

FROM
DREAMERS

TO DOERS



“

Aliento is a Spanish word that translates to breath. But when you give 'aliento' to someone, it's like giving words of encouragement.

1. IMPACT SUMMARY	10
<hr/>	
2. NURTURE	11-22
Student Leadership + Education Initiatives	
<hr/>	
3. CULTIVA	23-28
Arts + Healing Programs	
<hr/>	
4. TRANSFORM	29-34
Policy + Systems Change	
<hr/>	
5. DIGITAL IMPACT	35-38
<hr/>	
6. AWARDS + RECOGNITION	39-44

REFLECTION FROM OUR FOUNDER + CEO

“Hope in Action” is a mantra we live by at Aliento. 2023 was the embodiment of these words. As I reflect on this year, I go back to the day our team dreamt about ensuring every high school student, regardless of immigration status, could have a fair shot at achieving their higher education dreams. As I type these words, I become overwhelmed and overjoyed as I know this is no longer a dream but a reality.

Since 2006, undocumented students’ educational dreams have been out of reach. Last year, we shed tears of joy as we celebrated the historic win of Prop. 308. Since then, 2023 has brought a new beginning and an opportunity to engage with our Dreamers differently.

We trained hundreds of educators, counselors, and college advisors to ensure they knew that our undocumented students now qualify for in-state tuition and state-funded scholarships! We provided technical assistance to higher education institutions to implement 308 and partnered with other organizations and foundations to provide hundreds of scholarships directly to students.

We also had thousands of conversations with students directly where we could say YES, you can go to college and yes, you can pay the same price as your peers. Yes, you can get scholarships and yes, you can stay in Arizona to achieve your dream of pursuing college while staying in the state you call home.

This year, we were no longer the bearer of bad news but the bearer of hope and opportunity. It is stories like Maria, an assistant nurse in Arizona, whom I have mentored since 2017. The journey has not been easy, we faced the termination of the DACA program, the lack of access to in-state tuition, and the emotional toll and anxiety of an uncertain future. Yes, Maria never gave up. Maria is a Dreamer, but she did not only dream about her future; she put her dreams into action. She became part of the inaugural cohort of Aliento’s Arizona’s Future Fellowship program, where she educated hundreds of people about the hardships she faced when obtaining a higher education. After many years, in 2023, Maria got accepted into the nursing program in Arizona! Now, Maria is not only back at college but also educating anyone who comes in contact with her about Dreamers’ ability to pay in-state tuition.

It is stories like Maria’s that give me hope in the midst of so much darkness we see in our world. She reminds me of the importance of dreaming of a better future while doing the work to ensure our dreams become reality. As we celebrate students like Maria and express gratitude towards every person who made this possible, we must remain focused on what is ahead of us. As we reflect on 2023 and get ready to welcome 2024, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to ensure our community is aware that DACA remains under threat as we await a court decision and that thousands of undocumented youth cannot apply for the DACA program.

As we prepare for 2024, let’s embrace the spirit of Maria, of not only dreaming of a better future but doing the day-to-day work to ensure the dream is not just a promise but a reality. I know in my heart that Maria and I are not alone, and we have a village that supports us, embraces us, and reminds us that we belong.

May we continue to lead with love, light, and understanding. Our Dreamers and their families are counting on us.

With gratitude,

Reyna E. Montoya



REFLECTION FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Buoyed by the exciting and historic passage of Proposition 308 at the end of last year, the Aliento team and community hit the ground running and made 2023 another year of meaningful impact.

Our collective commitment to realizing the promise of Prop 308, ensuring expanded access to in-state tuition, through strategic and sustained implementation efforts has been a beacon of progress. A beacon in a landscape where uncertainty looms over DACA and the election year is on the horizon. We eagerly anticipate a permanent solution for Dreamers that aligns with our values, ensuring access and dignity for every aspiring individual. In the wait, our community hopes, dreams, and, most importantly, does.



This year, Aliento served nearly 700 youth through its Arts & Healing Program, inducted the 6th cohort of Aliento Fellows, trained over 400 individuals within our school systems to implement Prop 308, and so much more. The embodiment of hope into action, dreamers into doers.

