



HUNGERFORD

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SEPTEMBER 2024

DEI NEWSLETTER

01 DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

MARIA DELUCAS

INFORMATIONAL & PERSONAL

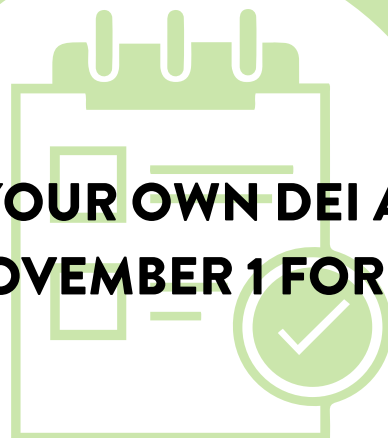
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**SUBMIT YOUR OWN DEI ARTICLE
BY NOVEMBER 1 FOR Q4!**



DACA

Informational



MARIA DELUCAS

What is DACA?

On June 15, 2012, under an executive order by President Barack Obama, the Secretary of Homeland Security implemented a deferred action policy aimed at protecting young, undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children. Upon meeting certain criteria, they are temporarily shielded from deportation. The program doesn't give legal status, but it provides recipients with work authorization and can be renewed every two years.

What are the Requirements of DACA?

DACA recipients must renew their permits every two years and pay application fees and legal costs. They must meet the initial requirements to qualify, which include the following:

- 1.) Must have been under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012,
- 2.) Must have come to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday,
- 3.) Must have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the time of filing the request for DACA,
- 4.) Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of filing the request for DACA with USCIS,
- 5.) Had no lawful immigration status on June 15, 2012, and at the time of filing the request for DACA,
- 6.) Are currently enrolled in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Coast Guard or armed forces of the United States, and
- 7.) Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor (that is, a misdemeanor as described in 8 CFR 236.22(b)(6)), or 3 or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

DACA

Informational Continued



Who are Dreamers?

DACA recipients, often referred to as Dreamers, are undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children and now consider the U.S. their home. For many of these Dreamers, the U.S. is the only country they have ever known, and they often identify themselves as Americans. The DACA program grants Dreamers a work permit, enabling them to obtain Social Security numbers, state identification cards, and driver's licenses.

Having employment authorization has opened numerous career opportunities for many Dreamers, resulting in better wages, improved benefits, and increased access to higher education. According to the 2023 Survey of DACA Recipients Highlights Economic Advancement, Continued Uncertainty Amid Legal Limbo, "More DACA recipients have become homeowners: 30.7 percent of survey respondents purchased their first homes in 2023, a percentage that has trended upward over nearly a decade of surveys. For example, an estimated **17.7 percent** and **13.6 percent** purchased their first home in 2022 and 2019, respectively. As homeowners, they pay hundreds of **millions of dollars** annually in mortgages as well as make property tax payments that ultimately strengthen national and local economies. The trend of increased homeownership helps illustrate that a sustained opportunity to live and work freely can result in huge economic advancement for recipients and communities."

Many fear that canceling DACA could expose them to deportation and family separation, potentially sending them to a foreign country where they have no homes, family ties, and may face language barriers. While DACA provides some protection, it does not offer a pathway to citizenship, leaving recipients uncertain about their future and concerned about the possibility of deportation.

SEE MORE INFORMATION AT
[HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANPROGRESS.ORG/ARTICLE/2023-SURVEY-OF-DACA-RECIPIENTS-HIGHLIGHTS-ECONOMIC-ADVANCEMENT-CONTINUED-UNCERTAINTY-AMID-LEGAL-LIMBO/](https://www.americanprogress.org/article/2023-survey-of-daca-recipients-highlights-economic-advancement-continued-uncertainty-amid-legal-limbo/)

DACA

Personal Story



As someone who has witnessed firsthand the benefits and struggles of my older siblings as DACA recipients, I can attest to the positive impact it has had on our family.

My older brothers arrived in the U.S. in the early 2000s, during their early childhood. They faced significant challenges with language barriers and cultural differences. As a family, we had to move to different schools across West Michigan to find a township that offered bilingual resources. Despite these challenges growing up, my older siblings remained dedicated to working hard to achieve the better future our parents envisioned for us, all while managing their own struggles.

When the DACA program first became available, it was largely unknown to everyone. As my brothers began the application process, they constantly worried about where it might lead. They had to attend multiple appointments with U.S. Customs and make numerous visits to lawyers, which added to the stress. Despite these challenges, my brothers were determined to do things the right way and sought protection from deportation. Now 12 years later, their DACA status has enabled them to build successful careers and provided them with the opportunity to travel back to their homeland, Mexico.

MARIA DELUCAS

DACA

Personal Story Continued



Maria's grandparents, along with her cousins, brothers, sisters, and husband. Fun fact: This seafood restaurant is one of the best in town, and the whole dinner for all of us only cost \$100!

As of June 2024, we received the news my brothers were approved for Advance Parole to travel outside the United States. Advance Parole is only approved for urgent humanitarian reasons, educational or employment purposes. Before leaving the U.S., they must obtain a document (Form I-512L) to present to U.S. border officials upon their return to the United States. There is a travel limit of how long the visit can be (usually 30-45 days), and intensive documentation needs to be provided during this process to prove there is a reason for traveling outside the U.S. It's important to note that re-entry to the U.S. can be denied, even if the government granted you permission to travel. For example, if you plan to return just before your Advance Parole document expires and you encounter travel delays, you will be blocked re-entry to the U.S. Also, Customs and Border Protection officers can deem you "inadmissible" for health or security reasons. If DACA is repealed, this option will no longer be an avenue for those wishing to pursue further education or visit ill family members.

