

2023 - 2024

PRE-HEALTH DREAMERS' ANNUAL REPORT



Pre-Health Dreamers (PHD) promotes equitable education and healthcare access, opportunities, and resources for undocumented individuals and all immigrant communities.

Pre-Health Dreamers is a fiscally-sponsored project of Community Initiatives.



Our Team



Yadira Ortiz

Executive Director

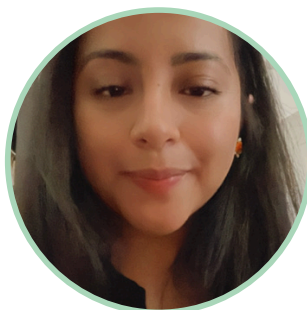
- With PHD since 2019



Rocio Muñante Navarro

Network and Training
Manager

- With PHD since 2023



Maria Navarro

Project Coordinator

- With PHD since 2023



Flavia Negrete

Project Coordinator

- With PHD since 2022

VISION & MISSION



Vision

PHD believes that immigration status should not exclude anyone from pursuing their dreams of higher education, careers, and contributing to their communities. We envision a healthcare system that is accessible and welcoming to all regardless of their immigration status.

Mission

Pre-Health Dreamers (PHD) promotes equitable education and healthcare access, opportunities, and resources for undocumented individuals and all immigrant communities.

MESSAGE TO THE READER

This data report sheds light on Pre-Health Dreamers' initiatives and programming. Our work is dedicated to supporting undocumented individuals in the pre-health fields, advocating with them, and celebrating their achievements. Our primary mission is to create a safe and inclusive space, streamline support and empowerment, and actively participate in policy changes at the institutional level to make PHD's scholars dreams a reality. In the decade that we've been operating, we have encountered numerous challenges that we are committed to address. As we move forward, we will support and advocate to break down barriers that undocumented communities face. We hope that you, as the reader, join us in this critical endeavor, continue to be a strong advocate, and help raise the voices of those often unheard and historically excluded.

Scholars, it is essential to remember that your journey toward your desired health profession is achievable and filled with numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth and continuous learning. Despite the inevitable challenges and moments of uncertainty that may arise, it's crucial to remember that you are an essential and valued part of a supportive community that stands by you every step of the way, providing guidance, encouragement, and assistance when needed. It is essential to keep nurturing your dreams and approaching each hurdle with unwavering persistence and determination, knowing that your dedication and hard work are impactful and deeply valued by the communities you aim to serve.

PEER ENGAGEMENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Infrastructure: Advising, Training, Empowerment & Networking

Overview of the Peer Engagement and Enrichment Program (PEEP)

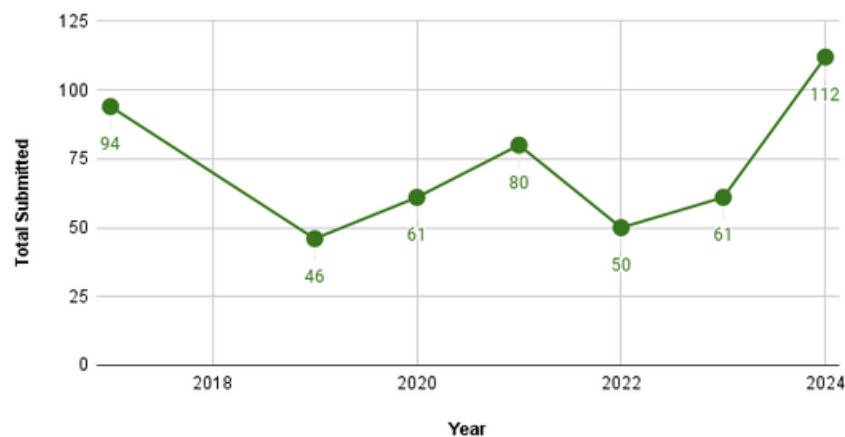
PEEP is a 6-month online program that advises undocumented scholars on safe story sharing, academics, and professional skills and provides training regarding self and community advocacy. The program's focus on advocacy is to increase financial aid and support for undocumented scholars in graduate and professional health-related programs. PEEP promotes a nurturing and inclusive environment for scholars.

