



From Dream to Action: Immigration Reform in New York

Time: October 11th 2011, 5-8pm Fordham Lincoln Center, 113 West 60th St 12th floor

Welcoming remarks: Msgr. Joseph Quinn, Vice President, Mission and Ministry

Panel 1: Dream to action: State and City initiatives

Moderator: Jairo Guzman, The Hopeline in the Bronx

Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles, (videolink)

Bill Perkins, State Senator (D-Harlem) NYS Dream Act co-sponsor

Don Kerwin, Director for the Center for Migration Studies

Panel 2: Community and University Initiatives

Moderator: Elaine Congress, GSS

Father Francis Skelly, Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Bronx

Aryah Somers, The Door, New York City

Diana Marin, Fordham Latino Law Students Association (LALSA)

Professor Alyshia Galvez & Melissa Garcia, Lehman College

"The Lehman Dream Team"

Discussion and next steps: Norma Fuentes and Darryl McLeod

Planning Committee:

Elaine Congress, DSW Associate Dean, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service (GSS)

Jade de Saussure, MSW, Coordinator of Continuing Education, Fordham University, GSS

Dora Galacatos, Feerick Center for Social Justice and Dispute Resolution, Lincoln Center

Jason Hilliard, Executive Director, Hon. Gregory W. Meeks, U.S. Congress

Jairo Guzman, Executive Director, The Hopeline, Bronx New York

Darryl McLeod, CIPS and Economics Department, Fordham University

Cosponsored by the Feerick Center for Social Justice, the Latino Law Students Association and the Center for International Policy Studies (CIPS)

College Dream Acts

Our current immigration policy harms families and stifles the aspirations of young students. Of particular concern are parents who go to work each day [risking separation from their children](#), detention or deportation, especially in Alabama and Arizona. Low incomes and a lack of legal status make it difficult for even the most gifted children in these families to attend college. Dream Acts target the children of immigrants who can and must attend U.S. schools until they are 16, but are then cast into the shadowy underworld of undocumented status. Once undocumented students reach college age, they are among us but not with us: even the most qualified find the doors of most colleges closed to them.

To remedy this injustice, the bipartisan **Federal DREAM¹ Act** was introduced in 2001 by Orin Hatch (R-UT) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) to provide undocumented youth who entered the U.S. as minors a path to citizenship conditional on a college degree or serving in the military. In December 2010 the bill passed in the House of Representatives but fell five votes short in Senate. Had this Act passed, an estimated 850,000 to 2.1 million undocumented high school graduates would have a path to legal residence contingent on military service or obtaining a college degree. Though the military option remains, the path to legal status via college remains largely closed, even as a college education (and legal status) becomes increasingly important for finding and holding a job in today's economy.

State Dream Acts: Prior to and after the defeat of the Federal Dream Act many states took the initiative to provide universal access to scholarships and in-state tuition rates. Though these state laws cannot create a path to legal status as the Federal Act would, some, including the [NYS Dream Act \(S.4179\)](#) introduced by [Bill Perkins \(Harlem\)](#) and Dan Squadron (Brooklyn) in May include provisions allowing immigrants to obtain driver's licenses, without which it is very difficult to work (especially outside New York City). Note that these laws do not favor immigrant high school graduates: they only give them tuition rates and financial aid similar to those available to their classmates. The MPI's July 2010 study [Dream vs. Reality: Potential Dream Act Beneficiaries](#) finds most of the 1.7 million Hispanic youths who could benefit from a Dream Act are in California (26%), Texas (12%), Florida (9%) and New York (7%).

Not surprisingly, California has made the most progress with state Dream Acts. On October 8th 2011 Governor Jerry Brown signed [California's latest Dream Act](#) allowing undocumented immigrants to receive state scholarships stating "*Going to college is a dream that promises intellectual excitement and creative thinking, The Dream Act benefits us all by giving top students a chance to improve their lives and the lives of all of us.*" This is the third of three acts starting with [state law AB 540](#) passed in 2001 following a similar Texas law (HB 1403). These laws grant in state tuition fees to all state residents who meet certain criteria (attending a state High School for example). Subsequently, eight other states including New York passed similar laws. In July 2011 Governor Brown signed a 2nd Dream act making undocumented residents eligible for private college scholarships (see [Cardinal Mahony's post](#)). [Maryland](#) and [Rhode Island](#) recently took similar steps to facilitate undocumented student's access to a college education.

