

## Meet TheDream.US Scholars:

*They are driven, resilient, and ready to move our country forward*



**"We all have the capacity to be great, we just need an opportunity..."**

A DREAMer Scholar from Texas

Dear Friends of TheDream.US,

As our fifth class of DREAMers begins their college journey, we want to report to you on our work and the progress of our Scholars. In short, they are thriving.

Our students exceed expectations in the classroom and in their campus communities, often while holding a job. They demonstrate rigor and aptitude, and prove to us and to their peers that they are changemakers – whose futures will impact all of our lives positively. They are doing fantastically well in everything that is under their control, demonstrating persistence, courage, resilience, strong academic performance, and high graduation rates.

Without the support of donors like you, almost none of these students could have gone to college and graduated. With your help, they are success stories. They have done well in college because of their extraordinary, burning motivation. We at TheDream.US would bet that most of them will be big successes in life for the same reason.

In collaborating with affordable schools that have a strong record of graduating low-income, first-generation students, TheDream.US helps DREAMers to get the college education necessary to secure their futures. In turn, DREAMers leave their mark on the institutions that they attend. The hard-work, the eagerness to participate, and the sheer enthusiasm of our Scholars permeates every aspect of student life. Teachers have described overall class performance improving because of DREAMer participation, and administrators have taken note of the vibrant changes that take place on campus. Companies who have hired alumni of TheDream.US positively report their transition into a full-time career.

Of course, there are other factors that determine DREAMers' opportunities and futures that are outside of their control. In principle, most elected officials would like to pass legislation to support the DREAMers. But it never seems to be the "right time." We cannot let this continued failure penalize these deserving young people. The "right time" for DREAMers is now.

In closing, TheDream.US began with modest goals. In 2013, naively expecting that the DREAM Act was imminent, we thought our program would be out of business by now. Yet here we are in early 2019 and DREAMers still need our support and still face uncertainty and anxiety about their futures. We now expect - and are determined - to continue to help DREAMers.

We are grateful to have so many incredible partners join us on this journey. Together we can do the right thing and give DREAMers the opportunity to help move our country forward.

**Don**



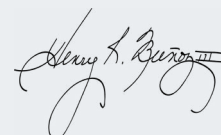
CO-FOUNDER, THEDREAM.US  
Graham Holdings Company

**Carlos**



CO-FOUNDER, THEDREAM.US  
Former Secretary of Commerce under  
President George W. Bush

**Henry**



CO-FOUNDER, THEDREAM.US  
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer  
of Muñoz & Company

**TheDream.US is the nation's largest college access and success program for DREAMers.**

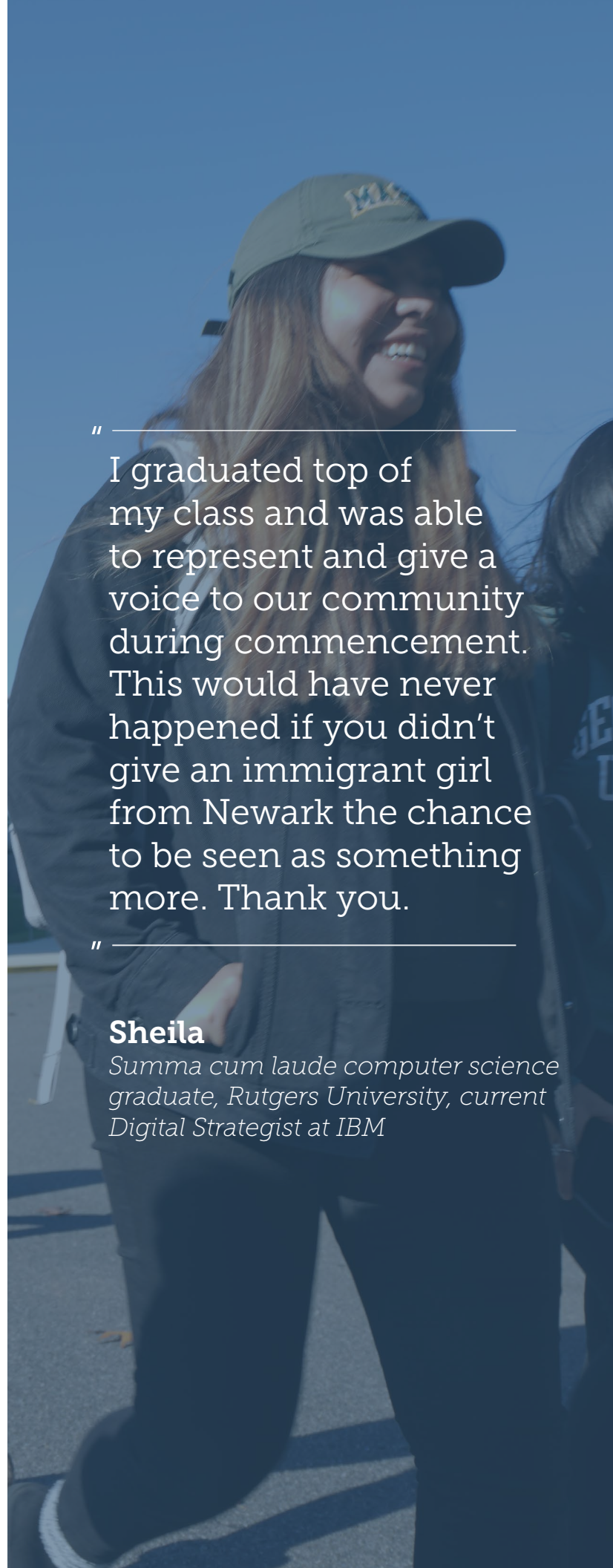
**We have granted scholarships to 4,000 DREAMers to attend 70+ Partner Colleges across the country and the number is growing.**