PEEP Over the Years

Since its implementation, PEEP has witnessed an increase in applicants over the years (Graph 1). PEEP has expanded significantly from 2023 - 2024, increasing the number of participants in its cohort from 39 to 86.

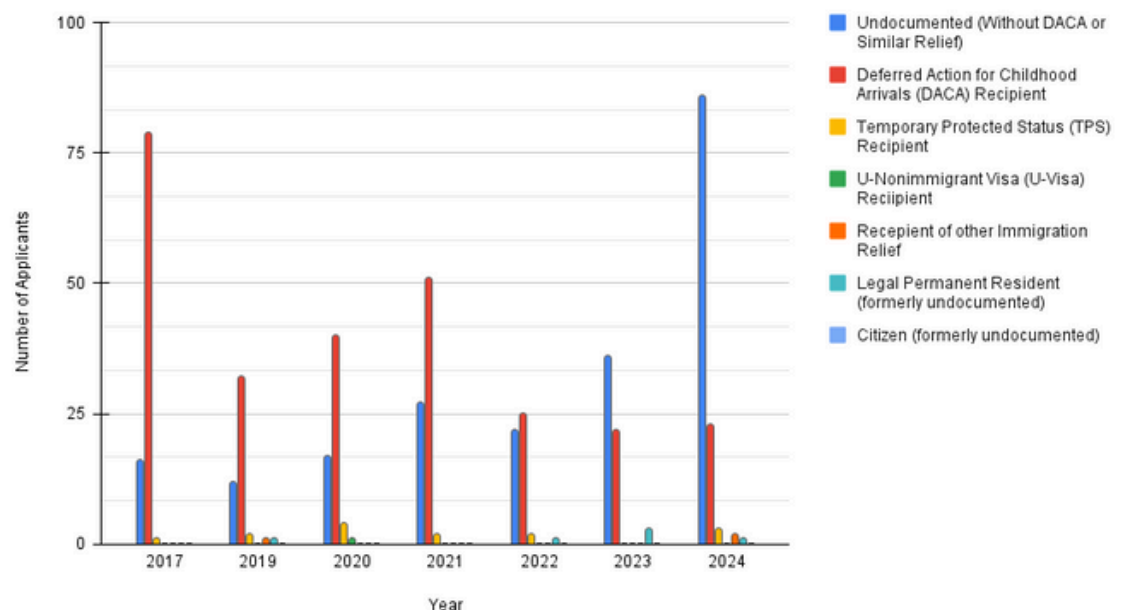
From 2017 to 2024, there was a shift from Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) applicants to an increased number of undocumented immigrants without employment authorization and protection (Graph 2). This trend highlights the need for heightened advising, support, research, candid conversations, and advocacy when working with undocumented scholars.

PEEP Application Submissions



Graph 1: Visually presents the growth of applicants over a seven-year period.