It is with immense gratitude and a heart brimming with hope that I reflect on the individual stories I've had the privilege to bear witness to as board chair over this past year. Young students and parents harness the power of their inherent worth and inspire others to do the same through art and community sharing. College students confidently share their stories in effective dialogue with policymakers. Sidelined students are empowered to re-enroll in our local universities and receive scholarships.

This spirit of action and agency is fostered and fed by the ever-growing group of allies and supporters that help make this work possible - individuals like you. I invite you to learn more about the work in the following pages and reflect on how you can link arms in action with us.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Vanessa Valenzuela Erickson



VISION

A place where human potential is nurtured and not defined by immigration status.



MISSION

Aliento serves undocumented, DACA, and mixed immigration status families to transform trauma into hope and action. We are youth-led and directly impacted people and allies who are invested in the well-being, emotional healing, and leadership development of those impacted by the inequities of lacking an immigration status.

THE ALIENTO TEAM



REYNA MONTOYA
Founder + CEO
Board Member



JOSÉ PATIÑO
VP of Education +
External Affairs



ERICK GARCIA
Director of Digital +
Technology



**CAMRYN NORWOOD-
PEARSON**
Director of Development



ILEANA SALINAS
Cultiva Program
Manager



ROCIO DORADOR
Arts + Healing
Coordinator



ARYAM GARCIA
Arts + Healing
Coordinator



ABRIL VALENZUELA
Leadership Development
Coordinator



GUADALUPE REYNOSO
Leadership Development
Coordinator



PEDRO GONZALEZ-ABOYTE
Family + Community
Liaison



SUSANA NAVA
Administrative
Assistant



MARIO MONTOYA
Research Analyst +
Coalition Consultant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**VANESSA VALENZUELA
ERICKSON**
Board Chair
Founding Team Member, Culdesac



FELIX GARCIA IBAÑEZ
Board Treasurer
Senior Manager – Tax / Accounting Compliance and
Reporting, Ernst & Young LLP (EY)



MANUEL ESPINOZA
Board Secretary



PEARL CHANG ESAU
Board Member
Founder + CEO, Shan Strategies



GABRIELA MUÑOZ
Board Member
Grants Manager, Arts Foundation for Tucson and
Southern Arizona



JANICE PALMER
Board Member
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
and Public Policy, Helios Education
Foundation



ADRIANA GALLEGO
Board Member
Executive Director of the Arts
Foundation for Tucson and Southern
Arizona



JUSTIN GRAHAM
Board Member
Project Manager, Sunbelt Holdings



REYNA MONTOYA
Board Member
Founder + CEO, Aliento

ADVISORY COUNCIL



LUIS ÁVILA
President of Iconico



JENNY POON
Founder, CO+HOOTS



IRASEMA CORONADO
Director & Professor
School of Transborder
Studies ASU



WILL RUTT
Director of Ignatian
Service & Advocacy at
Brophy College Prep

ALIENTO BY THE NUMBERS AT A GLANCE



160+

TOTAL IN-PERSON &
DIGITAL EVENTS



5000+

EVENT
ATTENDEES



3100+

YOUTH
ENGAGED



1600+

IMPACTED PEOPLE
REACHED



1m+

SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS

Number of times people saw our posts on social media



NURTURE[®]

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
+ ALLY ENGAGEMENT

EDUCATION
INITIATIVES 12-13

FELLOWSHIP 14-20

INTERNS 21

STUDENT HUBS 22



EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Aliento has a four-pronged approach to addressing its goals: Education Initiatives, Arts and Healing Programs, Leadership Training, and Policy and Advocacy activities.

Education initiatives include our student fellowship, student hubs, and school partnerships to increase academic success, support the social-emotional needs of the whole student to increase personal agency and resiliency, and decrease stress, anxiety, and isolation. These initiatives build healthier and more culturally responsive classrooms and school communities, engaging education leaders to address systemic barriers.