Critics of **Dream Acts** argue that these laws are costly to taxpayers. But as studies by the [Texas Comptroller's Office](#) and California's [UCLA-NAID Center](#) show, this criticism overlooks the tremendous economic contribution better educated workers make to their states' economy. Others argue a college education makes little difference without resident status. However, numerous [successful immigrant entrepreneurs](#) and the testimony of Dream students themselves suggest college has a very positive impact on their lives and earnings potential (see [Underground Undergrads](#) and [Undocumented and Unafraid](#), both authored by AB 540 UCLA students and published by the [UCLA Labor Center](#).)² The stakes are high. No [Dreamers Left Behind](#) estimates the benefits of implementing the Federal Dream Act at \$2 trillion over the next 40 years. For more information, see the conference web page [www.NYDreamers.org/ny](#) and the [NYS Youth Leadership Councils'](#) on the [NYS Dream Act](#) and the National Immigration Law Center's [excellent Dream Act resource page](#).

¹ DREAM stands for Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act. ² In a widely cited paper featured by *the American Sociological Review*, Roberto Gonzales (2011) chronicles the shock many college bound Dreamers feel when they first discover their undocumented status (often when they apply for financial aid). Some press reports interpret this study as showing that college does not improve the employment prospects of undocumented immigrants, but in a recent Huffington post article Gonzales [clarifies his views on State Dream Acts and adds the case of Rosalba](#) who uses her college network to gain legal status and a good job teaching math, see Roberto Gonzales, "State Dream Acts offer important Opportunities to undocumented students," September 8th 2011.

Participants in alphabetical order October 11, 2011
From Dream to Action: Immigration Reform in New York

Elaine Congress, DSW (congress@fordham.edu) is Associate Dean and Professor at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. She authored seven books on cultural diversity, immigrants and ethics including *Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees*. Dr. Congress represents the International Federation of Social Workers at the United Nations and is active on the NGO Committee on Migration. She recently received an award from the Association of Hispanic Mental Health Professionals for Mental Health Advocacy and was recently named Educator of the Year by the NYS Association of Social Work Education. Dr. Congress has a MAT from Yale, a MA from Columbia University, a Masters in Psychology from the New School of Social Research, and a Doctorate in Social Work from City University of New York.

Rev. **Jade de Saussure**, OMC, MSW works as program coordinator of the GSS Continuing Education Department of Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service and is also a GSS doctoral student. As a social worker and spiritual minister she has taught workshops on topics such as therapeutic engagement of spirituality, the application of nonviolent communication, self care techniques for social workers, and bereavement counseling skills for clergy. Her interest in people and communities is reflected through her involvement in planning recent events such as the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the Bronx Mental Health Forum, and United for Haiti. Rev. de Saussure's has currently been supporting change in international communities through activities including her documentary film project which captures the responses of Haitian people a year after the earthquake and an awareness campaign focusing on healing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Norma Fuentes-Mayorga is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Fordham University (Rose Hill) Professor Fuentes is a 1.5 generation immigrant from the Dominican Republic. She has worked in both community and academic research on immigration, poverty and gender inequality. Her work compares the immigrant integration of Dominican and Mexican immigrant women in New York City and that of Moroccan women and their children in Amsterdam, Holland. Both projects were funded by the Social Science Research Council and the National Science Foundation. Recently, and in cooperation with UCLA-NAID and funded by the Packard Foundation, she co-directed a survey of Mexican New York residents regarding remittances, access to financial services and social mobility. Dr. Fuentes received her PhD from Columbia University.