Immigration Status Profile



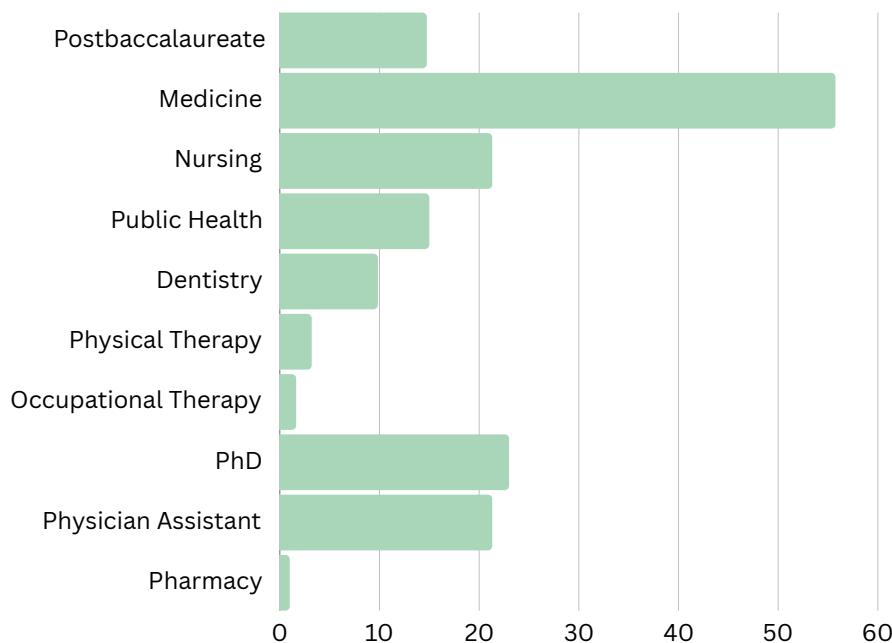
Graph 2: From 2017 to 2024, there was a shift from applicants with DACA to an increased number of undocumented immigrants without employment authorization and an SSN.

PEER ENGAGEMENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Infrastructure: Advising, Training, Empowerment & Networking

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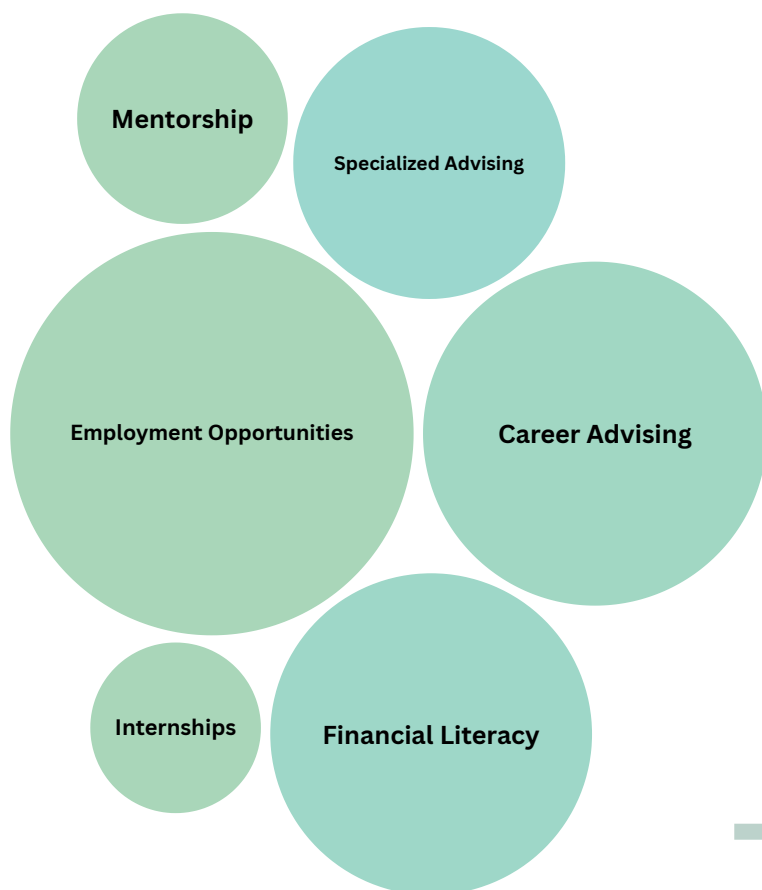
PEEP helped me find something I never found during my academic journey: a support system that didn't just empathize with my struggles, but also went through the same hurdles as I did—a community.”- Alexis, 2023 PEEP Scholar.



Graph 3: Health Professions and Graduate Programs of Interest (PEEP 2023)

PHD creates a community and uplifts undocumented students in higher education so they become change-makers.

