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COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS SET FOR SECOND YEAR

Noble and the Pritzker Access Scholarship team up to support DACA students

CHICAGO – Undocumented college-bound seniors at the [Noble Network of Charter Schools](#) will have access to the financial support needed for college through the Pritzker Access Scholarship, which will serve up to 80 Noble seniors in its second year.

Until last year, many of Noble's undocumented students, like those all across the country, had limited access to the financial resources required for an undergraduate education. To support them in making their college dreams a reality, The Pritzker Foundation and the [Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation](#) made a \$3 million commitment to provide Noble's undocumented seniors in 2015 with a scholarship of up to \$12,000 annually. The scholarship will be offered for a second year, it was announced today.

The Pritzker Access Scholarship will be available to every single student in the class of 2016 who qualifies for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and gets into a four-year university. In collaboration with financial aid directly from participating partner colleges, the Pritzker Access Scholarship will supplant the federal and state financial aid unavailable to undocumented students or "DREAMers" and intends to provide the equivalent of a fully funded scholarship for undergraduate education.

"All students deserve the reassurance that if they work hard, they can excel in school and in life," said Bryan Traubert for the Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation. "I continue to be inspired by the 2015 scholarship recipients and know that as this tradition continues into a second year, we are supporting a generation of individuals who will make a difference for our city and country."

Unlike any other program in the country, Noble offers additional support to Pritzker recipients to help them address the unique challenges they face in college. Undocumented undergraduates report feeling elevated levels of anxiety as well as isolation and uncertainty about who they can trust, according to a [report](#) conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). To support Pritzker recipients, Noble partners with more than 15 colleges throughout the country to provide students with advisors, assistance in completing and submitting federal paperwork and coaching on midterms, finals and papers, among other support services.

"When you're an undocumented student and you're facing daily fears of deportation, all while combating feelings of isolation and loneliness, it is easy to fall between the cracks in college," said Noble DREAMers Manager Aidé Acosta. "It's our goal and responsibility to support our capable DREAMers during high school and as they fulfill their college dreams."

Last year the Pritzker Access Scholarship enabled 57 Noble graduates to attend a four-year university. Today all 57 students are persisting in their first year of college, one of which is Dayra. She attributes her success to her perseverance and strong work ethic as well as the support services that accompany the scholarship.

When Dayra needed to renew her DACA forms, she worked with staff at both Noble and her college, [Lycoming College](#), to complete all necessary enrollment requirements. They assisted her in filling out the correct paperwork, and a staff member drove Dayra to the immigration office two hours away to submit her forms.

“The Pritzker scholarship makes you realize you are not alone,” said Dayra. “When you have counselors from high school and college on your team, you feel so lucky to get so much support. Without Noble and the Pritzker scholarship, I wouldn’t be going to college - I know that for sure. I have a big opportunity before me that not a lot of people get and I feel so lucky. Now, I feel like I am doing something with my life.”

For undocumented students like Dayra, affordability is a significant factor affecting their college choice. Only 10 percent of undocumented students enroll in college, with the majority attending two-year colleges with low transfer and graduation rates, according to UCLA. Together, Noble and the funders of the Pritzker Access Scholarship aim to ensure that the vast majority of Noble’s undocumented seniors make it to and through college.

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