



Reflection From Our Founder + CEO

As I reflect on the deep sense of uncertainty and sustained collective trauma we experienced in 2021, the bird Phoenix comes to mind. I am reminded of how the human spirit embodies the Phoenix, rising through difficulty, shining through the ashes.

Despite the DACA program opening and closing due to continued judicial challenges, heartbreak after heartbreak due to the lack of inaction from the federal government to support mixed-immigration status families, our students and families have found healing and hope. Despite the challenges, we have shown that we can build together a future where immigration is not a determinant factor of success. This May, the Arizona state legislature chose to build a future to improve educational outcomes for our Dreamers and our state. In 2022, Arizona voters will have an opportunity to make our students eligible for in-state tuition and scholarships.

Arizona once was known for being an unwelcoming place for immigrants like me, and today, I am inspired by our ability to transform Arizona from an epicenter of pain, to an epicenter of hope for all of us, regardless of immigration status.

As we get ready to welcome 2022 I want to leave you with the spirit of our last open mic of 2021. Let us be reminded that our light at times might be dimmed but is never extinguished. Let us be reminded that we have the power to choose the light that shines from within.

May we keep the lessons from 2021, believe in new ways, and be reminded of the words of the wise Desmond Tutu, "that every little bit of good where you are, it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

With gratitude,

Reyna Montoya



Reflection From Our Board Chair

Like we saw in recent polls, Arizona voters support the ability for all children who have grown up in Arizona and graduated from our high schools to be eligible for in-state tuition and scholarships. Arizonans are indeed welcoming people.

I have experienced this personally, after moving to Arizona with my husband from California about 15 years ago to take a new job. As the child of immigrants who moved from Taiwan to Los Angeles to pursue career aspirations and a better life for their family, I have always appreciated the idea of the American Dream, the idea that everyone has access to opportunity in the United States. However, some families do not come to the United States under such stable circumstances. Some are fleeing tribulation or violence. Many have endured unspeakable trauma. All are coming for better opportunities in life. I believe that the opportunity to prosper and contribute should be available to all those who come to our country who are willing to work hard.

That's where Aliento comes in. If we don't invest in the lives of young people who want to become educated and participate in our communities, we will not realize the full economic or social potential of our state. One in nine children in Arizona are part of a mixed status family. In Maricopa County, the concentration is significantly higher. These students are sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, classmates, our friends and employees. They are valedictorians, student body presidents, award winners, artists, musicians, teachers, nurses, entrepreneurs and innovators. Arizona's future depends on our ability to support this key population successfully.

That's why I am a part of Aliento's founding board of directors. Building upon five years of successfully serving Arizona's community of undocumented students and mixed status families, Aliento ensures that all students, regardless of their immigration status have the opportunity to thrive in education and in life. We are looking forward to our next exciting chapter of organizational growth.

We hope you will continue to be a part of our journey. Thank you for your support; our impact on students' lives would not be possible without you.

With hope,

Pearl Chang Esau



VISION

A place where human potential is nurtured and not defined by immigration status.

MISSION

Aliento serves undocumented, DACA, and mixed immigration status families to transform trauma into hope and action. We are youth-led and directly impacted people and allies who are invested in the well being, emotional healing, and leadership development of those impacted by the inequities of lacking an immigrations status.

THE ALIENTO TEAM



REYNA MONTOYA Founder + CEO Board Member



JOSÉ PATIÑO Education + External Affairs Director



DIEGO LOZANO Marketing + Digital Director



SARAH BLACHE Art + Healing Programs Manager



LACIE JONES Leadership Development Manager



JESSICA GRIJALVA Art + Healing Programs Coordinator



LILY SANCHEZ Family + Community Liason



ERICK GARCIA Data Manager



DANIELA SWAIN Comms + Marketing Associate



SUZIE NAVA Administrative Assistant



BRITTANY DURAN Organization Development Consultant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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BLANCA SIERRA Board Secretary, LMSW



FELIX GARCIA Board Treasurer, Assurance Senior Manager, Ernst & Young LLP (EY)



STEVE SELEZNOW
President & CEO,
Arizona Community
Foundation



GABRIELA MUÑOZ Board Member, Program Coordinator Sr. National Accelerator for Cultural Innovation, ASU



JANICE PALMER VP, Public Policy & Government Affairs, Helios Education Foundation