PEEP scholars in higher education face critical challenges in accessing employment opportunities and career and financial support. PHD's 2023 PEEP application highlights how the lack of access to these resources can hinder students' progress in achieving their academic and professional goals. This is especially true for students from low-income backgrounds who may have a different level of financial support or network than their peers. Therefore, it is essential to provide PEEP scholars with the necessary resources and support to help them overcome these challenges and succeed in their academic and career pursuits.



To learn more about PEEP visit:

phdreamers.org/PEEP

PEEP'S INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Infrastructure: Advising, Training, Empowerment & Networking

“

I'm happy to share that I got into the Upper Division Nursing Program at my school. Thanks to Maria and Yadi for their guidance and support, which helped me in securing a place in the program. Yadi's advice on self-advocacy and strategic questioning was especially helpful. Thank you both for your mentorship and support.

- PEEP Scholar 2024



77%
Female

18%
Male

16%
Asian

64%
Latinx



PEEP scholars were introduced to research skills through PHD's PEEP pilot program, the "Innovation Challenge." 10 groups, totaling 42 students, completed and presented research posters at the PHD conference on July 13, 2023 in Los Angeles, CA. The research projects focused on issues undocumented and immigrant communities face when seeking education and healthcare.

PHD launched this project based on participant feedback since many research opportunities require U.S. Citizenship and Residency and are inaccessible to undocumented students.



To learn more about PEEP visit:
phdreamers.org/PEEP

UNDOCU LAUNCHPAD

Advancing Healthcare Entrepreneurs



In February 2024, PHD successfully launched the inaugural UndocuLaunch Bootcamp, an integral component of PHD’s mission to enhance entrepreneurship education for future health professionals. PHD tailored this program to equip aspiring health professionals with the requisite knowledge and tools to establish their entrepreneurial ventures in the healthcare sector.

During the first pilot program, a cohort of 31 participants made significant strides in developing their branding elements, gaining insights into LLC paperwork, exploring business grants, understanding liability insurance, and more. Notably, PHD also engaged the expertise of four seasoned health professionals who provided valuable feedback and participated in panel discussions, enabling participants to seek guidance and insights.

- This boot camp was created with undocumented students in mind.
- DACA or TPS is not required.
- Non-SSN holders are encouraged to apply.

