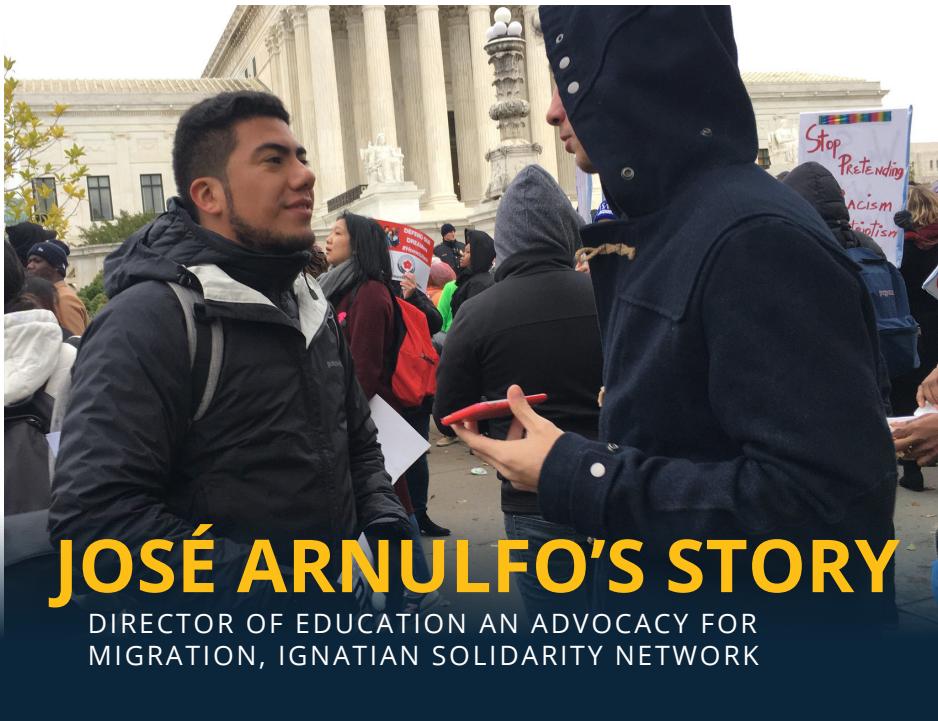


FACES OF DACA WHAT'S AT STAKE



JOSÉ ARNULFO'S STORY

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AN ADVOCACY FOR
MIGRATION, IGNATIAN SOLIDARITY NETWORK

MY MOM AND I CAME TO THE U.S.

in search of the mythical idea called the American Dream. Instead, we became victims of domestic violence, racism, poverty, fear of deportation, homelessness, and a broken immigration system.

But my mom and I aren't quitters. I pushed through against all odds and received enough scholarships to attend Xavier University. Not even my mom thought an undocumented kid could go to college, especially a Jesuit school.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR JOSÉ?

Since middle school, I've been organizing for immigrant rights. I organized undocumented students and DACA recipients in Cincinnati. I lobbied for the Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) on the Hill. Now I'm organizing my Jesuit family to fight for humane immigration reform.

I love this country and I want to work toward making it a welcoming country for immigrants. I can't do that if I'm deported back to Mexico.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE NETWORK?

When asked what is at stake for the Ignatian Solidarity Network team if José were to lose his DACA status, Christopher Kerr, ISN executive director shared that "We would lose a passionate advocate who is committed to cultivating a broader network of impacted immigrant individuals and allies to work for more welcoming communities and humane migration policies. José's voice and leadership are vital to our work."

"WHOEVER WELCOMES ONE OF THESE CHILDREN IN MY NAME WELCOMES ME; AND WHOEVER WELCOMES ME DOES NOT WELCOME ME BUT THE ONE WHO SENT ME"

MARK 9:37

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"The strength of our nation comes from its diversity and from the hard work and contributions of immigrants who have come to our shores over the past two hundred years. It is our identity and our soul."

THE MOST REVEREND KEVIN FARRELL, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF WASHINGTON AND MEMBER OF THE U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH DACA?

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denied applications from new eligible individuals.

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WHAT'S AT STAKE?

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WHAT CAN I DO?