VANESSA VALENZUELA ERICKSON Founding Team Member, Culdesac



JUSTIN GRAHAM Project Manager, Sunbelt Holdings



REYNA MONTOYA Founder + CEO, Aliento

ADVISORY COUNCIL



LUIS AVILA President of Iconico



JENNY POON Founder, CO+HOOTS



IRASEMA CORONADO Director & Professor School of Transborder Studies ASU



WILL RUTT Director of Ignatian Service & Advocacy at Brophy College Prep

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2. NURTURE

9-23

Student Leadership + Education Initiatives

3. CULTIVA

24-31

Arts + Healing Programs

4. TRANSFORM

32-37

Policy + Systems Change

5. DIGITAL IMPACT

38-42

ALIENTO BY THE NUMBERS



240+

TOTAL IN-PERSON & DIGITAL EVENTS



16,400+

EVENT ATTENDEES



68,000+

REACHED WITH OUR MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN



2 Million+

IMPRESSIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



300,000+

INFORMED & UPDATED ON DACA NEWS





SCR 1044 IN-STATE TUITION FOR DREAMERS TIMELINE

2006



PROP. 300

Prop. 300 was passed which banned instate tuition and merit-based scholarships for undocumented & DACA students.

AZ SUPREME COURT DACA DECISION

April 9, 2018 the Arizona Supreme Court Judges ruled that DACA recipients are not eligible for in-state tuition based on prop 300.

2018

2019



EDUCATION DAY 2019

We hosted our first education day where over 200 students, educators, and community leaders gather at the State Capitol to raise awareness of In-state tuition for Dreamers.

EDUCATION DAY 2020

After the success of Education Day 2019, we brought over 300 students, educators, and community leaders to continue advocating for in-state tuition for Dreamers.

2020



SCR 1044 IN-STATE TUITION FOR DREAMERS PASSES THE AZ LEGISLATIVE

2021

Voters will have the opportunity to decide in the 2022 ballot if Dreamers should be eligible for in-state tuition in Arizona.

SCR 1044 IN-STATE TUITION FOR DREAMERS







SCR 1044

On February 1, 2021 Republican State Sen. Paul Boyer (R. LD 20) introduced SCR 1044 in the 55th Arizona Legislative Session, which would give voters the opportunity to provide in-state tuition to all students who graduate from a high school in Arizona, regardless of their immigration status.

On March 4, 2021 SCR 1044 passed with a bipartisan vote in the senate.

On May 10th, 2021 SCR 1044 passed with a bipartisan vote in the Arizona House of Representatives.

Now voters will have the opportunity decide in the 2022 ballot if Dreamers should be eligible for instate tuition and scholarships in Arizona.

SCR 1044 MADE IT **TO THE FRONT PAGE**



Through the work of our students, we were able to pass SCR 1044! We were featured on the front page of the Arizona Republic the next morning.

In the front featured our Aliento Fellow, Deya Garcia.



It's a color of love, and it's a color of dignity. And with that, I vote aye."

protections reinstated



SCR 1044 IN-STATE TUITION FOR DREAMERS



"We need more college-educated teachers, health care workers, lawyers, engineers and a host of other occupations. The youth this bill seeks to help shouldn't be blamed or judged based on others' actions. They were brought here as minors, as children."

-Arizona Rep. Michelle Udall, R

"Every Arizona student deserves an equal opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. For far too long, Arizona's students have not had the same opportunity to attend one of our state universities. Today's passage of SCR 1044 a major step in the right direction."



- Superintendent Kathy Hoffman



"In 2017, when in-state tuition for DACA students was going through the courts I was devastated. I wondered, 'why would anyone want to make education less attainable?' Since then, I have gone from being a full-time student to a part-time student which has prolonged my college journey. This year would have been my graduation year. SCR 1044 will allow me to become a full-time student and be on track to fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor."

- Deya Garcia, DACA Recipient, Aliento Fellow

"We saw that true change can happen. Although it is too late for me...

For my sister this is now possible... My sister has a chance now. I can

never express how thankful I am for that. Now there are 2000

undocumented students that can benefit from this. 2000 Dreamers

every single year will benefit and my sister is one of them."