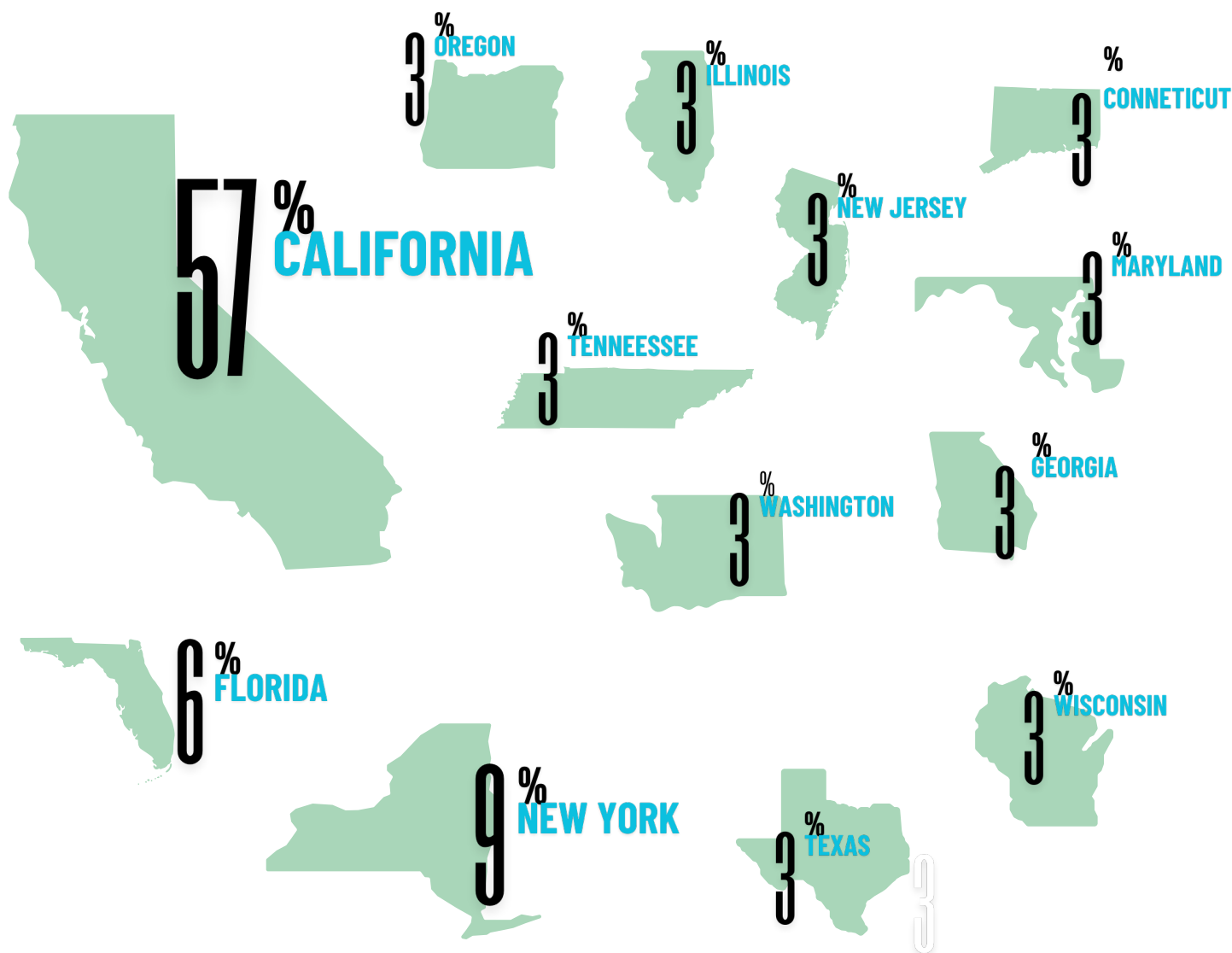
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“I loved that we were given resources to come up with our mission statement, logo, and the motivation to aspire to do great things as first time business owners.” - 2024 Participant



UNDOCU LAUNCHPAD

Advancing Healthcare Entrepreneurs

UndocuLaunch Pad's pilot cohort, which ran from March 2024 to April 2024, supported 30 scholars from 13 different states.



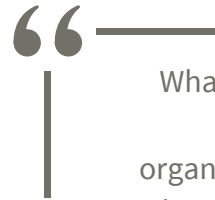
UNDOCU LAUNCHPAD

Advancing Healthcare Entrepreneurs

Disclaimer: Program participants created the following business logos displayed on this page for a class activity and do not represent real businesses at the moment.



National Community Coalition (NCC)



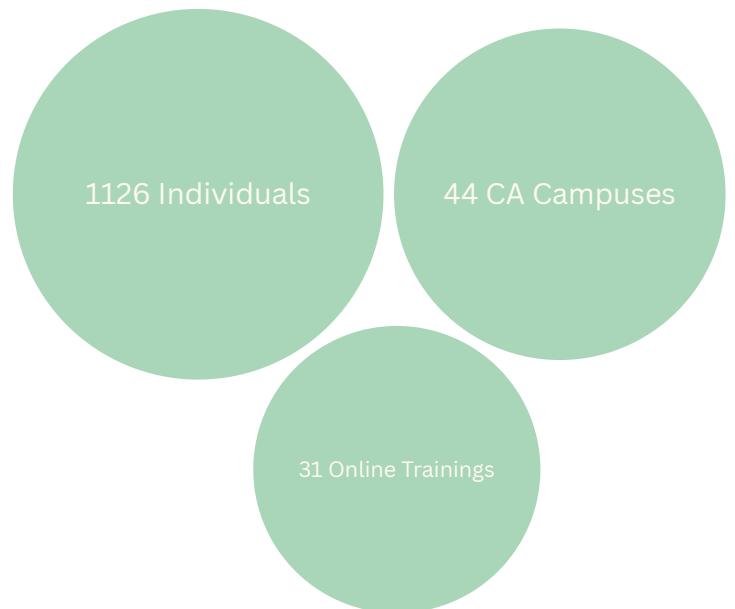
What an amazing team. We learned so much, both individually and organizationally. I will miss the ongoing consultations, but I am thankful for the past year.”

