

# Dreams Derailed

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Presentation made  
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# Introductions

## Author's Backstory:

- Journalist for Pulitzer Center Champion
  - Nonprofit organization
- 2022 post-graduate student
  - Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism
    - Earned masters in journalism
- Speaks Spanish and Portuguese



## Topic:

How three states make public college illegal for undocumented students

# The Story

## Summarization of Story

Dreams derailed is all about a few students, Steven, an unnamed girl, and Diana Pliego. Steven suffers from not being able to attend public college and is stuck between paying heavily for a higher education or giving up on his dreams. The unnamed girl was a 4.3 weighted-grade runner-up for valedictorian and was utterly lost on where to go or do due to her illegal status as an immigrant; restricting her from receiving a professional license. Diana Pliego was one of few to pass college as an undocumented student and be able to utilize her credits given from it. This was from legislation made within the states, South Carolina, Texas, and Florida, that made public education illegal for immigrants that wish to proceed into higher education.

## Stories Focus

From the stories beginning to its end, it mainly focuses more on the legislation passed by the States, but also the causes and reactions between all the policies, bills, programs, lawsuits, and the reasoning of the people against, or with the legislation of making public College illegal for undocumented students or other ideas, like the Dreamers Act, or DACA.

# The Highlights of the Story

## Single Aspect from Story: DACA

- President Barack Obama announced in 2012, the DACA program.
  - Allowed for undocumented students who arrived in the United States before 16 to get work authorization, Social Security numbers, and driver's licenses.
- The DACA was a loophole in the policies against undocumented students attending higher education due to them needing a lawful presence.
  - Trump Administration Memorial Liam wished to terminate DACA.
    - Led to a hearing before the US Supreme Court.
      - Ruled in favor of DACA blocking the memorials lawsuits.
        - Called them arbitrary and capricious.
- Research showed that Dreamers or students of DACA held over 367 million dollars

## Outcome of story

The outcome wasn't that the students overturned the states legislation against them, but simply showing a part of a much larger picture. The outcome of the story was to give an insight to the reader about what immigrants have to deal with, even if they were nearly born and raised in the US.

# Effects on their Querencia

Stevens querencia growing up was to attend Clemson University. His new querencia after not being able to attend Clemson was to attend a private school called Furman University, but the price to attend was 73,920\$.

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The unnamed girl's querencia was to head onto higher education but due to the legislation made against her she lost hope and didn't search for a new querencia, giving up entirely.

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Diana Piliego's querencia was to go onto higher education and with the help of DACA she was able to achieve her querencia. Her new querencia is to get into a job of her field.

# Questions for Them

1. What were the complex issues when it came to working or trying to get funds to attend private school due to the states legislation?
2. What is an issue that you believe is underrepresented or underreported in current media related to immigrant struggles?
3. Do you believe it's important to tell stories about migration?
4. Did you know of any organizations or people advocating for immigrant rights when you were trying to get into college/university?
5. Do you know of any friends or family that have similar experiences immigrating to the United States as you?

# Querencia Questions

## 1. How did the story make complex issues relevant and inspire action?

The story made complex issues such as the legislation against immigrant access to public higher education by tying it to students specifically. This inspires action because depending on your own situation, you can either sympathize with them or empathize with them; both resulting in the desire to try to help to avoid this situation from happening to themselves, or others.

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## 2. In what ways are people organizing/advocating to address the challenges people face while migrating and trying to remain in their destination?

The ways people organized/advocated for immigrants was the lobbying of the Dreamers Act and support for the DACA program, along with sharing their stories to many other Americans to gain their support.

# Querencia Questions P.2

3. How do the stories of migration explored in this unit compare to experiences of migration in my own community?

The stories of migration explored in *Dreams Derailed* compared similarly to the stories of migration in my community because the person in question immigrated to the U.S. at a young age.



# Sources

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<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/dreams-derailed>

# Sources (img)

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First Image is by Sean Rayford/The Chronicle of Higher Education. United States, 2023.