- Darian Benitez, DACA Recipient, Aliento Fellow

SCR 1044 BY THE NUMBERS



40+

PRESS MENTIONS ON SCR 1044



BUSINESS, FAITH, AND CIVIC LEADERS JOINED OUR EFFORTS



1,000+

STUDENTS SIGNED LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR SCR 1044



4200+

PLEDGES COLLECTED IN
SUPPORT OF IN-STATE TUITION
FOR AZ STUDENTS REGARDLESS
OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Aliento has a four-pronged approach to addressing its goals: Education Initiatives, Arts and Healing Programs, Leadership Training, and Policy and Advocacy activities.

Education Initiatives include our student fellowship, student hubs, and school partnership to increase academic success, supporting the social-emotional needs of the whole student to increase personal agency and resiliency and to decrease stress, anxiety, and isolation. These initiatives build healthier and more culturally responsive classrooms and school communities, engaging education leaders to address systemic barriers.



Our fellowship is a transformative leadership development program for immigrant youth. Fellows work within their schools to practice self-advocacy skills and implement the organizing principles they learn at Aliento.

Fellows work towards making their schools and their communities more equitable and inclusive. They are provided with weekly 1:1 coaching with Aliento's experienced team!



2020-21 FELLOWS

We graduated our 3rd cohort of fellows which joined the fellowship during the middle of the pandemic. They've accomplished so much despite the hardships they faced.

From working on our Aliento Votes campaign educating over 25,000 young & Latinx voters to being the driving force to getting one step close to obtaining education equity for all students in Arizona. We are so proud of everything they've accomplished!



FROM 8 TO 20 FELLOWS!

This year we are very proud to say that we significantly increased our number of fellows from 8 to 20!

We are very excited to mentor this talented group of students so they can make their schools and communities more equitable and inclusive.

OUR FELLOWS VOICES



"I'm looking forward to being apart of this Aliento fellowship because we all share the same desires and wishes to improve our community. I'm excited to dive deeper and share my passions, goals, and visions with others that have similar stories like mine."

Hidalty Gonzalez
Senior at Mountain View High School
Undocumented

"I look forward to being part of a community that seeks change for the better. As an undocumented student, I faced the hardships that many of us go through on our own, and I want to be there to let others know that we are the community they have been seeking. I am eager to meet the other fellows & create long-lasting connections!"







"I am grateful for this opportunity to make an impact in my community. As a son of immigrants and sibling to DACA recipients, I have witnessed and experienced, first-hand, the injustice that mixed-status families face. From being denied in-state tuition, to having detained parents, and a lack of access to basic resources, I hope to turn my past trauma into hope and action with the skills and knowledge this fellowship will grant me."

Iván Robles Barrera
Freshmen at Arizona State University
Part of a Mixed-status Family

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT: DARIAN BENITEZ '18-'19 FELLOWSHIP 2ND COHORT

Darian was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and migrated to the U.S. with his family when he was four. For 14 years, he lived in Arizona as a undocumented student, until recently he was eligible to apply for DACA. Darian faced the education barriers due to prop 300.

Under proposition 300, undocumented students like Darian don't qualify for in-state tuition rates. Because of this, these students pay 50% more for tuition at Arizona public universities. That would be an additional \$5,000 per year for a full-time undocumented student at ASU, where the annual in-state tuition rate is nearly \$11,000.

Darian was part of the Arizona's Future Fellowship from '18-'19. During his time with Aliento, he educated elected officials and peers about the inequities Undocumented and DACAmented students like him face. From 2019-21, Darian led students and educators to the Arizona Capitol to raise awareness of in-state tuition for Dreamers.

On May 10, 2021, the Arizona Legislature passed SCR 1044, a ballot measure which will ask Arizona voters in 2022 whether Dreamers like Darian should qualify for in-state tuition. However, if the ballot measure is approved by the voters, it won't take into effect until 2023.

Darian's original college plan was to attend Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. But because of prop 300, he's not eligible for in-state tuition or public scholarships.

So now he's going to Harvard because it is a more affordable option for Darian and his family.











Our Hubs are official school clubs that focus on providing arts workshops for students as well as work on current campaigns of Aliento. This year our Hubs hosted:

68 events with a total of 460 attendees!

