Jessi Kalambayi of the University of Denver speaks at the SHERR event held at the University of Maryland.
85% of the Alliance’s full-time staff are first or second generation immigrants

Who We Are

The Presidents’ Alliance is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization at the intersection of higher education and immigration. We engage higher education leaders and policy makers to support forward looking immigration policies and advance effective practices.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Louis Caldera
CO-CHAIR
FORMER PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Nancy Cantor
CO-CHAIR, CHANCELLOR, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY – NEWARK

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CO-CHAIR, PRESIDENT, ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Brian Sandoval
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

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STATE POLICY MANAGER

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Rajika Bhandari
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Student Fellows

2022-2023
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STUDENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Selam Kubrom
STUDENT ACCESS FELLOW

Maria Lopez Zamudio
PROJECT ASSOCIATE

2023-2024
Christian Espinoza
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FELLOW

Roberto Morales
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FELLOW

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Undocumented/DACA Students

Refugee and Other Immigrant Students

International Students

Immigrant and International Alumni, Faculty & Staff

AT-A-GLANCE

100+
instances of technical assistance given

505K+
page views to date on the Higher Ed Immigration Portal

5,576
registrants for 12 webinars and briefings

108
media mentions

PRESIDENTS’ ALLIANCE STAFF

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With our current climate marked by continuing legal challenges to DACA, congressional deadlock on immigration, and heartbreaking events around the world, the Presidents’ Alliance would like to take a moment to recount some of our collective victories for undocumented, refugee and international students.

In 2023, the Presidents’ Alliance continued to grow our membership, create new partnerships with other organizations and government agencies to effect positive change, produce new research and resources for campuses and students, launch innovative programming, and secure funding to grow our staff to lead these initiatives. Throughout the challenges of last year, your engagement and support and that of your institutions have been crucial.

One of our landmark victories of this past year was our work in Massachusetts, where the Presidents’ Alliance collaborated with members in the state, TheDream.US partners, and local advocates to raise awareness for and pass expanded eligibility for in-state tuition and state financial aid for undocumented students. This milestone ensures that more Dreamers can access higher education at Massachusetts colleges and universities.

On our Higher Ed Immigration Portal, we launched a new state legislative tool that monitors tuition equity and licensure bills impacting undocumented, displaced, and refugee students, and provides critical information to campuses and advocates seeking to expand or defend tuition equity and licensure efforts around the country; and unveiled the new private institutions tool, which provides information on admissions, financial aid, and support services for undocumented students. The Portal itself has seen tremendous growth in reach and impact: we’ve now reached over a half million views and partner with over 30 organizations.

Last July 2023, we were thrilled to see the launch of the U.S. State Department’s Welcome Corps on Campus program. This initiative, a result of the advocacy and engagement of our members, student leaders, and partners, empowers U.S. colleges and universities to sponsor refugee students for resettlement while simultaneously welcoming them as first year students at their institutions. We are excited for the leadership of our member institutions that are enrolling the first cohort of refugee students in fall 2024.

Due to our leadership in the field, the Presidents’ Alliance is now part of two State Department funded coalitions, one tasked with implementing Welcome Corps on Campus and the other, Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement (SHERR), to expand higher ed’s engagement in refugee resettlement more broadly. SHERR’s goals are to identify and strengthen pathways for campuses to engage with resettlement agencies and community organizations; develop resources, tools, and training to support the work of the institutions; and create networks for institutions to share best practices.

We continue to pursue positive policy change for international students. Last fall, we co-led the launch of the new U.S. for Success Coalition, a growing movement with now over 30 key education organizations, think tanks, and advocates, to advance international student success and retention in the United States through a coordinated national effort. Since its launch, the coalition has started to foster supportive federal policies and practices that allow the U.S. to compete and cooperate effectively on the global stage and enable international students to stay, launch careers, and contribute to the U.S. after graduation.

Coming up soon is our second SUCCESS Convening at Rice University in March. We look forward to gathering with you and other member institutions, partners, and students to support undocumented students’ college and career equity. As we look ahead to this year, your voice and our collective engagement are more important than ever.

On behalf of the Presidents’ Alliance Steering Committee and Team, thank you for all you do, and for supporting and being part of our work.

Louis Caldera
Co-Chair, Steering Committee

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

Raj Echambadi
Co-Chair, Steering Committee President
Illinois Institute of Technology

Miriam Feldblum
Executive Director
Presidents’ Alliance

Presidents’ Alliance Staff have a moment to connect and reflect during a special visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama.
Despite legislative gridlock, the Presidents’ Alliance advanced robust policy recommendations at the federal level to support higher education access, career opportunities, and permanent protections for undocumented students. Amidst legal challenges to DACA, the Alliance mobilized campuses to defend the program.

