International Student Program
Modesto Junior College

How Counselors Can Help Undocumented Students:

- Offer them hope and encouragement for the future.
- Encourage students to become involved in the struggle to change immigration laws.
- Understand undocumented students may not have the same standard of living as other students and may not have access to a quiet area of study. They may have adult responsibilities such as caring for siblings while parents are at work. They may also have to serve as interpreter for their Spanish (could be other languages) speaking parents.
- Know and understand the laws, regulations and benefits that affect undocumented students.
- Encourage students to attend college
- Provide information about applying for DACA, AB 540 and benefits of the Cal Dream Act/BOG fee waiver
- Encourage students to apply for other forms of financial aid and scholarships.
- Inform students of the SURE scholarship available through MJC’s Financial Aid
- Provide emotional support and an atmosphere of trust.
- Ask questions that allow students to talk about their undocumented status.
- Share your knowledge of undocumented students with others who may or may not support their situation.
- Make sure that information at your school site includes information for undocumented students (i.e. when discussing financial aid, if you say “FAFSA” also include “Cal Dream Act”
- Inform students of the free ESL classes at MJC that are available for their parents
- Inform students of the SURE group and the support services that are offered through the International Student Program
- Inform students of the Facebook page: MJC’s Dreamers are SURE
- Inform students of the webpage: www.mjc.edu/international

Some of the information above came from “California Educator,” April 2014. Other information was added by Barbara St. Urbain, Coordinator, International Student Program, Modesto Junior College.