CURRENT HUBS























SCHOOLS & PARTNERS

We are currently partnering with over 430+ schools & institutions



















































3

CULTIVA®

ART + HEALING PROGRAMS

ARTS & HEALING

WORKSHOPS

25

OPEN MICS

26

ART GALLERY

27-28

MENTAL HEALTH

CAMPAIGN

31





Our workshops are designed to identify emotions and provide participants with coping mechanisms & tools to process immigration-based trauma. Our purpose is to decrease isolation, stress, and anxiety. Our research and evaluations show that our participants also increase agency & resilience through our workshops.



11

Arts + Healing Workshop



62%

Reduced levels of stress



This workshop allowed me to realize that I'm not alone, many other people are feeling the same things I am. Through this newfound community I was able to find peace and hope, and let go of some of my fears. Thank you!

- Workshop Participant





90%

Felt more confident identifying their emotions

ALIENTO OPEN MICS



Our open mics are a welcoming space where we can be whole, feel safe, and be in the community. It is a place to share stories that connect us, unite us, and make us feel alive in our community. We celebrate and love our migrant families while building allyship.









11

Open mics held



61%

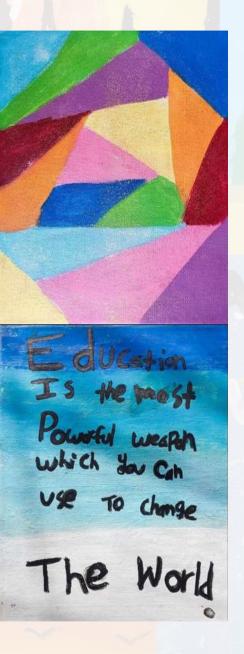
Felt less stress



87%

Felt comfortable sharing their stories & experiences

The Power Within: Aliento ECFI Fellows Art Gallery



This is Aliento's second year with their partnership with Eisenhower Center for Innovation. Things looked a little different with the program being fully virtual this year, yet we still managed to get art supplies to 17 of our fellows! These fellows were recruited based on their commitment to growth, leadership, and healing.

We held monthly virtual workshops where the fellows explored different topics including identity, gratitude, and agency while practicing bravery and vulnerability. We also worked in partnership with students, teachers, and staff where we co-created social-emotional learning practices to enhance school culture of social-emotional development. We are so proud of everything they have created and wanted to share a small piece of their journey with the rest of our community. Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Aliento ECFI Fellows!

View the gallery at: www.alientoaz.org/ecfi2021



Eisenhower Center For Innovation is a K-6 neighborhood school serving 450 students from a variety of families and cultures. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to creating a community of learners and supporting whole-child development. This looks like placing equal priority on engaging, technology-infused academic instruction, social-emotional development, and restorative justice practices in the daily student experience at school.

Our Eisenhower family is committed to values that include: acceptance, compassion, creativity, diversity, growth mindset, joy, perseverance, respect, resilience, responsibility, service, and tolerance. We are inspired by the strength of our families and invested in the future success of all of our students!

The Power Within: Aliento ECFI Fellows Art Gallery

Miguel Avalos - 6th Grade
Art Medium: Acrylic on canvas

"At Aliento I learned How to be confident"



The Equality of Mankind



Stronger Together

Abril Tellez - 6th Grade

Art Medium: Acrylic on canvas

"At Aliento I learned to not be afraid, explore other options, and accept myself as I am"

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY HEALING

- 66

"I want to share my deep gratitude for this space and that I always leave here feeling SO seen, heard, and supported. It is such an incredible feeling to feel like I belong and that I can be myself in a "room" full of strangers. Thank you!! Continue to do amazing work!"

- DACA Recipient

"I really enjoyed the creative aspects of the open mic because I feel that it broke the ice and gave everyone time to relax."

- Member of a Mixed Status Family





353
PEOPLE
BENEFITED
FROM OUR
WORKSHOPS



GROUP
THERAPIES



YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS



ELEMENTARY
FELLOWS



ARTS & MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERS



MENTAL HEALTH MONTH WITH ALIENTO

With our Uplift campaign, we focused on providing tips, testimonials, videos, and resources on mental health. Our goal was to bring awareness and destigmatize mental health within our community.