**More than 300 of our Scholars have graduated with a bachelor's degree and are now studying in graduate school and strengthening workplaces throughout the country.**

" I graduated top of my class and was able to represent and give a voice to our community during commencement. This would have never happened if you didn't give an immigrant girl from Newark the chance to be seen as something more. Thank you.

**Sheila**

*Summa cum laude computer science graduate, Rutgers University, current Digital Strategist at IBM*



# OUR APPROACH



We help highly-motivated, talented, and driven undocumented immigrant youth - known as DREAMers - attend and succeed in college.

DREAMers have grown up in this country - our Scholars' average age of arrival to the U.S. is just **four years old**.



Many thrived as K-12 students and would succeed in college IF they could afford it. They have NO access to Pell Grants. NO federal education loans. NO federal work study.



Over 20 States have passed legislation providing access to in-state tuition and only a small minority of states make financial aid possible for DREAMers.

Yet, our nation's future success is directly tied to the opportunities available to hundreds of thousands of these young people.

We believe that everyone, regardless of where they were born, should have the opportunity to get a college education and contribute to the prosperity of our nation.



We use a rigorous selection process, including a national selection committee made up of education, immigration rights, and business leaders, to select DREAMer Scholars who have demonstrated the resilience and persistence necessary for success in college and in life.

Our Scholars use our scholarship to attend one of our 70+ Partner Colleges all of which have a track record of serving and graduating low-income, first generation students. A dedicated Scholar Advisor at each of our Partner Colleges builds meaningful relationships with Scholars and helps them navigate their college journey toward graduation.

We use data to monitor Scholars' academic progress, success, and struggles: We track progress and spot early warning signs to ensure that Scholars receive the help and support they need to succeed.

## We offer two types of scholarships:

### The National Scholarship

Up to \$16,500 in total for tuition and fees for an associate degree

Up to \$33,000 in total for tuition and fees for a bachelor's degree for high school and community college graduates

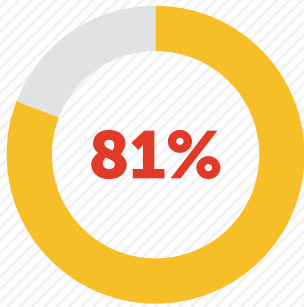
### The Opportunity Scholarship

Up to \$80,000 in total for tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals for a bachelor's degree for students who live in targeted, locked-out states where they cannot get in-state tuition