-2023 NCC Member

Strengthening Institutional Resources and Support

Undocumented students pursuing health professions often encounter formidable challenges that can profoundly affect their academic journey. These hurdles, shaped by ever-evolving policies and the crucial need for institutional support, are not to be underestimated.

Our training programs, hosted through PHD's National Community Coalition, aim to provide comprehensive support and training to campus staff, advisors, deans, and directors. The ultimate objective is to foster holistic support and cultural and structural sensitivity, paving the way for enduring solutions within academic institutions and the broader community.



In the past year, the National Community Coalition reached 44 campuses in California. PHD also conducted 31 online training sessions reaching 1126 individuals, 673 of whom were from California.

NCC TRAININGS

01

UndocuAlly Training

- Policies Impacting Undocumented Students and What Educators Should Know
- Power of Language and Self-Identity
- Medical Professionals and Students Creating Safe Spaces for Undocumented Communities
- Medical Professionals and Students Creating Safe Spaces for Undocumented Communities

PHD created over 12 different trainings based on inquiries from educators and scholars.

02

Responsible Advising

- Training for Academic Advisors and Pre-Health Academic Counselors

03

When Advising Meets Advocacy

- And Other Things Pre-Health Advisors and Educators Should Know

04

From Awareness to Action

- Addressing Bias Towards Immigrant Communities in Medical Education and Practice
- Establish Financial Support for Health Professional Programs

05

Additional NCC Trainings

- Professional Licensing and Entrepreneurship
- Undocumented Students Pursuing Nursing
- Post Bacc and Medical School 101
- Health Careers 101



To request an NCC training visit:
phdreamers.org/ncc

EXPANDING NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

In May 2023, PHD presented at the Western Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (WAAHP) Region Conference, reaching 80 advisors based in California. Since then, NAAHP members have invited PHD to conduct training at various universities for pre-health advisors and administrators. PHD has also returned to present for NAAHP at multiple events.



PHD also participated in a national event organized by the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP). PHD addressed a crowd of 200 advisors, 100 of whom were from California. The presentation was well received and highlighted PHD's commitment to providing quality support and training opportunities to educators and administrators in the healthcare field. As a result of the partnership and collaboration with NAAHP, PHD's executive director was invited to write and publish an article, "NAAHP DEI Feature: Advising Meets Institutional Advocacy: Creating Systems of Support for Undocumented Students." The article provided advisors and administrators with valuable methods and tips to support the advancement of undocumented students in higher education.

The Advisor | [NAAHP Inc.](https://www.naaahp.org/)

December 2023

N DEI Feature: Advising Meets Institutional Advocacy: Creating Systems of Support for Undocumented Students

Yadira Ortiz

Abstract:

The percentage of undocumented students in higher education is lower than their U.S. citizen peers and even lower for undocumented students pursuing graduate and professional programs. Advisors and administrators can support the advancement of undocumented students through higher education through self-teaching, advocacy, and coalition building. Advising and working with undocumented students includes understanding immigration and state and federal policies. In addition, advising these students calls for educators to advocate for changes to requirements and processes that block the advancement of students who are undocumented into higher education and the workforce.

Keywords:

undocumented, DACA, dreamers, undocuAlly, advocacy, advising

Introduction

"Recently, I sought help from my pre-health advisor because I was struggling to find resources to guide me in terms of how to get patient care hours or how to apply to a physician assistant program as an undocumented individual. Unfortunately, he couldn't support me and implied that I should look for another career and consider why I wanted to be a physician assistant. I understand that it's challenging to find resources, but I cannot be the first undocumented person to apply to PA school. I also don't want to give up my dream because someone couldn't help me find the right resources."

