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## Pass DREAM Act to help college students

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July 21, 2010

As faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago, we're not supposed to have favorites in our classrooms. But we must admit that we do work with some "DREAM" students.

These students study hard. They come to class prepared. They ask smart questions. They're not afraid to speak their minds. They demonstrate maturity beyond their 18-, 19- or 20-something years. Many of them are bilingual -- or even trilingual. And they have big dreams for their futures.

But they're undocumented. Their hard-earned diplomas will be relegated to mere decorations, framed and hung proudly above their parents' living room couches in immigrant enclaves across metro Chicago. Their stars shine brightly in our classrooms, but they will be forced back to the shadows after they graduate, accepting low-paying jobs as they fear deportation.

These students -- immigrant youth who came to this country with their parents when they were very young children -- are victims of a broken immigration system. They are undocumented, but eager to contribute to the only country they've ever called home. A way forward for these bright students exists with the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act, a piece of legislation that offers a pathway to education, careers and documentation. The DREAM Act will allow them to step out of the shadows and to continue their education, which benefits them, their families, and the U.S. economy. Enabling these students to realize their full potential through the DREAM Act provides a solid step forward as a down payment on immigration reform.

As their teachers, it is our job to foster their dreams -- and that's why we fully support the DREAM Act. The 21 names below represent the faculty of multiple departments at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the sentiments of scores of additional colleagues at UIC and at other colleges and universities across the state.

**University of Illinois at Chicago faculty members Frances Aparicio, William Ayers, Michelle Boyd, Christopher Boyer, Ralph Cintron, Stephen Engelmann, Lisa Frohmann, Lorena Garcia, Nilda Flores Gonzelez, Anna Guevarra, Elena Gutierrez, Kevin Kumashiro, Pauline Lipman, Alicia K. Matthews, Norma Claire Moruzzi, Irma M. Olmedo, Barbara Ransby, Gayatri Reddy, Amalia Pallares, Laurie Schaffner, David Stovall**

### **Court is wrong in CTA case**

In response to the July 19 editorial, "Court's right on L platform ice": Your position that it would be unreasonable to make the CTA keep its platform free of snow and ice, due to the ongoing nature of Chicago winter, is as misguided as the Illinois Supreme Court's split decision in this case.

In the case at issue, Mariana Krywin fell as she exited a train onto an ice-covered platform (not just a patch of ice), which had covered the platform for three straight days before her severe leg injury. The injury was clearly preventable, and the CTA actually employed multiple people to remove the ice from the platform in the days before the injury.

However, the CTA employees collected their paychecks but failed to do their jobs, and a nice elderly woman paid the price.

And now our Supreme Court has said that this is OK and the CTA does not even have to pay for the enormous medical expenses incurred? Will it be OK for all of us this winter, when the CTA has no incentive to keep its platforms safe from ice and snow?

**Joe Ryan, Gordon & Centracchio,**

attorney for Mariana Krywin

[The DREAM Act](#)

From Edu in Review Blog

[DREAM Act students journey to DC for inaugural class of DREAM University](#)

From Latina Lista: MediaCasts

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Chicago Sun-Times.