

## STORIES OF **TEXAS** THE DREAM.US SCHOLARS

**In recent years, TheDream.US has paid more than \$16.2M to over 1,000 Texas DREAMers who are first-time college students or community college graduates.** We partner with six Partner Colleges in Texas: University of Houston, University of Northern Texas Dallas, The University of Texas El Paso, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio College, and Texas A&M San Antonio. Many of our Texas Scholars have become leaders on campus and over 170 have graduated and are now pursuing meaningful careers contributing to Texas' future.

**It is in Texas's interest to provide DREAMers with affordable access to colleges and opportunities to be a part of Texas' revitalization post the pandemic.**

Our Texas Scholars are resilient, determined students. Here is a highlight of a few of their stories:

**UZAIR, a University of Houston student, has called Houston home since immigrating from Pakistan at the age of five months old. As he writes:** "I have always thought of myself as an American — the U.S. is the only place I have ever called home. From my first day of preschool to my college orientation this fall, I've been raised and educated right here in Houston ... I love being able to live the American dream, and I know it is all thanks to the sacrifice and hardship my parents have faced as undocumented immigrants. I am a proud first-generation college student, a DREAMer, and a Scholar ... I already plan to use my education and talents to help all people, especially people like my parents who don't always have the resources to afford the help they need."

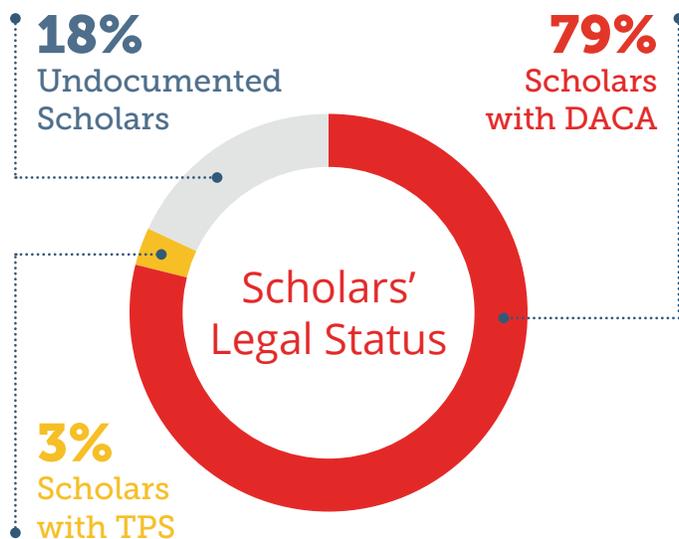
**FERNANDA RANGEL, a first year TheDream.US Scholar attending Texas A&M-San Antonio, who stated:** "When I was three I was moved to the United States without any knowledge of how my immigration status would impact my life. Now I attend college and I am working towards my career goals despite all the obstacles. Earning a college degree matters to me because it is more than a piece of paper. It is all the knowledge I will obtain while working for the degree that will change the world and allow me to help people."

**DANIELA CASTILLO ZAPATA** graduated from the University of Houston with a dual degree in Science in Nursing and Psychology. She is now a Registered Nurse at Texas Children’s Hospital and works in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. “I care for the most vulnerable in our community – our sick children,” she states. “My work has given me the opportunity to grow and give back to my community. As an immigrant, I understand that some parents are not comfortable speaking up for themselves - especially if they do not speak English. I am able to translate their needs to the medical team and help them feel valued.”

**JORGE CONTRERAS** is a TheDream.US graduate that now works as a bilingual medical assistant for The Neighborhood Doctor in the Rio Grande Valley area: “As a bilingual member of a community living near the Rio Grande Valley border, I am able to better relate to our patients, get past the language barrier, and have heart to heart conversations with them. Staying true to my roots allows me to contribute to that.”

**EDDIE ALVARADO**, who moved to Texas from Honduras at age five, is in his final year at The University of Houston. He is the first in his family to graduate high school and is set to be the first college graduate. Eddie says, “I want to set an example for my younger sister, so that she learns that she can do anything she sets her mind to ... I know first-hand that as an immigrant high schooler you feel like you have no options compared to the rest of your friends. It can feel like you are stuck. I hope to mentor kids in high schools to try to get them to think about college or any future they see for themselves. Higher education is important to DREAMers because it allows us to voice our own personal stories and the broader immigrant story to people who might otherwise be ignorant about it. It allows people to see the human side of the tale. The one where immigrants are valued for who they really are and what they really contribute.”

## 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