

in international business and obtain a Ph.D. in psychology. I plan to come back and serve the youth in my community and someday work for the US Embassy in France.

I will never forget that Friday evening while I was at school studying for my AP Physics test, when my mother called me and said I was placed on a waiting list for Pitzer and I had been denied by Occidental. I shed tears of frustration and lost a lot of hope. My mother and I cried together, but I admitted my reality and knew I had to be strong and I had to move on no matter what. That same night while I lay on my friend's couch, something forced me to check my email and there it was, the application for Santa Clara's scholarship. I had to submit the scholarship application by the following Friday. It was a week after the deadline, Good Friday, when I received a call saying that I had been one of the 18 out of 60 finalists who had been carefully reviewed and that they wanted to interview me on the upcoming Friday. With the little money my father had, he arranged bus tickets for me to go to my interview. I took an eight-hour bus ride from 11:00 p.m.–6:00 a.m. and once I was there, I felt really intense.

On the week of interviews, I received news that my 20-year-old cousin in Mexico had committed suicide. I felt really frustrated and anguished to know that I could not even be at my cousin's funeral due to my citizenship status, let alone with my loved ones. Yet, before me I had an opportunity of a lifetime and I did not want to lose it. I kept my faith and hopes higher than ever and I prayed to God that it would be his will whether I received this scholarship or not. After four intense interviews, I left the school with hopes that maybe I had been good enough for them. Three days later on April 21 at 2:00 p.m. I received a call that has changed my life and my family's. I had received the Hurtado Scholarship, my dream had finally come true.

My gate to the American Dream had finally been open, my prayers were answered, my hard work had paid off, and my gratitude had grown larger than ever. I believe in miracles and, to me, this was a miracle. On the day my college opportunities had gone from many to none, a Catholic school asked me to apply and soon it would become my future school.

At the same time, I am saddened to know how many good kids, who have college potential, will not be attending because this country requires a number to qualify for financial aid. It was not our decision to come here, and I find this an injustice of our society, and for that I will never forget where I come from, and I will dedicate myself to those in need.



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Talking to Undocumented Students about Sensitive Subjects

by **Katharine Gin** (biography on page 20)

What NOT to Say	What to Say
Going to college isn't really an option for you.	Going to college is going to be difficult for you, but it is possible. Thousands of other talented, hard-working undocumented students have already graduated from college.
You're not going to be able to get any money for college.	You're not eligible for most forms of government financial aid. However, you might be eligible for in-state tuition, and there are some private scholarships you can apply for.
Why don't you just legalize?	Have you talked to an immigration attorney to find out if you can legalize? There may be immigration remedies that you and your family don't know about already.
Even if you get a college degree, you're never going to be able to work legally.	Getting a college degree isn't going to change your immigration status, but it will open up many opportunities for you once you're able to legalize. The DREAM Act is a proposed federal bill that will give many undocumented students a path towards citizenship if they graduate from high school and go on to college. Because of strong bipartisan support in Congress and support from President Obama, the DREAM Act is very likely to pass in the near future.
Why don't you go back home and get a degree?	If you have family and connections in another country outside the United States, it might make sense for you to consider pursuing educational opportunities elsewhere. Remember, however, that you would be separated from your family in the U.S., and you could be barred from returning for 10 years.
In order to apply to college, you're going to have to reveal everything.	In order to apply to college, you're going to have to be honest about your immigration status. At first this may seem scary to you and your family. Remember that federal law (specifically FERPA) will protect your privacy and prevent colleges from releasing your information unless under court order.