## 4,000+ Scholarships Awarded



# Scholar Profile



**81%** First Generation to attend College



**100%** Low-Income



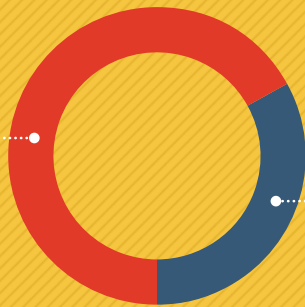
**4** Average age of arrival to US



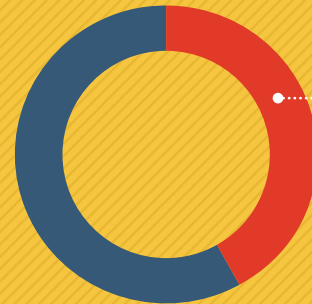
**19** Average age at time of award



**67%** Female



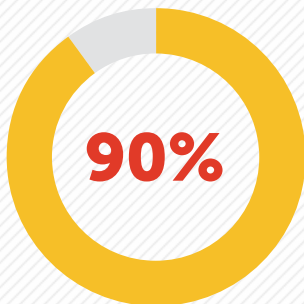
**33%** Male



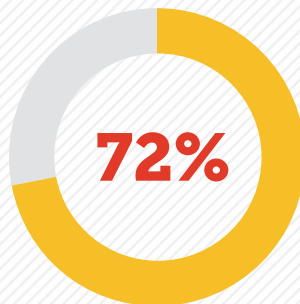
**42%** Pursuing STEM Majors



**Over 3,300 Scholars enrolled in Fall 2018**



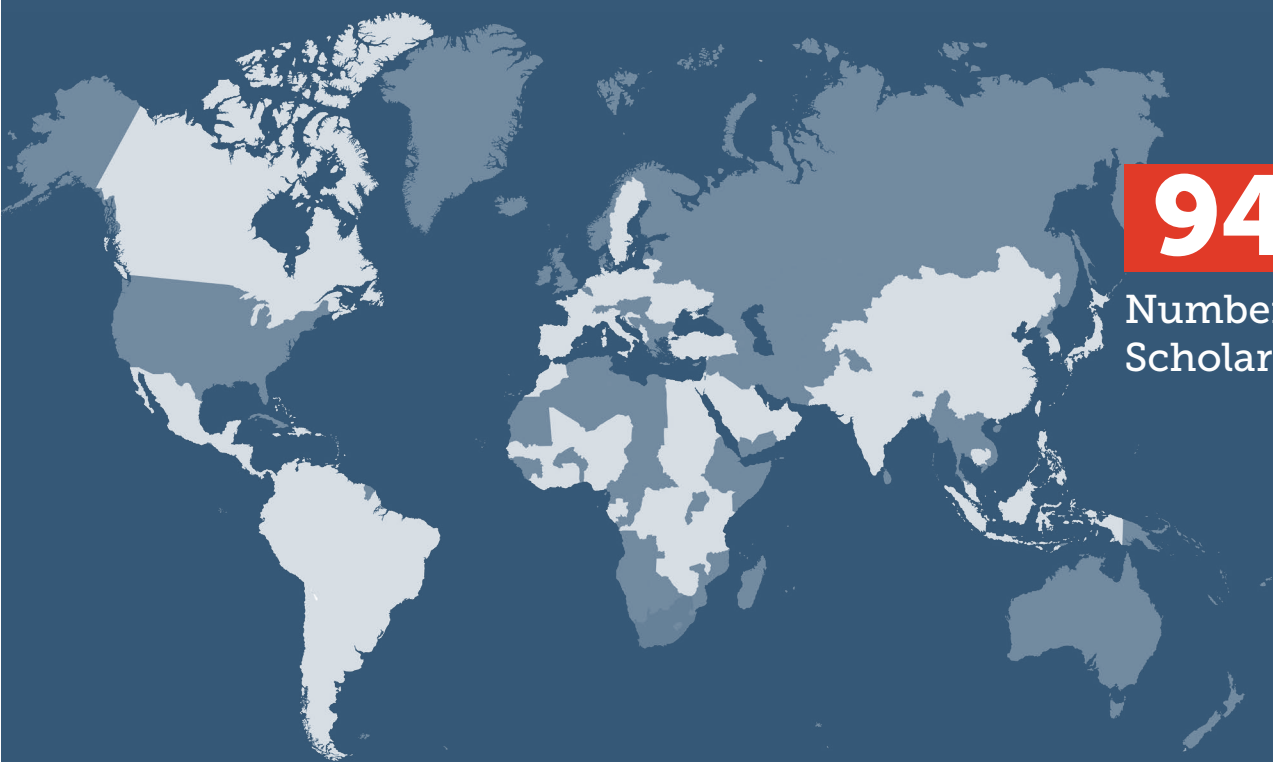
**Enrolled full-time**



**Working while in school**

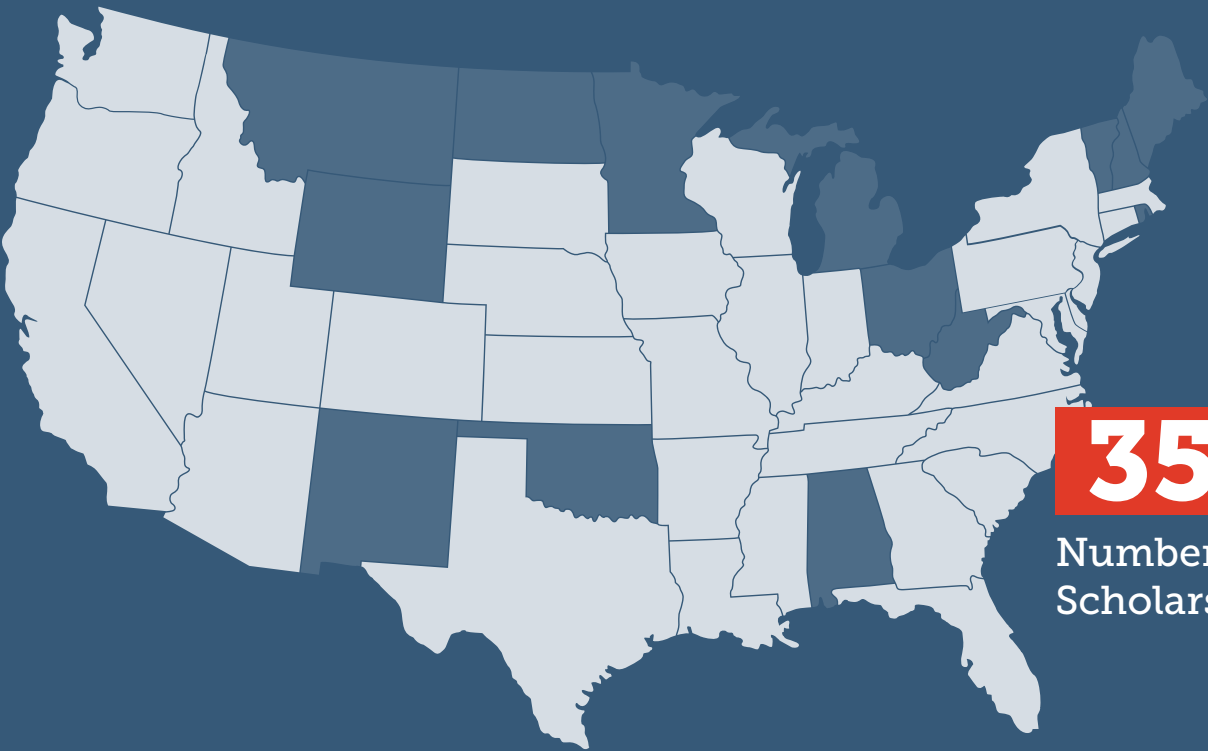


**Cumulative GPA**



**94**

Number of countries  
Scholars come from



**35**

Number of states  
Scholars reside in

# OUR MODEL IN ACTION

While our scholarships are essential to enable DREAMers to go to college, they are not sufficient to ensure college and career success. This is particularly true in this time of significant negative rhetoric and a constant threat of the loss of DACA/TPS.

In 2018, we stepped up our efforts to ensure that our Scholars would receive the supports they need – both to succeed in college and in their careers.

**First, we listened.** In April of 2018 we conducted a survey of our Scholars to understand their needs and fears in the face of the loss of DACA/TPS. They told us that their greatest concerns were their inability to work (71%), experiencing food insecurity (60%), obtaining professional licensure (66% are pursuing careers requiring licensure to practice), and high levels of anxiety for themselves (83%) and their families (86%).