2024 PHD Student Participant



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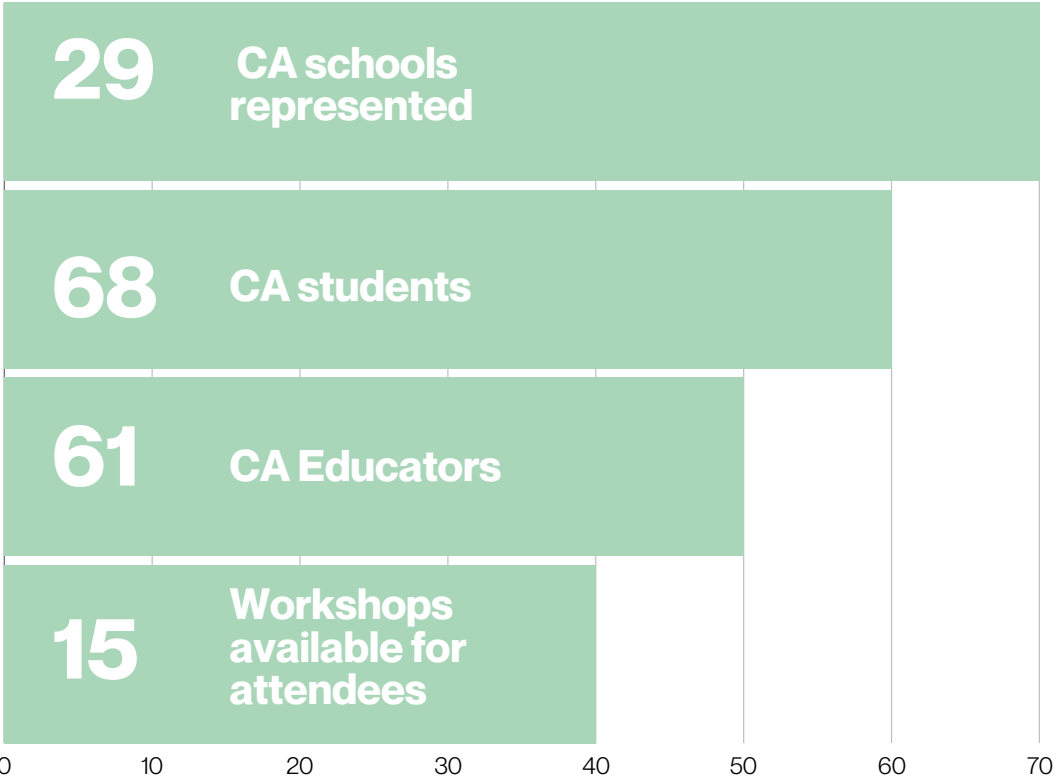
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2023 3RD ANNUAL PHD CONFERENCE

REVOLUTIONIZING THE HEALTH OF
UNDOCUMENTED COMMUNITIES

The PHD conference, which hosted 220 attendees, including 145 participants from California, served as a valuable opportunity for the PHD team, PEEP scholars, community members, and representatives from various organizations and institutions to unite, foster connections, and celebrate the diversity and humanity of our undocumented communities.



3RD ANNUAL PHD CONFERENCE

20
23



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Health Dreamers extends its heartfelt appreciation to our community partners, organizations, institutions, scholars, private donors, and foundations for their steadfast support of our goal to cultivate an environment of inclusivity in higher education and healthcare. PHD is committed to continuing to collaborate with institutions and partners to establish fair and comprehensive support systems and procedures for undocumented communities across the nation.

PHD would also like to thank The California Endowment, California Wellness Foundation, California Health Care Foundation, Leslie Family Foundation, Westly Foundation, The Latino Community Foundation, and private donors who provide continuous support and help us meet our annual goals.

*BIG THINGS HAVE DETERMINED
BEGINNINGS...*



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THANK YOU

