‘How Will I Pay for It?’ Undocumented Students and the Barriers to College Affordability
NURP Special Illinois Report

Chicago - The National UnDACAmented Research Project (NURP), in partnership with the Latino Policy Forum, are releasing a special report on the burdens faced by undocumented students in accessing, persisting in, and completing postsecondary education at four-year institutions in Illinois. The report is being released in light of the Student ACCESS Bill (SB2196), which would allow undocumented students to apply and compete for existing forms of institutional aid.

The Report, ‘How Will I Pay for It?’ Undocumented Students and the Barriers to College Affordability, draws on in-depth interviews in Illinois from NURP. The report shows that a lack of access to financial aid places the entire burden of tuition costs on undocumented students and their families and often blocks, delays, and derails their postsecondary pathways.

To alleviate the financial burden and its impact on undocumented students’ educational trajectories, the authors recommend opening up financial aid opportunities to undocumented students as proposed in the Student ACCESS Bill.


The National UnDACAmented Research Project is a multi-year study, led by Professor Roberto G. Gonzales at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education that seeks to understand the impact of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) on the lives of DACA eligible young adults.

About the Latino Policy Forum
The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.