**Then, we acted.** We captured their input and put forth recommendations in a report: [“In Their Own Words: Higher Education, DACA and TPS”](#) and set to work to address their concerns.







## DREAMer Resource Centers

We actively worked with our Partner Colleges to identify and share effective practices and tools that help students thrive – including the creation of resource centers for undocumented students and allies such as those at San Jose State and Metropolitan State Universities.



## Counseling Services

Knowing that one of our Scholars' greatest challenges is mental health, we have worked with our PC's to identify innovative approaches to scaling their already overburdened counseling services with on-campus therapy groups, 1:1 counseling provided by culturally competent counselors from the community; townhalls or workshops for students to safely share their stories; and social events such as movie nights and pizza parties to help students relax and alleviate anxiety.

" TheDream.US not only financially supported my aspiration to pursue a higher education when my family was struggling to make ends meet, but also **serves as a support network that works to bridge the gaps that too often allow bright, undocumented students to fall through the cracks** in our educational system.

*A Scholar from Texas*



## Internships and Career Opportunities

We proactively identified and promoted internship opportunities for our Scholars and Graduates and hosted online learning circles on paths to graduate school and ways to pursue meaningful careers as independent business owners. To date we have worked with:



DREAMRESOURCECENTER

nationalgrid

TEACHFORAMERICA



## Alumni Network

With over 300 Graduates and more to come, we worked with our Alumni to launch an Alumni Network to provide our Alumni with a place to connect and to find opportunities for career advancement and community service.



## Changing the Narrative

We recognized that it was important to counter the negative rhetoric with positive stories about the contributions DREAMers and their families make to our country. Toward that end, we expanded our Scholar Story Bank to include over 100 stories that we have shared with the media throughout the year. We also worked with the 2018 Texas Tribune Ideas Festival to develop and promote a high-profile panel on DREAMer's lives, featuring three of our local Scholars.

# OUR SCHOLARS' IMPACT

## Our Scholars are Leaders On Campus

The moment our Scholars step foot on campus they hit the ground running. They join student government associations, start DREAMer organizations, bring a diversity of thought and experience to the classroom, and overall elevate the playing field for all students.

At Trinity in Washington, the leadership of our Dreamer Scholars inspires all students to achieve at very high levels. Dreamers are class presidents, team captains, organizers of volunteer projects and advocates for justice, and other students are glad to join their initiatives. 70% of Dreamers in the Class of 2018 graduated with Latin Honors and more than half of the Phi Beta Kappa class this year are Dreamers. **Dreamers set the bar very high academically, inspiring other students to reach higher as well.**

**Pat McGuire**

*President | Trinity Washington University*

## Our Scholars Stand Out

We partnered with Pilot Flying J, the largest operator of travel centers in North America, to provide internship opportunities to our Scholars. Five were chosen to partake in a workforce development internship pilot program and after the 10-week internship, 3 have now received job offers for permanent positions upon graduation. This year Pilot J will expand their recruitment efforts to two of our FL Partner Colleges and at University of Texas El Paso.

The partnership between PFJ and TheDream.US has been incredible. **All of the Scholars that we have come in contact with have been very driven, motivated and focused on success.** Last year, we offered 3 of the DREAMers the opportunity to join our PFJ Leadership Academy, our advanced Management Program, and this year we hope to expand that number. Here at PFJ we look forward to the continuing partnership with the DREAMers program for many years to come.

**Brian O'Toole**

*Divisional Staffing Manager | Pilot Flying J*

## Our Scholars Set High Bars

### National Scholarship Academic Outcomes by College Type

**88%**      **82%**      **90%**

Overall Persistence

2-year College

4-year College

**93%**      **92%**      **93%**

First-year Persistence

2-year College

4-year College

### National Student Clearinghouse Comparison by College Type

**76%**      **63%**      **83%**

Overall Persistence

2-year College

4-year College

**74%**      **62%**      **83%**

First-year Persistence

2-year College

4-year College

### Opportunity Scholarship Academic Outcomes

**98%**      **99%**

Overall Persistence

First-year Persistence

**They are teachers,  
engineers, social  
workers, business  
leaders, nurses...**

## Our Scholars Are America's Future Workforce

Since we started, we've had over 300 Scholars graduate with their bachelor's degree. A number of them are currently in the workforce in prominent companies like IBM, Northwell Health, and BB&T.