We developed and delivered Ten Administrative Actions for Immigrant, International, and Refugee Students for the Administration to strengthen our national economy and increase access and equity in higher education.

We brought together Presidents’ Alliance members, partners, and Congressional offices to discuss the complexities of border security and its impacts on bipartisan compromises on Dream legislation, and continued to educate lawmakers about the economic and national security imperatives for including Dreamers in any compromise.

We organized rapid response briefings and resources in response to the legal threat to DACA’s future in the Fifth Circuit, and coordinated an amicus brief in defense of DACA joined by 168 colleges, universities, and organizations.

In Massachusetts, the Presidents’ Alliance joined with our members to successfully expand in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students, a significant victory for Dreamers in that state.

In Florida and Texas, we worked with partners, advocates, and members to defend in-state tuition. In Arizona and Massachusetts, we provided resources to support the effective implementation of the new tuition equity policies, and in Maryland, we joined with partners to support the successful expansion of professional licensure eligibility to undocumented individuals in the health field.

In collaboration with partners and members, the Presidents’ Alliance launched the first-ever national Community of Practice Directory of campus practitioners supporting undocumented students, along with extensive resources, expert assistance, and tools. The Directory features more than 160 profiles from 32 states, underscoring the collective strength of our community. Other highlights include the launch of the Advisory Board to support undocumented graduate and professional students and the Graduate Resource Portal, as well as a new Private Institutions Tool to track the policies and support available at private colleges and universities.
Refugee Students

Welcome Corps on Campus is an historic and profound opportunity for students and campuses. Funded by the U.S. State Department and operated by a consortium of non-profit organizations, this program offers educational pathways to the U.S. for refugee students living abroad to be admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and enroll as first year students. It also provides campuses with a national support infrastructure. In 2023, the Presidents’ Alliance was honored to be chosen as part of the consortium to implement the program, with the first cohort of students arriving in Fall 2024. The program, a result of the advocacy and engagement of our members, student leaders, refugee resettlement advocates, and partners, empowers and supports U.S. colleges and universities to play a pivotal role in resettling refugee students. We are thrilled for the Presidents’ Alliance members that are part of the first cohort, and are eager to mobilize more campuses to participate in 2024.

The Presidents’ Alliance is also honored to be in another consortium selected by the State Department to Support Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement (SHERR). With our SHERR partners, we have launched a dynamic Refugee Resource Hub on the Portal, which includes a directory for practitioners, communities of practice, resources, tools, and more.

145+ institutions and organizations joined to support the press release launch of Welcome Corps on Campus
125+ institutions joined information sessions to learn about Welcome Corps on Campus
120+ participants from 23 states joined the November 2023 SHERR kickoff event, co-hosted by the Presidents’ Alliance and consortium, at the University of Maryland, College Park

As a refugee student, I brought with me a perspective shaped by resilience, strength, and the indomitable human spirit. In turn I discovered that my presence enriched the campus community, fostering a deeper understanding of the world’s complexities and the power of unity. I found a sense of belonging that transcended borders…

We’re here to bring further perspectives, diverse talents, and resilience to the campus community.

AHMED HAJ AHMED
STUDENT, HAVERFORD COLLEGE

Connecting Campuses to Refugee Student Initiatives webinar, 06/14/2023

In partnership with Duolingo English Test, the Presidents’ Alliance released the Do You Know Who Your Refugee Students Are? Mapping and Understanding Displaced Students on U.S. Campuses report. Despite the increasing number of refugee students, both globally and in the U.S., there is a significant lack of data concerning their pathways to higher education. The report estimated that in 2022/23, upwards of 54,060 F-1 students in the United States were in the potential pool of refugee students in the U.S., or approximately 5% of the total international student population in the U.S. that year.
International Students

As the U.S. seeks to leverage the strength of international and immigrant contributions to our knowledge-based economy, colleges and universities serve as critically important pathways to immigration for international students and facilitate their mobility and success.

In 2023, the Presidents’ Alliance partnered with the University of Massachusetts, Boston, the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate, and the Immigration Initiative at Harvard University to bring together more than 800 higher ed leaders, immigration experts, and U.S. government officials online and in-person in Boston in April 2023 for “Higher Ed Pathways to Immigration: Why it Matters.”

The Presidents’ Alliance partnered with Shorelight to issue a groundbreaking analysis on visa issuance denials and international student flows, revealing disparate outcomes, especially for students from certain African countries.