18,000+
PEOPLE REACHED VIA
SOCIAL MEDIA



50,000+

EXPOSURE ON LOCAL

AND NATIONAL MEDIA



1,400+
ORGANIZATIONS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
MTV



COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our children, families and neighbors from mixed-status families were entirely left out from financial relief under the CARESAct. This exclusion from receiving federal relief elevated the risk of illness and intensified trauma, particularly for children, who fear what may happen to their families if they fall ill, lose their job, and were unable to access support.



102

Families were helped with cash assistance



\$51,900

Donated to families facing hardships due to COVID-19



17

Laptops donated to high school & college students

We showed care, leverage financial contributions, and connected our mixed-status families with resources.

DACA ADVOCACY

We provided various resources to our community such as hosting DACA info-sessions, 1-on-1 appointments, and we also advocated to the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen the DACA program.



300,000+

Informed & updated on DACA news



60+

DACA Rewnewals



90+

Inquiries for initial daca applications



400+

Public comments were submitted to the Federal Registry in support of the **DACA** Regulation

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL





ZOOM RECOGNIZED ALIENTO AS A GLOBAL LEADER

we were awarded a multi-year grant to continue to support our Cultiva program grounded in bringing our arts & healing workshops, mental health initiatives, and support for undocumented and mixed-status families in the height of the pandemic.

Over the next two years, we hope to reach 2500-3000 students through our programs.

"We've leveraged the power of Zoom to make sure that no matter where our community is at, they have the opportunity to engage in healing. That no matter what mental health struggles that they are facing, they aren't alone."

- Reyna Montoya, founder & CEO



TEE-RICO BY LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA GRANT PROGRAM

We were awarded the TeeRico Grant. Lin-Manuel's TeeRico is the official merch store by Lin-Manuel Miranda of In The Heights and Hamilton.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL



ASU RECOGNIZES ALIENTO FOR LATINX/HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!

Arizona State University recognized us for Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month! We were recognized on the field of Sun Devil stadium during the ASU vs Stanford game!

Every year, ASU celebrates Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing an outstanding ASU Faculty Member, ASU Alumni, and a Community Organization committed to supporting ASU Hispanic and Latinx students!



ALIENTO JOINS MTV ENTERTAINMENT FOR ITS FIRST 'MENTAL HEALTH ACTION DAY'

In partnership with MTV we joined a coalition of more than 1400 nonprofits, brands, government agencies and influential leaders to drive our culture from awareness to action on May 20th for the inaugural Mental Health Action Day.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL



PUBLISHED UNDER "STAND TOGETHER: CASH ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR **UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN A TIME OF CRISIS"**

Stand Together describes Covid-19 direct relief funds for undocumented immigrants and records promising practices for crisis grantmaking in immigrant communities. The report addresses issues of particular interest to philanthropy: optimal ways to support and operate these funds, and other ways foundations might use their power beyond cash assistance.

Aliento was listed as the only Arizona-based non-profit organization that provided funding for undocumented and mixed-status families during COVID-19.





PUBLISHED UNDER "THE ARIZONA WE WANT: A DECADE AHEAD"

Insights from the Arizona Gallup Survey hosted by the Center for the Future of Arizona

SUBMITTED A TESTIMONY TO THE U.S. SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ABOUT THE DREAM ACT



ALIENTO IN

THE MEDIA

41-42



DIGITAL INSIGHTS



24,400+

Total Digital Audience:

Followers from all of our social media and email lists



2+ Million Impressions:

Number of times people saw our posts



119,000+ Engagements

Number of times people interacted with our posts

DIGITAL GROWTH



6.7%



28%



20%



23%



185 **330**

78% 1

TOTAL AUDIENCE: 24,300+

ALIENTO IN THE MEDIA

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL



130+

FEATURED NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS ARTICLES

theguardian



MotherJones



































ALIENTO IN THE MEDIA

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL



Article by Terry Greene Sterling

"People who were hurting were hurting others. If you haven't processed your own traumas, the cycle continues."

- Reyna Montoya





BIDEN'S IMMIGRATION PLAN
WOULD BE A BOON FOR
UNDOCUMENTED KIDS. BUT
THE PROPOSAL FACES A
STEEP, UPHILL BATTLE

FEATURED: REYNA MONTOYA



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

These remarkable achievements are only possible because of your support and our collective commitment to the community we serve.

We look forward to a new year of transforming trauma into hope & action with our DACA, mixed immigration status families, and undocumented youth.

Thank you for being a part of Aliento.