" This past year, the retention of TheDream.US Scholars at Dominican was an extraordinary 100%, out pacing the average DU student retention by 15%. Dreamers are pursuing some of the most demanding undergraduate disciplines, Biology/Chemistry, Engineering, Nursing and Finance, with an average GPA of 3.4. **We credit our University's rise in the US News and World Report rankings from 19th to 11th of 165 Midwest Regional Universities in large part to the strong academic performance and persistence of the many undocumented students that attend Dominican.**

**President Donna Carroll**  
*Dominican University in Illinois*

" Kevin Ortiz joined BB&T in the last half of 2018 and has already become an important part of The BB&T Leadership Institute family! Kevin facilitates a leadership development program to students at eleven colleges and universities in the BB&T footprint. He has built great relationships with these partners. I continue to receive positive feedback from students that are in Kevin's sessions – which is a wonderful compliment! His hard work, dedication, and commitment to making the world a better place is contagious. **We feel lucky to have his talent and perspective and look forward to watching his contributions grow throughout his career at BB&T.**

**Brittany Brown**  
*Student Leadership Programs Manager  
The BB&T Leadership Institute*

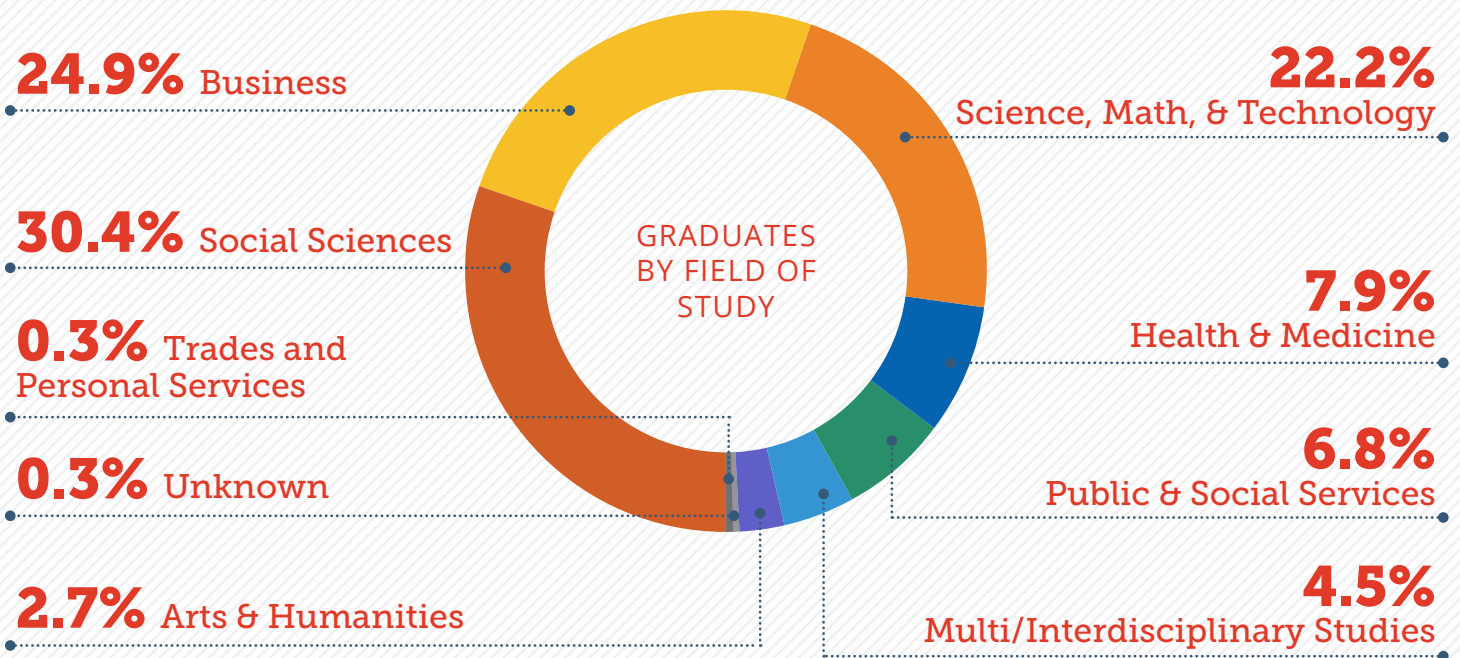
# OUR GRADUATES

## From eager Scholars to proud graduates to valued employees

I have worked two years with special needs children and I started to work for Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the beginning of this year ... **Without this scholarship I could not have had the career that I love so much.**

