Overview

The Undocumented Student Working Group at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators dedicated to supporting the personal and professional development of undocumented students and creating institutional change. The group was established in November 2015 and trained by Dr. Elena Macías, former Special Assistant to the President, Government, Legislative, Community Relations at CSU Long Beach. The work of the group is guided by the needs and experiences of undocumented students at Cal Poly, including students active with the on-campus student club Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education (RISE).

The role of the Undocumented Student Working Group at Cal Poly is to:

- provide support, resources, and a network of allies for undocumented students
- educate the campus community about the needs of undocumented students through professional development trainings for faculty, staff, administrators, and students
- advise the administration about how to meet the needs identified by undocumented students and the working group
- act as a liaison between undocumented students and campus community
- seek funds to grow support for undocumented students at Cal Poly

Training Series and Progress

Between February and May of 2016, the working group provided 22 professional development trainings\(^1\) to 139 faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community members [Fig. 1 & 2].

The 3-part training is designed to grow participant knowledge, introduce participants to best practices and tools for supporting undocumented students, and build campus capacity to support undocumented students. Participants who complete the third session are provided an Ally logo sticker [Fig. 3].

\(^1\) We would like to thank the College of Science & Mathematics Dean’s Office for funding the 2015-16 trainings.
Recognition

During the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years, undocumented student support efforts have been recognized at the President’s Diversity Awards:

- RISE Club, Student Organization Award (2015)
- RISE President Marlen Diaz, Student Award (2016)
- USWG members Catherine Trujillo & Delfina Medina-Maloney, Staff Awards (2016)
- Undocumented Student Working Group, Campus Organization Nomination (2016)

Future Goals

The USWG is committed to supporting the needs of undocumented student. During the 2016-17 academic year, the USWG will:

- provide the three-part professional development training designed to build campus capacity to support undocumented students
- increase the visible network of faculty, staff, administrator, and student allies who have completed the training so that by Spring 2017, at least 10% of Cal Poly employees in the divisions of Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, University Advancement, and the Office of the President have participated, and at least 50% of staff in Student Affairs [Fig. 4]
- advocate for the recruitment of a full-time Student Services Professional staff member to support undocumented students
- support the planning and development of a dedicated on-campus space for undocumented students that is safe and confidential and provides access to community and campus resources
- seek grants and donations to provide:
  - scholarships and other financial support for undocumented students, including students who are not AB 540 eligible
  - compensated Learn By Doing opportunities (including on-campus research experiences, and internships)
  - emergency funds specifically for undocumented students for purposes such as health care, textbook purchases, etc.

![Figure 4](image-url)