To learn more about how your institution can engage in the RESPONSE Campaign, check out this toolkit!

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP AT OUR DECEMBER 2021 LAUNCH EVENT

Deputy Assistant Secretary Sarah Cross, State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), stated: “We strongly believe that a university-sponsorship program has great potential to expand refugee access to higher education in the U.S. and to meaningfully leverage the involvement of U.S. college and university communities in the welcome and integration of refugee students.”

SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

We are deeply grateful to the many member institutions that contribute to the Presidents’ Alliance through our voluntary annual institutional contribution program. Without your individual leadership and commitment, the Alliance would not exist. We also extend our gratitude to the individual donors who stepped forward to support the Alliance and our work.

We are immensely grateful to the foundations and funders who believe in the importance of the Alliance and in the promise of higher education leaders coming together to support undocumented, immigrant and international students.

By not only giving refugees scholarships or finances, but also by making it easier for them to get documents, it will help refugees around the world. I am a strong believer in education because I know education not only opens doors for refugees, but gives them hope. It’s no longer a time where refugees should be secluded from the rest of the world. It is time for all of us to take action.

-Ding Manyang, George Washington University, South Sudan and Kakuma refugee camp

"The proposed University sponsorship program is important. It will make it easier for refugees to achieve their dreams… The perspective refugee students bring to colleges, universities, and workplaces is unique. We bring our resilience, our positive outlook in life, and our thirst to learn and generally do better."

-Athiel Mading, Lehigh University, refugee from South Sudan

The following foundations and funders have supported us and play a key role in propelling our success:

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Anonymous Donor (2)
Beth Midrash Harav Fund
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
ECMC Foundation
Evan J. Segal
FWD.us and FWD.us Education Fund
G. Barrie Landry
The Kresge Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Open Society Policy Center
Shapiro Foundation
Walder Foundation

Thank you!
MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

PRESIDENTS’ ALLIANCE MEMBER INSTITUTIONS BY CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROL

Special Focus 5.8%
Doctrinal 27.1%
Masters 27.9%
Baccalaureate 22%
Associate’s 18%

533 Institutions

3 Special Focus 28
71 Doctoral 73
71 Masters 72
11 Baccalaureate 106
94 Associate’s 2

Public Private

24 NEW MEMBERS JOINED IN 2021

43 STATES, D.C. & PUERTO RICO

46% INCREASE IN OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS
In 2021, the Presidents’ Alliance launched an Affiliate Partners program for organizations that are aligned with our mission and interested in the benefits of a more formal connection with the Presidents’ Alliance.

**AFFILIATE PARTNERS**

**T**
- TCS Education System
- Teachers College, Columbia University
- Texas A&M University, San Antonio
- Texas Lutheran University
- Texas State University
- The Alamo Colleges
- The Catholic University of America
- The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
- The College of Saint Rose
- The College of Wooster
- The Cooper Union
- The Evergreen State College
- The George Washington University
- The New School
- The Ohio State University
- The University of New Orleans
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Three Rivers Community College
- Towson University
- Toysta Technological Institute at Chicago
- Transylvania University
- Trevecca Nazarene University

**U**
- Union Institute & University
- University of Alaska Southeast
- University at Albany
- University of Arkansas
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Merced
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of California System
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Colorado System
- University of Connecticut
- University of Dayton

**V**
- Vanguard University
- Vassar College
- Vermont College of Fine Arts
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Wesleyan University

**W**
- Wabash College
- Wake Forest University
- Walla Walla Community College
- Warner University

**Y**
- Yakima Valley College
- Yale University

---

Southern New Hampshire University
Southern Oregon University
Southern University and A&M College
Southwest Minnesota State University
Southwestern University
Springfield Technical Community College
St. Catherine University
St. Cloud State University
St. Edward's University
St. John's University
St. Lawrence University
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Norbert College
St. Olaf College
St. Olaf College
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Norbert College
St. Thomas University
Stanford University
State Center Community College District
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stockton University
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY New Paltz
Swarthmore College