**Grace Couch**

*Hunter College Grad, Winter 2016 | Registered Nurse, Northwell Health*



**TheDream.US is not just a scholarship award. It was also a powerful resource for me to stay informed about legal issues that involve DREAMers and an ongoing source of confidence that I could finish my college degree.**

Throughout my four years, I knew I was not alone; the people from TheDream.US always stood right by my side. During uncertain times they always gave me encouraging words. They were like a family to me. TheDream.US has created an amazing community that I am so happy of being part of.

**Bhetsua Tinoco**

*BA in Civil Engineering | California State University-Long Beach and current M.A. student in Structural Engineering*

I am grateful for the scholarship and the opportunity to earn my bachelor's degree. I was an undocumented immigrant with no dream of pursuing a bachelor's degree and working in the IT field. **Now, I am working for the largest public health care system in the US as a Lead Systems Analyst.**

**Seong Moon**

*Purdue University Global, BA in Computer and Information Sciences, Grad Spring 2018 | Lead Systems Analyst, NYC Health + Hospitals*

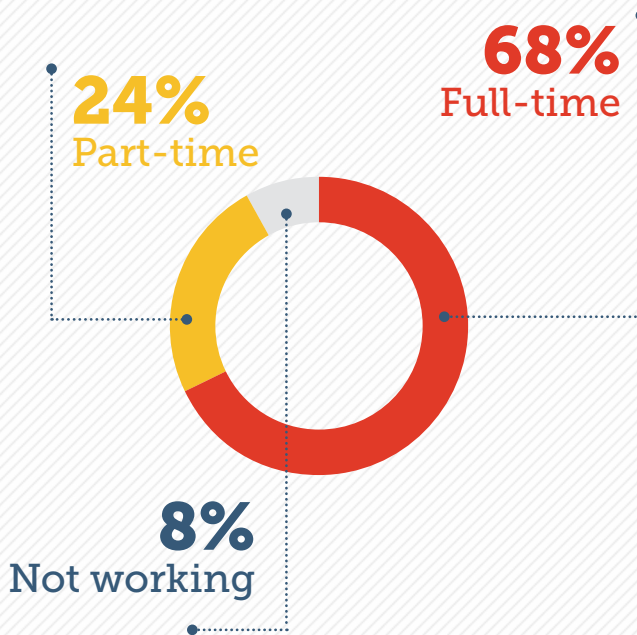
After my high school graduation, I spent 5 years waiting for a silver lining and for an answer to my prayers. I was a high school honor student who saw education as a pivotal key to my future. My immigration status took that key away from me and left me with no sense of direction. TheDream.US Scholarship placed the key back into my hands. It not only brought me joy, it restored my family's hope. Today, I am a first-generation graduate. I have dedicated myself to empowering tomorrow's youth as a middle school teacher ... **TheDream.US empowered me to empower others.** Thank you.

**Damelia Cedelias**

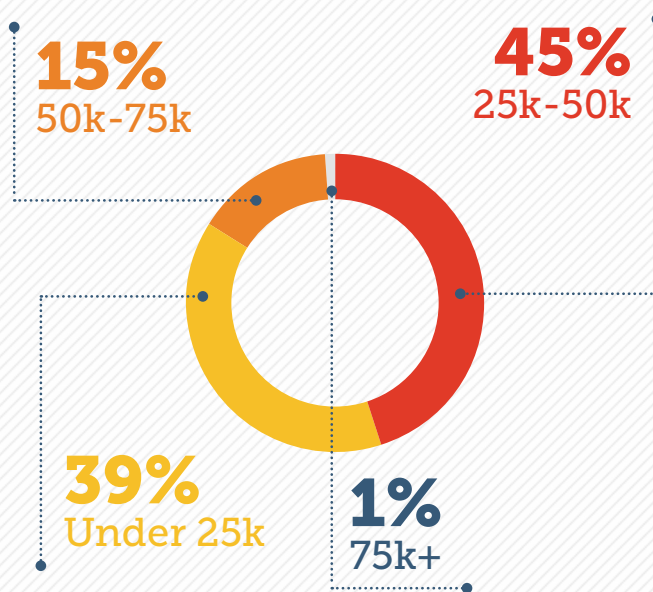
*FIU, Bachelors in English, Grad in Spring 2017 with Latin Honors | Middle School Teacher, West Broward Academy*