The Presidents’ Alliance co-led the launch of the U.S. for Success Coalition, a growing multi-sector coalition of over 30 members, including education, immigration, industry, and policy research organizations and think tanks. The coalition is committed to advancing international student recruitment, retention, success, and postgraduate employment pathways in the United States through a coordinated national effort.

“By 2022, the denial rate for African students had risen to 54%, indicating that just over half of all African student visas were denied as compared with 36% of Asian students and just 9% of students from Europe,” according to a report from Shorelight and the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.

“The total number of student visa denials rose between 2015 and 2022, according to a recent report by Shorelight and the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration. The group’s analysis of state department data found that the denial rate for Afghans is among the worst in the world (though students in some African and central Asian countries face similarly bad odds).”

“MY GOALS IN LIFE VANISHED”: AFGHAN STUDENTS ROCKED BY US VISA DENIALS, THE GUARDIAN, AUGUST 19, 2023

“Visa Refusals and Immigration Policies Lead to Fewer Students, FORBES, AUGUST 9, 2023

“The number of F-1 student visa denials has risen from 2015 to 2022, according to research by Shorelight and the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, published on the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, which provides data and research related to immigrant and international students.”

AFRICAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS FACE HIGH HURDLES TO STUDY IN THE U.S., NBC NEWS, JULY 28, 2023

“We want to be remembered! Afghan students rocked by US visa denials face difficult path to study, THE GUARDIAN, AUGUST 19, 2023

“The Interview of a Lifetime report revealed disparate outcomes on visa issuance denials, particularly for students from certain African countries. This report generated significant interest with over 1000 downloads, more than 900 webinar registrations, and coverage in over 21 media hits from outlets such as NBC, Forbes, and The Guardian.”
The Higher Ed Immigration Portal has become the leading go-to resource for those working to expand undocumented, immigrant, refugee, and international student access to higher education and career success in the United States; and for all seeking accurate, up-to-date information about state and federal policies related to immigration and higher education, immigrant and international student enrollments, economic data, and effective practices.

**NEW TOOLS**
- **State Legislative Tracker** – tracks pending state policy legislation on tuition equity and licensure impacting immigrant and refugee populations
- **Private Institution Tool** – provides private institutions’ policies and support services for undocumented students
- **SUCCESS Hub and Community of Practice Directory** – one-stop hub to support campuses working with undergraduate and graduate undocumented students
- **Refugee Resource Hub** – one-stop refugee-focused resource hub to empower campuses to support refugee resettlement
- **Ask an Expert** – connects users with an expert for substantive questions

**505K+ PAGE VIEWS**
As of December 31, 2023

**194K+ ACTIVE USERS TO-DATE**

**58 REPORTS AND RESOURCES PUBLISHED AND SHARED**

**32+ PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTAL**

**SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE**
Our capacity to support members, policymakers, advocates, and students at the state level has taken a leap forward with the launch of the **State Legislative Tracker** on the Higher Ed Immigration Portal. This powerful tool monitors pending state legislation affecting undocumented, refugee, and other immigrant-origin students.

The State Legislative Tracker allows users to find relevant, pending legislation in their state. Users can use the drop-down menu to filter their search by state, impacted group, or issue. Once the results appear, users can review the bill’s description, any future hearing dates, the last action on the bill, and its sponsors and can access corresponding links to the respective state legislature.

In a world that demands hours of searching across disparate corners of the internet, this portal is a game changer—a comprehensive repository fostering community, sharing laws, policies, and connecting like-minded individuals on the higher education journey of immigrant students.

GABY PACHECO
PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE DREAM.US

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"
Financials

The Presidents’ Alliance is pleased to report significant growth in 2023 evidenced by both revenues received as well as the number of member institutions joining our efforts. Many of these institutions supported our work by signing onto briefs and participating in in-person meetings and events, and contributing funds to support our work.

Supporters and Funders

2023 was a successful year for us as we expanded our staff to increase our program capacity. We are deeply grateful to the many member institutions that contribute to the Presidents’ Alliance through our voluntary annual institutional contribution program.

For our fiscal year that ended in September 2023, we received $507,514 in membership contributions from 222 institutions.

