

STORIES OF **GEORGIA** THE DREAM.US SCHOLARS

In Georgia, TheDream.US has awarded nearly 225 scholarships in recent years to support Georgia DREAMers' higher education dreams at one of four out-of-state Partner Colleges: Christian Brothers University in Tennessee, Delaware State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, and Trinity Washington University in Washington, DC. Many of these Georgia Scholars have become leaders on campus and are pursuing meaningful careers. **It is in Georgia's interest to keep these Georgia students studying and succeeding in their home state by expanding opportunities, access, and affordability.**

SADHANA SINGH After hearing the story of Georgia students such as Sadhana, TheDream.US created scholarships to address the unique needs of students in "locked out" states. Sadhana moved to Georgia at age 13 and graduated from high school with honors, near the top of her high school class in 2005. Yet she did not attend college until the age of 28 due to her undocumented status and related financial barriers in Georgia. With support from TheDream.US, Sadhana attended Trinity Washington University in Washington, DC, where she co-founded and served as president of The Dreamers Alliance and graduated in May 2018 with a BA in Communication and a minor in International Affairs. She now serves TheDream.US as our Senior Communications Manager, helping other students achieve their higher education dreams.

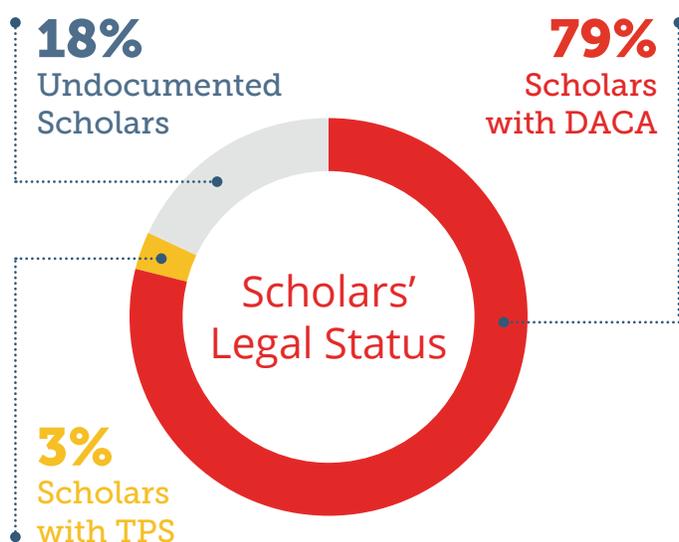
INDIRA ISLAS grew up in Gainesville, GA and was a 2020 Summa Cum Laude graduate of Delaware State University with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. She plans to attend medical school and served as TheDream.US Graduate Speaker at a June 2020 virtual commencement. She delivered remarks that included this reflection: "Many of us are at different points in our lives: some are new parents, some will continue to graduate school, and some may have landed the dream job--but whatever experiences await us next, there is no guarantee that adversity will not be among them. As immigrants, we have already faced much adversity, but we have also proven so many wrong along the way. We will continue to face obstacles, but we cannot let them define us ... We may not see a clear path to the future yet, but we know that we have great strength inside us and great friends at our back. And so, we will keep going, no matter what confronts us. I truly believe that each one of us has the capability to be the change that we wish to see in the world." *Read this June 2020 USA Today story on Indira and her story - underscoring why supporting the college dreams of more Georgia immigrant youth such as Indira makes sense for Georgia: <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2020/06/09/dreamer-graduates-dsu-into-coronavirus-daca-protections/5322305002/>*

YOSHUA, who moved to Atlanta at age 6 and now attends Eastern Connecticut State University, states: "I grew up speaking English, singing the national anthem with pride, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in school, and learning everything there was to know about what it means to be an American ... The reality is, we DREAMers don't know what the future holds for us. The one thing we can control is the work we put in, and I plan to continue to work hard ... With my education, my ultimate goal is to open an organization to aid low-income youth and undocumented youth. I know how it feels to have barriers which can feel impossible to overcome working against you. But I also know there is so much opportunity in this country, and I hope to help open other kids' eyes to this reality and inspire them to chase their dreams."

In Georgia, TheDream.US now partners with Oglethorpe University, a small private college in suburban Atlanta. The partnership is TheDream.US's first with a Georgia institution and over 70 Georgia DREAMers are now pursuing their college dreams with hopes of giving back to their home state.

LIDIA LABRADA Oglethorpe University recently highlighted that sophomore art history major and TheDream.US Scholar Lidia Labrada was one of only 15 undergraduates selected for the Mellon Summer Academy hosted at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. The story quoted from Labrada: "As a DACA-mented student, art became a powerful form of expression that I learned during my senior year in high school ... As a TheDream.US Scholar at Oglethorpe I have learned more about the influence of art and have regained a sense of my culture as well as been exposed to other cultures in my courses. I am proud of who I am and have grown to learn that my status doesn't define me."

THE DREAM.US IS THE NATION'S LARGEST COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH



4 years old

Average Age of Scholars' Arrival to the United States

86%

First in family to attend college

\$29,000

Average Household Income