Dora Galacatos is Senior Counsel to the Feerick Center and has worked in academia, city government, the not-for-profit sector, and legal services for low-income individuals. She worked at the NYC Department of Juvenile Justice and the Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy from 1989 to 1993. With a Skadden Fellowship 1997-98 she worked at Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, Washington Heights and was the staff director for the NYC Family Homelessness Special Master Panel from 2003 to 2005. She also clerked for NY District Judges the late-Honorable Milton Pollack (1996-97) and the Honorable Paul A. Crotty (2005-06). She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, the New School for Social Research, where as a Kaplan M. Fellow she received an MS in Urban Policy (1993) and of Fordham Law School (1996). Dora is a NYCLA member of its Justice Center Board as well as its Pro Bono Committee and serves as chair of the NYC Bar Civil Court Committee

Alyshia Gálvez is a cultural anthropologist (PhD, NYU 2004) whose work focuses on NYC Mexican immigrants efforts to achieve citizenship rights. Professor Gálvez joined the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies at Lehman College, City University of New York in Fall of 2007, as an Assistant Professor. Her 2009 book *Guadalupe in New York: Devotion and the Struggle for Citizenship Rights among Mexican Immigrants* was published by NYU Press. Her second book, *Patient Citizens, Immigrant Mothers: Mexican Women, Public Prenatal Care and the Birth Weight Paradox*, is being released soon as part of the Rutgers University Press *Critical Issues in Health and Medicine* series. She is also faculty advisor for the Lehman College DREAM Team.

Melissa Garcia Velez is a native of Buga, Colombia. She moved to New York at the age of eight to reunite with her mother. She attended Richard R. Green High School of Teaching where she spent her free time doing community service with New York Cares and mentoring at College For Every Student, a program that helps students attend and graduate from college. She's currently a sophomore at CUNY Lehman College, in the Honors Program, majoring in Social Work with a double-minor in Sociology and Dance. Melissa began her involvement with the NYS Youth Leadership Council in 2010 and is currently a core member and co-coordinator of the Leadership Development Committee. Melissa is also President of the Lehman DREAM Team and a member of the Lehman President Service Corps. Melissa is a strong believer in social justice and equality for all and that is why she decided to take a stand to fight for immigrant rights and especially for youth. Melissa is "undocumented, unafraid and unapologetic."

Jairo Guzmán is the Executive Director of The Hopeline, a community agency in the South Bronx one of the poorest Congressional districts in the United States. The agency provides the following social service programs: a food pantry feeding thousands of children and families, a clothing bank providing needed clothing to individuals and families; civics and citizenship program designed to help individuals gain the knowledge needed to become US citizens and a literacy program that focuses on increasing reading and writing skills in both native language and English. Mr. Guzman has had extensive experience in the social service field working private child welfare organizations and government agencies.

Jason M. Hilliard, graduated at the (Jesuit) University of Detroit Mercy with a BA in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy. He joined Congressman Gregory W. Meeks' Jamaica District office on September 17, 2007 as Executive Director. Before his present post, Jason served in the New Jersey Air National Guard as a Public Affairs Specialist with the 108th Air Refueling Wing at McGuire Air Force Base. Prior to assuming a role in a Tanker Unit, he served as a Public Affairs Specialist with the 127th Fighter Wing, a part of the Michigan Air National Guard from 2004 to 2006 and as a Gunner with the 82nd Combat Engineering Battalion (Blue Babe) stationed in Bamberg, Germany from 1995 to 1998. Jason has also interned for Federal Judge Denise Page-Hood of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, 6th Circuit; Senator Carl Levin of Michigan; and Chairman John Conyers Jr., 14th Congressional District of Michigan, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Don Kerwin is Executive Director of the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) and a [Research Fellow](#) at the Woodstock Research Center at Georgetown. CMS is Manhattan research institute established by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians in 1969. It publishes the *International Migration Review*, the leading journal of immigration studies in the U.S. Previously, Mr. Kerwin served as Vice-President for Programs at the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), writing extensively on diverse immigration policy issues. Prior to MPI, he was executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), a subsidiary of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). His 2009 book with Jill Gerschutz, *And You Welcomed Me: Migration and Catholic Social Teaching* was published by Lexington Press. Don Kerwin writes a [Huffington Post blog on](#) immigration policy issues.

Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles is a strong voice for immigration reform and social justice for immigrants. He joins us from the University of Notre Dame where he is teaching and conducting research on immigration policy. Cardinal Mahony writes regularly on immigration issues, see his recent posts on immigrant workers in Alabama and on the California Dream Act component signed Governor Gerry Brown on July 11th 2011 (cardinalrogermahonyblogsla.blogspot.com/) Born in Hollywood, Cardinal Mahony was the fourth Archbishop of Los Angeles and the first native Angelino Cardinal. He served on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration & Refugees committee and was a member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (1984-1989) and the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerants (1986-1991). He joined the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in 1989, the Congregation for Eastern Churches in 2009, the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See in 2000 and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Catholic University of America. Cardinal Mahony attended St. John's Seminary College, has a Pontifical degree from St. John's Theologate and a Master's degree from The Catholic University of America's National Catholic School of Social Service.

Diana Marin, is a third year law student and the Community Service Chair at Fordham's Latino Law Student Association. LALSA is an organization dedicated to serving Fordham Law students, alumni, and the community at large by bringing together the greater Latino legal community and promoting Latino culture. As Community Service Chair, Diana hopes to bring the Dream Act to the forefront of the Fordham Law school community discourse. In addition, Diana is a Stein Public Interest scholar and has worked in various legal services setting. Her most recent work was in Michigan where she helped represent low-income Latino/a farmworkers assert their employment and housing rights.

Darryl McLeod (mcleod@fordham.edu) is an Associate Professor of Economics at Fordham University. He recently co-directed a survey of New York residents from Guerro and Puebla to learn more about how they send remittances and gain access to financial services. Similar surveys were conducted in Mexico, North Carolina and Los Angeles, California. Dr. McLeod has worked as consultant to the OAS, IDB, World Bank and UNDP's BDP's Poverty Group and UNDP's Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery. Professor McLeod received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. For additional information on Professor McLeod immigration related research, [see his web page](#).

Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, J.D., J.C.L. is Fordham's Vice President for University Mission and Ministry. He came to Fordham from the Diocese of Scranton where, for twenty-five years, he served with distinction as a parish pastor. Prior to his 1985 ordination as a Roman Catholic priest, he was a civil lawyer and federal judge having served with the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. At the time of his judicial appointment in 1976, he was the youngest Federal Magistrate Judge in the country. A 1972 graduate of the University of Scranton and Seton Hall University Law School in 1975, his post-graduate studies in theology were completed in 1985 in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University and in canon law in 1989 at St. Paul University in Ottawa.

Senator Bill Perkins has represented Senatorial District 30th in Manhattan since November 2006. Among his many leadership efforts is the co-sponsorship of the New York State Dream Act. Bill Perkins has sought to provide every child equal access to a quality education He increased funding for the City University of New York (CUNY) scholarships, full-time staffing and college preparatory courses. Bill Perkins has also lead the fight to reduce infant and maternal mortality, and HIV/AIDS by making quality health care more accessible. He has a long history of leadership as a New York City Councilmember.. He was instrumental in leading the fight for the Living Wage to provide a minimum wage that was also a living wage.

Rev. Francis Skelly, C.S.R, the youngest of five siblings, was born in the Bronx into an Irish family. Fr. Skelly, who earned several Masters degrees, among them a Master of Science of Education from Iona College and a Master of Theology from Duquesne University, has a long history serving communities profoundly immersed with the immigration experience. Fr. Skelly, who speaks Spanish and was an Associate Pastor in San Lorenzo in Puerto Rico, has been pastor at several churches, among which is St. Cecilia in East Harlem and currently at Immaculate Conception Church in the South Bronx. Rev. Skelly has held faculty position at Washington Theological Union and was Director of Redemptorist Seminary. But among those important facets of Fr. Skelly's service, is his service and connection to the people who struggle with immigration and all the challenges it brings upon the individual, the family, and community.

M. Aryah Somers works at The Door, a New York youth services organization, as a KIND Fellow representing unaccompanied children in family and immigration court. She received a Fulbright teaching and research award in Guatemala to start next January. She was a Senior Program Associate at the Vera Institute of Justice on their Pro Bono Unaccompanied Children Project and a consultant to UNHCR in Ecuador on the best interests of refugee children. From 2005 to 2008 Ms. Somers represented unaccompanied children in deportation proceedings as part of the Florence Project in Arizona. From 2004 to 2005, she worked for AMERA in Egypt as a legal advisor for unaccompanied child refugees from Africa. Ms. Somers was also an associate attorney at Jones Day in New York. She earned her JD from Georgetown University and an MA from their School of Foreign Service as well as a BA from George Washington University.