

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Undocumented Student Support Implementation Team a

Create Date: 03/03/2022

Due Date: 04/08/2022

Submitter Name: Vanessa de Veritch Woodsic

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Phone Number: 253-692-4494

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Jimmy McCarty

Requested Amount: **\$12,018**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

In 2020 the Undocumented Student Advocacy Working Group (co-chaired by Vanessa de Veritch Woodside and Jimmy McCarty) was charged with recommending actions to be taken to put in place permanent resources and supports necessary to promote a sense of safety, belonging, and thriving for students pursuing their degrees at UWT who are undocumented, DACA recipients, and/or from mixed-status families. This charge came from the recognition that UWT does not presently have a formal set of coordinated institutional strategies, programs, or services designed to offer academic, co-curricular, or community advocacy support for undocumented students. Ultimately, the aim is to utilize these actionable recommendations to build a set of integrated protocols, programs, and accountability systems that helps these students feel heard, seen, and part of the fabric of the University. The Implementation Team (with same co-chairs) convened in 2021 intends to expand initiatives associated with five identified priority areas: campus support and advocacy, legal support, financial/administrative support; community-based engagement, and communication.

In addition to developing services and resources that benefit this unique student population, we specifically intend to create two paid part-time positions for peer advocates/campus liaisons, enhancing their academic learning with leadership and professional development. The positions will entail one-on-one advising, development and execution of relevant workshops and events in collaboration with other Peer Advisors and units, and contributing to a sense of community among students with similar experiences. (We received one-time Office of Community Partnership funding for one such paid position for the 2021-22 year.)

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

It's imperative to privilege students' voices in our work to better support **student success**. Three students served on the Working Group and are currently members of the Implementation Team. We'll establish a task force composed of student representatives who are undocumented, DACA recipients, and/or from mixed-status families to spearhead efforts to gather feedback regarding UWT student experiences, foster relationships of trust and belonging, put recommendations into action, and assess whether we've effectively accomplished our goals.

Central to our work is **community**--both in the sense of developing community among UWT students with similar experiences and challenges *and* in strengthening connections with organizations that already work with undocumented students and mixed-status families in the South Puget Sound like Proyecto MoLE and CASA/MECA at Tacoma Community College. Through creating relationships of trust and direct pathways to individuals and resources on our campus, we are likely to attract additional prospective students who are confident that they will feel welcomed, respected, and supported at UWT, regardless of immigration status. This, in turn, impacts strategic **growth** of our student population.

Our programs enable students to overcome unique obstacles that result from simultaneously navigating higher ed and immigration systems, thereby increasing retention and graduation rates. Moreover, our initiatives will offer targeted professional development and resources for post-UWT life. Our work, though, is holistic in nature. We recognize that the sociocultural climate on our campus and beyond certainly affects all students' well-being. This is even more pronounced among students who experience the precarity and uncertainty of temporary status or the potential for additional financial and familial obligations in the event of parents' deportation, for example. Through our initiatives will not only support individual student success, but foster a **culture of equity** more broadly.

Aside from the student task force, the Implementation Team will continue to meet regularly to assess progress toward achieving our goals. In addition to collecting qualitative data about student experiences, we will track the usage of peer advising hours, participation in workshops and events on and off-campus, monitor retention and graduation rates of affected communities

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

At our 2021-22 Implementation Team meetings, each subcommittee shared current progress and prioritized recommendations for the coming year. In general, the goals are to shift from a model of individual support to institutional support. In other words, rather than essentially asking students to seek out resources and support by connecting with individual faculty and/or staff members, we would like to show progress in terms of a more comprehensive and visible resources; centralized, consistent, and accurate information regarding available services and resources on- and off-campus; and formal protocols for sharing updates.

We also determined that it is essential to leverage our assets by better connecting UWT students with community organizations supporting students and/or immigrants and their families *and*—importantly—fostering a sense of trust and connectedness to UWT among middle- and high-school students and their families and students at South Puget Sound community colleges.

Among the specific goals are:

- 1) Increasing efforts to advertise and expand Undocumented Peer Advising services
- 2) Hosting Leadership Without Borders Undocu Allies Training at UWT regularly
- 3) Identifying Undocu Allies across campus units
- 4) Identifying current available legal and other community resources
- 5) Distributing branded Know Your Rights information/cards and other co-developed resource sheets on campus and at community partner sites
- 6) Hosting quarterly events/workshops with campus units and community partners
- 7) Creating online financial aid/admissions videos in English, Spanish, and potentially other languages
- 8) Developing online resources related to professional development and career prep for undocumented students
- 9) Developing a tentative in-time communications plan for emergent issues related to risk and safety and an ongoing plan for maintaining a welcoming space for undocumented students
- 10) Developing a user-friendly dedicated website that centralizes information and resources
- 11) Growing communities of support through Monarchs United, a new dedicated RSO, and specialized group counseling via PAWS
- 12) Funding and allocating dedicated DACA Renewal/Legal Assistance fund, created in 2022 thanks to Office of Community Partnerships funding (distinct from Emergency Aid)

Not only do we anticipate that the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to each priority area our group identified will promote a sense of safety, belonging and thriving for undocumented students, but that they have the potential to help UWT become a model for other educational institutions.