EMPLOYMENT



SALARY



Employment and salary data from TheDream.US Alumni Survey

**\$33K** Gets One Scholar Through  
a Bachelor's Degree

## Our Nation's Growing Prosperity Depends on Our Support for DREAMers

Despite the uncertainty of their own lives and futures and the precarious state of DACA and TPS, DREAMers remain steadfastly committed to completing their college education and contributing to this country - their only true home.

Their story is one of resilience, courage, and commitment - to themselves, their families, and our nation. **America's dynamism and prosperity depend upon our nation's continued support for these students.**

There are thousands of DREAMers graduating from America's high schools each year. And many thousands more who are retiring from the America's workforce each year. It is in our shared interest as a nation of strength to support these young people in their quest for a college education. They are our shared future.

Supporting their quest for a college education is one of the most important and cost-effective investments we can make in the future of our country. The facts are clear:

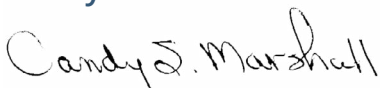
- TheDream.US is a practical, low-cost way for concerned citizens, businesses, and foundations to help DREAMers until Congress acts. \$33,000 allows a DREAMer to obtain a bachelor's degree.
- 100% of our donors' support fund scholarships for DREAMers.
- Our operational costs are paid for by our generous and gracious co-founder, Don Graham, and Graham Holdings Company.
- College and career supports for our Scholars and Graduates are provided through partnerships with Partner Colleges and Businesses that are deeply committed to their success.

AND, with your support, DREAMers will continue to make a difference - excelling in college classrooms, succeeding academically, enriching campuses, pursuing meaningful careers, and helping move our country forward.

Thank you for believing. Thank you for your support.

Holding hope for DREAMers and our country,

**Candy Marshall**



*President*

**Gaby Pacheco**



*Director, Advocacy, Development, & Communications*

# THANK YOU!

We are grateful for the generous support of individuals, corporations, and foundations who join us in our belief that everyone, regardless of where they were born, should have the opportunity to get a college education and contribute to the prosperity of our nation.

## Our donors include:

DON GRAHAM & AMANDA BENNETT & THE GRAHAM FAMILY

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**Candy Marshall**  
*President*

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## OUR TEAM

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Senior Program Officer

**Candy Marshall**  
President

**Gaby Pacheco**  
Director, Advocacy,  
Development,  
& Communications

**Elena Salorio**  
Senior Program  
Manager

**Sadhana Singh**  
Program &  
Communications  
Manager

**Tania Wilcox**  
Director, College  
& Scholar Programs

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& Founder of Define  
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For a more in-depth overview on our data, its sourcing, and its larger implications please visit <https://www.thedream.us/about-us/our-work/>

# TheDream.US Scholars are moving our country forward



"Most importantly TheDream.US believed in me, like no other institution prior had. 4 years later I graduated. The week before my graduation when I found out I had passed all my classes and my senior project presentation went perfectly, I got home and as soon as I saw my parents, we all just embraced and cried together. None of that would be true without this scholarship. **It's more than money for tuition, it's opportunity, hope, encouragement, belief, bravery and love.**"

**Juan Carlos Valladeres**

*FIU Graduate with Latin Honors, Spring 2018, BA in Computer and Information Sciences Software Engineer, Wider Storage*



"The impact that TheDream.US has had in my life and that of my fellow scholars is immeasurable. **More than just financial aid, I found a caring community that believed in me and had my back in a time of great uncertainty and dread.** With their help I gained a college degree to work in a career that I feel very passionate about and the strength and confidence to be a leader in my community."

**Yarely Rodriguez**

*Trinity Washington Univ, BA in Biological Sciences, Grad Spring 2018 with Latin Honors, Lab Analyst, Nelson Laboratories*