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LIZBETH'S STORY

CABINET DIRECTOR OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

MY PARENTS AND I IMMIGRATED SEEKING A BETTER LIFE in 2001. Where they come from, there is only gang violence, poverty, and no proper educational system. Since then, we have experienced worse conditions here in the U.S. Their constant struggle is what motivates me to keep going. Because of their sacrifices, I attend Loyola Marymount University, where I have created connections with the Jesuit network to keep advocating for immigrants' rights.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR LIZBETH?

As a DACA recipient and student, access to education and a future in the U.S. lies in the hands of the Supreme Court, which means my future is uncertain. This uncertainty creates fear that prevents me from being able to move forward without worrying about my education, success, and family. Since arriving in this country at the age of nine months, my

life has been in the hands of the government and the justice system that was implemented to help us, but many times has failed me.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE NETWORK?

Vanessa Díaz, Ph.D., professor of Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x studies at Loyola Marymount University, shares that "the vitality and very future of our network is at stake. Lizbeth breathes life into our community. I've seen firsthand how her efforts...have had lasting effects on her peers' abilities to empathize with migrants and reimagine immigration policies."

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EFREN'S STORY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH EL PASO

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE NETWORK?

Rev. Stephen Pitts, S.J., director of religious education at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in El Paso shares that "Efren animates the liturgy and religious education at Sacred Heart. As someone who has grown up in this community, he is especially valuable as a role model for our youth. If he loses his DACA status, our community will lose not only his present gifts but also a potential future leader."

MY NAME IS EFREN LOYA-GOMEZ, and I am 21 years old. I was born in Juarez, Mexico, and have lived in El Paso, Texas for the past fifteen years. Although I wasn't born in El Paso and I value my Mexican heritage, I consider this city my home. I study education at the University of Texas at El Paso, and I work at Sacred Heart Jesuit Parish, a place where I truly feel loved and accepted.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR EFREN?

If DACA is rescinded, I have nowhere to go. My immediate family and close friends all live in El Paso. Returning to Mexico would mean starting over, like when I came to the U.S., because having to adapt to a different world takes time and patience. In the meantime, my life as I know it—studies, job, and friends—would be destroyed. I would like to raise my voice to change the broken U.S. immigration system.

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MARIA'S STORY

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WE THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN

MARIA IS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR for We the People Michigan. She immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico when she was nine years old and grew up in the Detroit area. Maria has been fighting for immigrant justice for over a decade. She studied English at the University of Detroit Mercy and has a Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan. Maria is a poet who writes primarily about her experience of being undocumented. Her work is found at medium.com/@mariaibarra_91171.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR MARIA?

There is so much at stake for me without DACA. I would lose my job, my driver's license, and the sense of security that comes with being in the U.S. But much bigger than this, our humanity as a country is at stake. Rescinding DACA would send a message that we are disposable—that our lives and our

roles in our communities are not important, and we that could be removed from our home and it would not matter.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE NETWORK?

Fr. John Staudenmaier, S.J., assistant to the president for Mission and Identity at the University of Detroit Mercy and editor of a poetry listserv shares that "when the Ignatian Solidarity Network asked Maria for words imagining the rescinded-DACA U.S., we turned to her poem, 'A Different Oral Argument,'

published in November 2019; an excerpt: "... foolish arguments about whether or not we deserve to stay. We already stayed. Now it's time to live."

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FILZA'S STORY

INTERN FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT PROGRAMMING. LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO,

I am a senior majoring in biology, an undocumented student programming intern, and an undergraduate research fellow. As a DACA recipient, I was fortunate enough to attend the Ignatian Solidarity Network's Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice so I could be a part of the call to action for immigration reform and could learn more about the injustices other marginalized groups face.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR FILZA?

Without DACA, I would not have been able to obtain higher education or work financially and academically towards my goals. Moreover, I will not be able to pursue medical school to become an agent of change in the field of medicine. On top of being a DACA recipient, I am from a mixed-status family. My siblings

and I were all born in different countries so, in addition to being deported, we would be separated.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE NETWORK?

Joe Saucedo, the former director of the Department of Student Diversity & Multicultural Affairs at Loyola University Chicago shared that "if Filza were to lose her DACA status, the Jesuit network would be robbed of opportunities to realize her God-given potential to become a medical doctor

and a public servant advocating for human rights and generating solutions that empower marginalized communities."

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