


# Letter from the Founders


Ten years ago, the three of us agreed to start a scholarship fund for undocumented students—the students called Dreamers. As Americans, we felt their treatment was cruel, unworthy of our country. No matter how young they were when they arrived, no matter if they were the valedictorian or the class president, the Dreamers could not get the federal grants and loans that made college possible for their classmates.

We decided on a bare-bones program—we would pay tuition and fees to low-cost, good-quality colleges where we could do so. We were doing what the Dreamers told us they needed. Our staff was tiny—just our then President, Candy Marshall, and program director, Gaby Pacheco.

In our wildest dreams, we could not have imagined the outcome: TheDream.US has enrolled 10,000 students in more than 80 partner colleges. 76% of those who chose four-year colleges have graduated. Most Dreamers chose careers in health care, business and education—just where America needed them. 94% of those with work permits have jobs after graduation. By the way: those students came to the U.S. at an average age of 4. But they have no path to a green card—ever—no matter how much they accomplish.

All three of us have spent much of our lives in education-related programs. This is the most motivated group of students we have ever met.

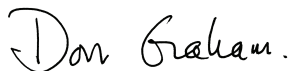




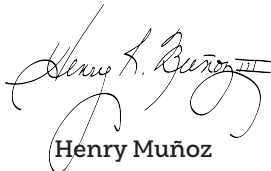
What makes us sad is that the political situation of the Dreamers is much worse than it was ten years ago. Then, DACA had given thousands of young undocumented people who earned it a work permit and new opportunities; now, a court decision has ended new DACA enrollments and the status of DACA recipients is uncertain.

We thought then and we believe now: the growth of the Dreamers will be good for them—and good for the rest of us. The Dreamers have earned a chance. Most of our scholars have proven to the satisfaction of the U.S. government that they have been law abiding; the rest would love a chance to do so. They want a chance to work as the nurses, teachers, and business employees our country needs.

It is our honor to have helped these 10,000 get a start in life. With Gaby now taking over from Candy as President, we hope to offer a college education to many more. But we hope above all that America soon gives the Dreamers the path to citizenship they have earned.



Don Graham



Henry Muñoz



Carlos Gutierrez