Overall, the DACA program has played a pivotal role in providing opportunities and stability for many families, particularly my brothers, who have worked tirelessly to overcome obstacles and build successful lives in the United States.

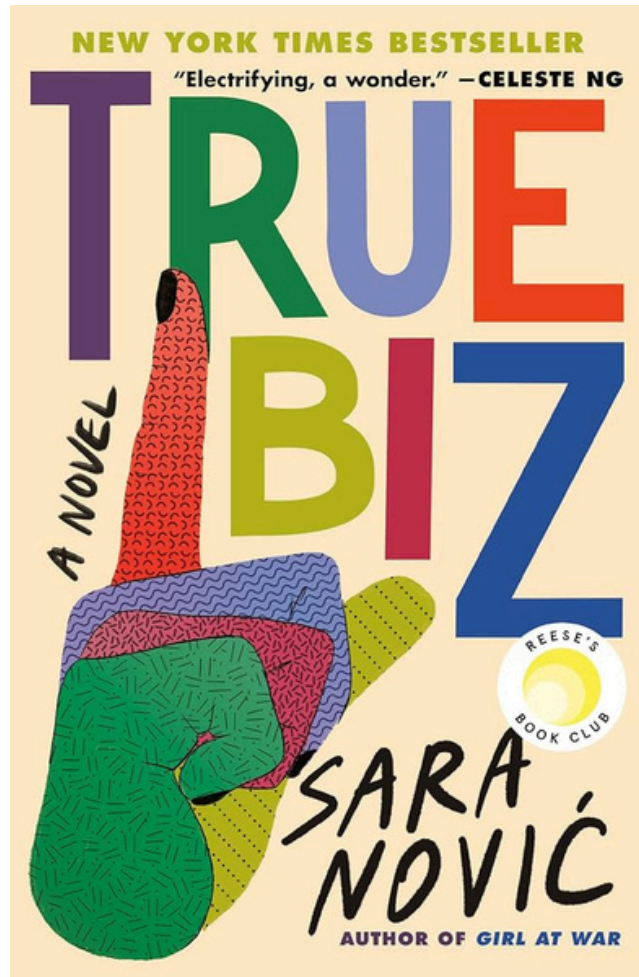
BOOK CLUB REVIEW

MATT BOGGIANO
TRUE BIZ

I was asked to provide a summary of our most recent book club offering, True Biz. It really was a powerful book, but first, I would like to briefly explain why I joined Hungerford's DEI group.

In 2014, I asked a friend to meet me at a local establishment. He declined saying that he didn't like to drive in that city because he didn't want to get pulled over by local police. I did not understand--until that summer. Michael Brown and Eric Garner were killed in what could have been harmless interactions with police. It was then that it occurred to me that my friend had a different approach to daily life. I told him I now understood why and would support him however I could.

True Biz is a story of people having to live their lives around what society imposes on them. The deaf community is easy to overlook. Until I read this book, I didn't think much about it. But that is the point of DEI for me.



The story of Charlie, Austin and the other students at River Valley School for the Deaf is an insight into the biases and isolation the deaf community faces. The book covers such challenges as the rise of cochlear implants, hearing parents/deaf children, sign language, eugenics, racism and lack of societal support/funding.

The narrative was engaging, and the characters were complex and moving. The story heart-breaking and emotional. In discussions, there was unease at the ending. But that was the point according to the author. Don't like it? It's up to us to do something - anything, just start by listening.

Our next book club novel is Killers of the Flower Moon followed by a showing of the movie adaptation. Stay tuned for more details!

SEPTEMBER

Hispanic Heritage Month
National Guide Dog Month
Suicide Prevention Month

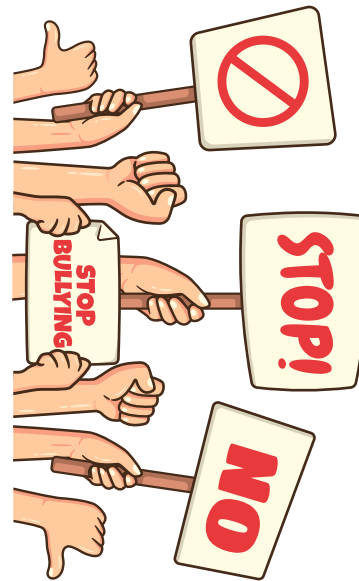
September 5 – International Day of Charity
September 10 – World Suicide Prevention Day
September 16 – Mexican Independence Day
September 18 – International Equal Pay Day
September 20 – HeForShe
September 21 – International Day of Peace
September 22 – American Business Women’s Day
September 27 – National Native American Day



OCTOBER

Bullying Prevention Month
Filipino-American Heritage Month
German-American Heritage Month
Italian-American Heritage Month
LGBTQ History Month
Polish-American Heritage Month

October 1-4 – Rosh Hashanah
October 10 – World Mental Health Day
October 11 – National Coming Out Day (LGBTQ+)
October 14 – National Indigenous Peoples’ Day
October 19 – International Pronouns Day
October 19 – Spirit Day (LGBTQ+ anti-bullying)
October 22 – International Stuttering Awareness Day



NOVEMBER

National Native American, American Heritage Month

November 1 – National Stress Awareness Day
November 9 – World Freedom Day
November 9 – World Adoption Day
November 13 – World Kindness Day
November 16 – International Day for Tolerance
November 19 – International Men’s Day
November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 24 – Native American Heritage Day