In 2023, we launched the Leadership Circle, a small group of dedicated members who are leaders in our work and committed to enhanced support of the mission of the Presidents’ Alliance:

President Michael Crow
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

President Christopher Eisgruber
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

President John J. DeGioia
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Chancellor Gene Block
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the following foundations and funders who have supported our work and play a key role in propelling our success:

Anonymous Donors (3)
Abundant Futures Fund
American Council of Learned Societies
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Duolingo English Test
ECMC Foundation
FWD.us and FWD.us Education Fund
Ford Foundation
G. Barrie Landry
The Kresge Foundation
The Mellon Foundation
Lumina Foundation
MPOWER Financing
Open Society Foundations
Open Society Policy Center
Schmidt Futures
Shaprio Foundation
Shorelight
Walder Foundation
Membership by the Numbers

Distribution of Presidents’ Alliance Member Institutions by Carnegie Classification:

- **A**
  - Adelphi University
  - Adler University
  - Agnes Scott College
  - Alamo Colleges District
  - American International College
  - American University
  - Amherst College
  - Antioch College
  - Arizona State University
  - Arizona Western College
  - Arkansas State University
  - Arkansas Tech University
  - Ashland University
  - A ruptuck Community College
  - Augustana University
  - Austin Community College District
  - Avila University

- **B**
  - Babson College
  - Bard College
  - Barnard College
  - Barton College
  - Ba ruch College, CUNY
  - Bates College
  - Beloit College
  - Bennett College
  - Bentley University
  - Berea College
  - Berkshire Community College
  - Big Bend Community College
  - Borough of Manhattan Community College - CUNY
  - Boston Architectural College
  - Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis
  - Boston University
  - Bowdoin College
  - Brandeis University

- **C**
  - California Institute of Integral Studies
  - California Institute of Technology
  - California Institute of the Arts
  - California Lutheran University
  - California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
  - California State University
  - California State University, Bakersfield
  - California State University, Channel Islands
  - California State University, Chico
  - California State University, Dominguez Hills
  - California State University, East Bay
  - California State University, Fresno
  - California State University, Fullerton
  - California State University, Long Beach
  - California State University, Los Angeles
  - California State University, Monterey Bay
  - California State University, Northridge
  - California State University, Sacramento
  - California State University, San Bernardino
  - California State University, San Marcos
  - California State University, Stanislaus
  - Calvin University
  - Cambridge College
  - Cape Cod Community College
  - Capital Community College
  - Capital East Region, Connecticut State Community College System
  - Carleton College

* Associate’s include institutions that grant Associate Degrees only and those that grant Associate’s and Baccalaureate Degrees
** Special Focus includes all Institutions classified as Special Focus Four-Year Institutions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER INSTITUTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia University in the City of New York</td>
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<td>Columbus State Community College</td>
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<td>Community College of Beaver County</td>
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<td>Community College of Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Community Colleges of Spokane</td>
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<td>Concordia University Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut State Colleges and Universities</td>
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Rutgers University - Newark
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Sacramento City College
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Saint Joseph's University
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Saint Xavier University
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San Jose City College
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Santa Clara College
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Sarah Lawrence College
Saybrook University
School for International Training
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
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SUNY New Paltz
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TCS Education System
Teachers College, Columbia University
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Texas Lutheran University
Texas State University
The Catholic University of America
The Chicago School - California Inc
The Claremont Colleges
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 Michigan
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
Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago
Transylvania University
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Union Institute & University
University at Albany
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University of California Davis
University of California Irvine
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University of California, Berkeley
University of Central Missouri
University of Colorado System
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of La Verne
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University of Maryland, Baltimore County
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University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Miami
University of Michigan-Dearborn
University of Michigan-Flint
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University of North Texas
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University of Southern California
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University of the District of Columbia
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Western Connecticut State University
Western Governors University
Western Nevada College
Western Oregon University
Western Washington University
Westfield State University
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Yakima Valley College
Yale University
Affiliate Partners

The Presidents’ Alliance Affiliate Partners program is for organizations that are aligned with our mission and interested in the benefits of a more formal connection with the Presidents’ Alliance.

- 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.

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.

STUDENT STRATEGY TABLES AND GRADUATE ADVISORY BOARD
The Student Strategy Tables and Graduate Advisory Board, composed of students and recent alumni from undocumented, refugee, and international student communities, help 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.

Join Our Movement

What began as a founding group of 29 members in December 2017 has grown to 557 presidents and chancellors across 42 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 national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization at the intersection of higher education and immigration. We engage higher education leaders and policy makers to support forward looking immigration policies and advance effective practices.
“The Undocumented Community of Practice Directory and Network has been an amazing asset to both my students and myself. There have been many times that I have reached out to individuals and asked about support on a problem and they have responded with not only great advice but also experience dealing with the same situation. I know that through this community of practice, my students are getting the best help and many allies on their side.

CASSANDRA LIS
GRADUATE COORDINATOR, UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY