DREAM SUMMIT SERIES
IGNITE THE DREAM
Purpose of Dream Summit: This is Your Space

Connect you to the community of support within HISD College Readiness. We want to help all immigrant students reach their goals and dreams, especially those who are not U.S. citizens nor U.S. permanent residents.

• Build a safe space to talk about our experiences
• Connect with others who have a similar background
• Offer opportunities, advice, resources, and solutions to help you overcome any barriers
Agenda

• Legal and Immigration Update with Ruby Powers
• Must Know College & Financial Aid Opportunities
• Entrepreneurship & Career Pathways with Immigrants Rising & Sharpstown HS Alum Estuard Guinea
• Keys to Success: HS and Beyond
DACA

- USCIS is accepting first-time applicants
- Your HS registrar can help you with academic records for your application
- For assistance applying, contact FIEL. Call at 713-364-3435 to make your appointment.
- Fill out their form to check your eligibility: bit.ly/fiel-daca

Home Is Here! Yesterday, Federal Judge Garaufis ruled to reinstate DACA to its 2017 state, protecting about 1 million eligible Dreamers. We break it down for you here in a few slides. Reminder that FIEL will help you renew your DACA or help you apply, call us at 713-364-3435.
MUST KNOW COLLEGE & FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

Presenter:
Ruby Rivera, College & Career Readiness Manager
Myth: My college options are limited because of my status and colleges will consider me an international student.

Truth: You can apply to and attend ANY college. If you graduate HS having lived 3 years in TX, public colleges will consider you an in-state resident for admissions.
Most Students Have Financial Aid Options

**Myth:**
If I’m not a U.S. citizen or my parents aren’t citizens, I’m not eligible for any financial aid.

**Truth:**
Your legal status does determine what options you are eligible for, but students born outside the U.S. or without a legal status also qualify for financial aid!
Financial Aid Eligibility Overview

- Grants: financial aid awarded by the government that does not have to be paid back
- Some non-U.S. citizens qualify for federal aid grants
- All other non-U.S. citizens may qualify for state aid grants

Federal Aid
- U.S. Citizens
- Permanent Residents
- Refugee or Asylum Granted
- Child of T-Visa or U-Visa (Battered Immigrants)

State Aid
- DACA
- Temporary Work Permit
- Other VISA categories
- Other immigrant students who have resided in TX for at least 3 years
Where To See It
● Download application online

Will Need
● Parent(s) tax information
● All families who earn an income must file taxes to complete the TASFA

How to Submit
● Multi-step process that is going virtual, but some schools still require mail or in-person submission
● Your advisor will guide you

TASFA
2021-22 TASFA
Texas Application for State Financial Aid
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Take a look @ HoustonISD.org/TASFA
Opportunities exist, but how about beyond college?

- Valid concerns: limited employment opportunities after college graduation without a legal status
- College education can never be taken away from you
- Entrepreneurship & owning your own business is always an option to turn your passion, knowledge, and skills into financial support for yourself and family
ENTREPRENEURSHIP PRESENTATION
IMMIGRANTS RISING
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION
Immigrants Rising empowers undocumented young people to achieve educational and career goals through personal, institutional and policy transformation.
What was your first work experience (paid or unpaid)?
Different ways to make a living

- Employment
- Independent contracting
- Business ownership

> Entrepreneurship
Entrepreneurship is for everyone

- **The Immigration Reform and Control Act** of 1986 (IRCA) states that it is illegal to **knowingly** employ unauthorized workers in the United States.
  - The IRCA requires employers to verify that every new employee is legally authorized to work in the U.S., through the “I-9 System”.
  - EXCEPTION An individual or entity is not required to obtain Form I-9 from independent contractors or sporadic domestic workers.

- **Federal Statute 8 U. S. Code 1324a(a)(4)** prohibits an entity from **knowingly** engaging an unauthorized individual to provide services as a contractor.
  - Individuals who fail to comply with Form I-9, or knowingly hire or contract undocumented individuals may face civil fines, criminal penalties, or debarment from government contracts.
• Immigrants can start their own businesses in the United States with an ITIN or SSN.
• Folks without work authorization are not allowed to be conventionally employed
• Folks without work authorization are able to work as independent contractors
• All entrepreneurs, regardless of status, are responsible for paying taxes.
Developing an Entrepreneurship Mindset!

What skills have you acquired within your field from the classes you’ve taken?

What do you enjoy doing for fun? What are you passionate about?

If you could start a business, what would it be?
KEYS TO SUCCESS: HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND

Presenters: Alison Murray and Madeline Castilla, IGNITE
A College Education is for Everyone

**Myth:**
If you don’t have straight A’s, it will be hard to get into college or get scholarships.

I don’t think college is for me.

**Truth:**
Some colleges / scholarships don’t look at grades at all!
College has many options for you to explore. There are many programs at community colleges that are hands-on that can take less than a year to complete.
What makes a competitive student?

- Community Service
- Challenging Classes: Pre-AP, AP, Dual Credit
- Strong Grades
- Leadership at Home (taking care of siblings)
- Work Experience
- Extracurriculars
- Good Test Scores (SAT/ACT)*

A personal, unique essay fills in the gap: as an immigrant, your story matters!

*Test-optional policies due to COVID-19
Keys to Success for 10th & 11th Grade

1. STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GRADES
2. EXPLORE CAREERS
3. INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO ADVISOR
What is GPA?

It is an average of final semesters grades throughout the year in all of your classes, added together, and averaged.
## What does my GPA convey?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeric Average</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Non PreAP/AP Grade Points</th>
<th>PreAP/AP Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 74</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 70</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why is GPA Important?

The higher your GPA, the more opportunities you have.

GPA can help you gain access to special programs in high school.

More scholarships, more help.
Exploring Careers

- [https://hccs.emsicc.com/assessment](https://hccs.emsicc.com/assessment)

**Select your assessment**

We’ll help you find out what your interests are and how they relate to the world of work.

**Progress**

**Quick Start Assessment**

- 6 questions

**Detailed Assessment**

- 60 questions

**Your top three traits are...**

**Social**

Social people are friendly and outgoing. They are cooperative and enjoy working with and being around other people. They are understanding and insightful, concern the feelings and problems of others. They like to be helpful to others by serving in supportive roles such as those of teachers. [Show More]

**Investigative**

Investigative people are naturally curious and inquisitive. They have a need to understand, explain, and predict the things that go on around them. They are scholarly and scientific in their attempts to understand things and tend to be pessimistic and critical when non-scientific, simplistic, or... [Show More]

**Conventional**

Conventional people are well-organized, persistent, and practical in their approach to life. They enjoy clerical and computational activities performed according to set procedures. They are dependable, efficient, and conscientious in accomplishing the tasks in which they engage. They enjoy this... [Show More]

**Your top career matches are...**

**Education and Training**

Planning, organizing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.

**Health Science**

Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services; diagnostic services; health informatics; support services; and biotechnology research and development.
Communicating with College Readiness

For information on events: bit.ly/HISD2College

To connect with your Ignite Adviser: houstonisd.org/ignite
Keys to Success for 12th Grade

1. FIND A SUMMER OPPORTUNITY TO START / BUILD YOUR RESUME
2. GET TO WORK ON YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY
3. FIND OUT YOUR TAX STATUS - HELP PARENTS FILE IF NEEDED
Resume Building

Building a resume early will make applying for scholarships and colleges easier.

A resume is a list of extracurricular activities, awards, community service, and any special skills you have that makes you stand out.

Start building your resume as early as possible!
Adding to Your Resume—Start Now!

Community Service opportunities in your community (Churches, mosques, food banks, school)

Join clubs while in high school!

Don’t have a car? Take advantage of virtual events! (Yes, these count)

Job shadow at clinics/businesses near your home

Connect with your high school college center and adviser about opportunities available to students
What does a resume look like?

Michael Garcia
7504 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77074
Phone: 713-123-4567 E-Mail: mj@thriller.org

ACADEMICS
Sharptown High School
- Weighted GPA: 4.3
- Pre-AP English, Pre-AP Chemistry, Pre-AP Biology
- Activities: Sharptown Summer Scholars Program, Teen Leadership 2, JV Volleyball (Co-Captain), Key Club
- Awards: Honor Roll (2012, 2013), Living the Apollo Creed (April 2013), Biology Student of the Month (Sept. 2012)

COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES
Sharptown Summer Scholars, Sharptown High School - Houston, TX
Summer 2015
Accepted into the inaugural Sharptown Summer Scholars Program which focuses on college readiness skills
- Developed college readiness skills including email etiquette, resume writing, and self advocacy
- Focused on writing completing college application essays through self reflection workshops
- Explored various career opportunities through Career Shadows with Junior Achievement
- Mentored incoming freshmen from Sugar Grove Academy, a middle school that feeds into Sharptown

Teacher’s Assistant, Sharptown High School - Houston, TX
August 2013 - June 2014
Volunteer with the Pre-AP Biology teacher after school on a daily basis
- Assisted teacher by grading student work and organizing the classroom
- Tutored peers in small groups, focusing on specific topics as assigned by the teacher

Teen Leadership Member, Sharptown High School - Houston, TX
Selected into the Magnet Leadership Program upon entering Sharptown
August 2012 - Present
You ARE a Leader!

- Leadership is not just at school, but in the workplace, at home, and the community.
- On resume & applications, emphasize your impact and how you contribute.

Watch over my brothers and sisters at home

Help siblings with homework
  teaching skills
Help maintain home and prepare meals
  organizational skills
Translate for parents
  cross-cultural communication skills
Momentum Resume Services

Free resume editing services if you need a resume for a scholarship or college app

DO YOU NEED EDITS ON YOUR RESUME?

SEND YOUR RESUME AS A GOOGLE DOC OR WORD DOC TO RESUMES@MOMENTUMEDU.ORG

• In the email, please include your name and high school.
• Please ensure your resume is editable by anyone if it is a google document.
• You will receive edits within 7 days.

CONTACT CHRISTI NGUYEN AT CHRISTI@MOMENTUMEDU.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
Essay Tips & Timeline

Copy essay prompts in Google Docs (do this right after you look over application & scholarship forms)

Brainstorm ideas and create outlines: We all have a story even if we think it’s not worth sharing.

Set personal draft deadlines so someone can review your essay. (Ask in advance so someone can review at least 3 weeks before due) Give them at least a week to review. Thank them! More drafts, the better.
Momentum Essay Services

Send it your essay to be reviewed and edited for free!
Consider Private Schools

- **Over 50** private colleges offer great financial aid for undocumented students
- **Financial aid can cover 90% to 100% of college costs**
  - Can be more affordable to attend than Texas A&M / UT
- Work hard for that acceptance: need strong application, rec letters, and essays
- Review the list of schools on our website

**Most located outside of TX**
- Occidental, Pamona (CA)
- Franklin & Marshall (PA)
- Oberlin (OH)
- Bryn Mawr, Holy Cross (MA)
- Rice (TX)
- Skidmore, Colgate (NY)
- Trinity, Yale (CT)
Scholarships for Dreamers

- List on HISD Dreamers Website
- Updated 3 times a year

### COLLEGE READINESS

SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO STUDENTS WITHOUT U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS / SSN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State / National Scholarships</th>
<th>Local Scholarships</th>
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| **Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards Scholarship** | **Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Scholarship**
  - Deadline: December 6, 2020
  - Amount: Up to $3,500
  - Website: [https://bit.ly/3kgxv7c](https://bit.ly/3kgxv7c)
  - Children’s Defense Fund Texas – Beat the Odds Scholarship
  - Deadline: December 9, 2020
  - Amount: Up to $5,000
  - Requirements: Recommendation Letters and Essay
  - Charles Butt Scholarship
  - Deadline: Varies by college (most are between December 2020 to February 2021)
  - Amount: up to $40,000 over 4 years
  - Requirements: Recommendation Letters and Essay
| **Dream.US Scholarship**
  - Deadline: February 25, 2021
  - Amount: Up to $33,000 over 4 years
  - Requirements: Essay and enrollment at UH or other state colleges
  - Website: [https://www.thedream.us/](https://www.thedream.us/)
| **Out for Education Scholarship**
  - Deadline: February 28, 2021
  - Amount: Up to $1,000
  - Requirements: Essay and Interview
College Scholarship Programs

HCC Honors College: Up to cost of tuition & fees
Great for students who intend to transfer. If selected, take classes with same group of students; learn with a small community of driven students.

UHD Scholars Academy: Additional scholarship up to $4,500 / year
Great for STEM majors. Additional tutoring / mentoring support.

Dream.US: UH, TAMU-San Antonio, UNT-Dallas up to $33,000 (4 years)
Receive help with choosing classes, get connected with campus resources, and join a national alumni network.
File Taxes with Baker Ripley

- Non-U.S. citizen adults without a SSN must apply for a different number (ITIN) from the IRS
- FREE tax assistance
- Income taxes are due June 15, 2021
- **Family concerns?** Set up an appt. with your advisor or contact BakerRipley directly
Mental Health Resources

You wouldn’t let this happen to your phone. Don’t let it happen to you either.
Self care is a priority, not a luxury.

Immigrants Rising’s
Wellness Gatherings
For undocumented young people

Wednesdays 5-6 PM PST | 8-9 PM EST
immigrantsrising.org/wellnessgatherings

Hosted by
Top 5 Things to do Before the Summer

1. **Find or apply for a summer opportunity** to add to your resume, using DiscoverU or college center resources
2. **Ask parents or guardians what their tax filing status is** & file for an ITIN application if needed
3. **Brainstorm outlines for essay prompts** for college applications (if needed)
4. **Make an appt. to meet your advisor**
5. **Attend any summer workshops or programs** offered by your HS Advisors / College Centers to start on your college research & apps
Setup an appt. with your advisor!

Work with your Advisor

bit.ly/HISDcr12
Junior Survey

If you’re in 11th grade, please fill out this survey so we can know more about you!
For More Resources

Follow us on Twitter & IG @HISD2College @HISD_Wings

HoustonISD.org/dreamers
Thank You! Before you leave…

Future Events

• **Dream Summit Series** will continue next year. Invite friends who did not attend!

To qualify for the final giveaway, fill out exit survey: bit.ly/ITD-2021-survey