University of Denver
University of Hawai'i
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of La Verne
University of Lynchburg
University of Mary Washington
University of Maryland Baltimore
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Memphis
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Michigan-Flint
University of Minnesota
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Texas
University of North Texas at Dallas
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania

University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of the District of Columbia
University of the Incarnate Word
University of the People
University of the Sciences
University of the Southwest
University of the West
University of Utah
University of Washington
University of Washington System of Maryland
Utah State University

Warren Wilson College
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
Webber State University
Wellesley College
Wells College
Women's College
Western Carolina University
Western Connecticut State University
Western Illinois University
Western Kentucky University
Western Michigan University
Western New Mexico University
Western Oregon University
Western Washington University
Westfield State University
Westminster College
Wheaton College
Whitman College
Whittier College
Whitworth University
Wilbur Wright College
William Jessup University
William Paterson University
William Rainey Harper College
Williams College
Winston-Salem State University

College Track
EnglishUSA
IES Abroad
Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Jesuit Refugee Services, USA
Refugee & Migrant Education Network
TheDream.US
World Education Services (WES)
ADVISORY GROUPS

FEDERAL POLICY ADVISORY TABLE

The Federal Policy Advisory Table, composed primarily of federal relations officers of member institutions, provides early input, feedback, guidance, and advice on the Alliance’s federal policy priorities and advocacy. Membership in the Federal Policy Advisory Table does not indicate endorsement of the Presidents’ Alliance advocacy, positions, or statements.

LEGAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Council provides input, insights and recommendations on all types of legal issues and litigation actions that the Presidents’ Alliance should pursue and support as part of its mission to support undocumented, other immigrant, refugee, and international students and scholars in higher education. Membership in the Legal Advisory Council does not indicate endorsement of the Presidents’ Alliance advocacy, positions, or statements.

STUDENT STRATEGY TABLE

The Student Strategy Table, a group of student leaders from undocumented, refugee, other immigrant, and international student communities, helps the Presidents’ Alliance by ensuring our work and objectives are informed by and responsive to the priorities, needs, experiences, and expertise of those who are directly impacted by immigration policies. Membership in the Student Strategy Table does not indicate endorsement of the Presidents’ Alliance advocacy, positions, or statements.

STAFF

PRESIDENTS’ ALLIANCE STAFF

Oscar Bahati, Project Associate, Initiative on U.S. Education Pathways for Refugee Students

Luz Bertadillo Rodríguez, Project Manager, State and Campus Policy Initiatives

Rajika Bhandari, Senior Advisor

Miriam Feldblum, Executive Director

Emily Fine, Director of Membership, Strategic Partnerships, and Operations

Cezanne Hayden-Dyer, Project Associate

Christian Penichet-Paul, Director, Higher Ed Immigration Portal

Jose Magaña-Salgado, Director of Policy and Communications

Laura Wagner, Project Manager, Initiative on U.S. Education Pathways for Refugee Students

Jill Welch, Senior Policy Advisor

PRESIDENTS’ ALLIANCE STUDENT FELLOWS

Maria Lopez Zamudio

Tatiana Estrada

Maria Lopez Zamudio

Tatiana Estrada
JOIN OUR MOVEMENT

What began as a founding group of 29 members in December 2017 has grown to more than 500 presidents and chancellors across 43 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. And we’re still growing! If you would like more information about how to join as either a member institution or an affiliate partner, please contact info@presidentsalliance.org.

The Presidents’ Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational and advocacy organization that brings college and university presidents and chancellors together around the immigration issues that impact our students, campuses, communities, and nation. We work to advance just immigration policies and practices at the federal, state and institutional level that are consistent with our heritage as a “nation of immigrants” and the academic values of equity and openness.

There’s power in numbers in creating and establishing change through policy. I’m grateful for the Presidents’ Alliance because it works with higher education institutions to bring about this change for immigrant students.”

Ewaoluwa Ogundana, ’21, Trinity Washington University
"The U.S. advances when we remain true to our heritage as a land of opportunity for those who dream of a better life for themselves and their children."

Louis Caldera,
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Senior Advisor, Presidents’ Alliance