We've already established a vibrant community of folks across UWT units who are invested in better supporting students who are undocumented and/or from mixed-status families. The 2020 Working Group and 2021-22 Implementation Team members include students, faculty, and staff from Advising, UWT Library, Registrar's Office, Office of Undergraduate Education, Student Transitions and Success, Financial Aid, Office of Global Affairs, Academic Affairs, Student Advocacy and Support, Legal Pathways/OCP, Center for Equity and Inclusion, Student Life, Campus Safety and Security, Advancement, School of Social Work & Criminal Justice, and School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences.

Through previously established connections, our team also already collaborates with Proyecto MoLE, College Success Foundation, and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. We intend to strengthen and formalize partnerships with other local organizations including Tacoma Community House, Mi Centro, Korean Women's Association, Khmer Anti-Deportation Advocacy Group, and the City of Tacoma's Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

This funding is intended to develop new UWT initiatives so we do not yet have data to indicate utilization of services. We piloted an extremely preliminary version of Undocumented Peer Advising virtual and in-person drop-in hours during Autumn 2021 and Winter 2022 and WASFA drop-in hours, a collaboration between CEI and the Office of Student Financial Aid, in November 2021. All of the handful of participants were undergraduate or graduate students who are undocumented or DACA recipients and identify as Latinx.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

Aside from compiling a checklist of the intended deliverables, the Implementation Team will continue to meet twice a quarter to discuss progress and modify or expand specific prioritized goals. Subcommittees associated with each of the separate priority areas (and which all include 1-2 students) will meet independently between the full-team meetings to continue to make progress toward goal completion. We also intend to create a variety of avenues for current, past, and potential students to provide feedback regarding their experiences (e.g., online surveys, focus groups, community forum, etc.).

Our Peer Advisors will track the number of student interactions during drop-in peer advising hours, separately indicating whether these are unduplicated. If it's possible to maintain a sufficient degree of privacy of students' immigration status, we plan to use swipe cards to track attendance at our various on-campus workshops and events. We may, for example, destroy any original files that maintain student information once we create a new document that indicates the number of participants and perhaps what year of their undergraduate or graduate program they are currently in.

For collaborative community events, we will use sign-in sheets so as to accommodate folks who are not associated with UWT as well.

We are just beginning to pilot our Undocumented Student Peer Advising program in partnership with the Center for Equity and Inclusion, and have not yet collected formal assessment data.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Because we are creating and implementing new programs and services, we can only project at this point what the most meaningful and significant benefits will be based on student and alumni feedback we have already received. At least half of each 2020-2021 Working Group monthly meeting was dedicated to hearing directly from invited guests, who shared their unique insights about the diverse experiences of students who are undocumented and/or from mixed-status families and/or about the programs at UW Seattle and UW Bothell that are already in place to support undocumented students. We also invited feedback from students, staff, and faculty at a virtual community forum event in Spring 2021. Some of the primary ways that our initiatives would meaningfully benefit students are by:

- Helping students to overcome financial and administrative barriers to support retention and graduation (e.g., assistance with DACA renewal fees or other immigration-related legal costs, paid student positions, connections to community resources, streamlined information sharing so students can easily find answers pertinent to their situation on various campus unit websites);
- Providing timely information regarding changes in federal policy and its impact on UWT students, anticipated presence of ICE/CBP on campus, etc.;
- Facilitating professional development and high-impact practices that are available to students regardless of immigration status (e.g., paid internships, compensated research assistant positions, etc.) and preparing students for various paths post-UWT (e.g., employment opportunities, grad school, law school, med school, etc.);
- Offering peer-to-peer advising to address both practical concerns and questions and creating a broader sense of connection; and
- Developing a sense of community, connection, and belonging among students via peer advising, the new Monarchs United RSO, and assessment practices that enable students to feel as though their voices and experiences are important and valued by UWT.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	Two Undergraduate Non-Academic Part-Time Position Stipends 8 hours/week for 30 weeks at \$17/hour plus benefits = \$4145 plus \$846 benefits = \$4991 per position x 2 = \$9982 Currently classified as 01-80 in case we hire students who can receive wages processed via Workday rather than via stipend, as is the case for students who are undocumented <small>E001</small>	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$9,982
	Fringe @ 20.4%:	\$2,036
	PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$12,018

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
	SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$0

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$12,018
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$0
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$12,018

Supplemental Documents



[2020 UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP R](#)



[2020 UNDOCU ADVOCACY WG REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