EDUCATION DAY



Education Day, also known as E-Day by our students, is a day when students from all across Arizona come together at the Arizona State Capitol to educate legislators about issues that are important to them. The students lead meetings with elected officials by telling stories of impact and bringing awareness to priority issues. In past E-Days, we have had over 300 students in attendance.

300+

STUDENTS
ATTENDED
E-DAY



On Education Day, our students had the incredible opportunity to meet Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs! They expressed their gratitude for her dedication to supporting Dreamers through the Arizona Promise for Dreamers program. Even though the program, aiming to allocate \$40 million in financial aid for Dreamers, wasn't included in the state budget, we're unwavering in our commitment to securing access to higher education for all our students.



The logo consists of three stacked, upward-pointing chevron shapes in a vibrant pink color, positioned to the left of the text.

ARIZONA'S FUTURE FELLOWSHIP

Our fellowship is a transformative leadership development program for immigrant youth and children of immigrants. Fellows work within their schools to practice self-advocacy skills and implement the organizing principles they learn at Aliento.

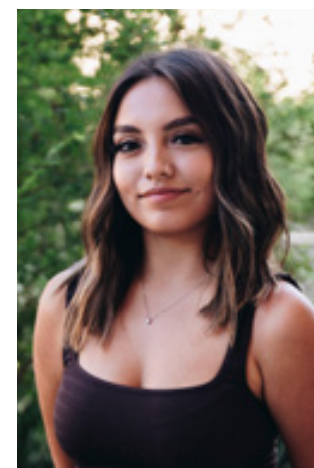
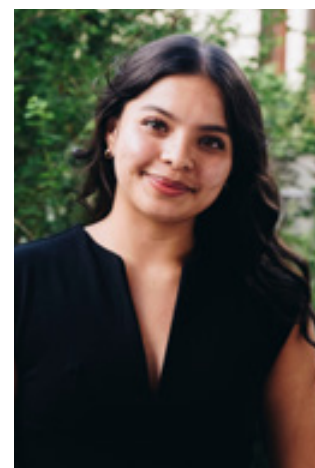
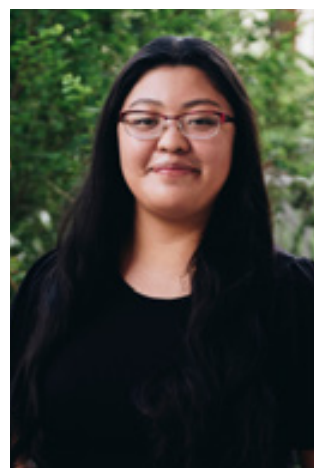
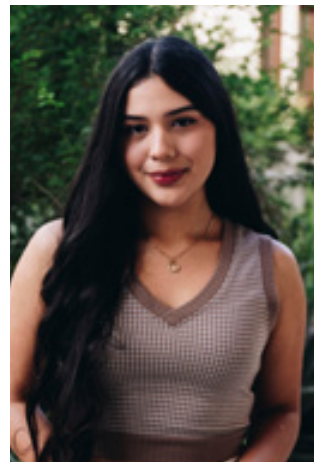
Fellows work towards making their schools and their communities more equitable and inclusive. They are provided with weekly 1:1 coaching with Aliento's experienced team!

'22-'23 FELLOWS COHORT

Our '22-'23 Arizona's Future Fellows completed and graduated from our program. We are so proud of everything they have accomplished during their fellowships.

While previous cohorts paved the way to get in-state tuition on the ballot, this cohort was responsible for taking it to the finish line. In the first half of their fellowships, they dedicated time and energy to educating voters on Prop. 308. Followed by the Prop. 308 victory in November, they quickly shifted efforts to secure much-needed funds for students pursuing higher education.

We are excited to see where their next life chapter takes them!



OUR FELLOWS VOICES '22-'23



"Being a 2022-23 fellow impacted me and my life by helping me become less naive and more aware of all that still needs to be changed. It's helped me become a better leader and advocate in every aspect of my life, whether it's at work, church, or within my family. It has shown me that there is always work to be done and that all starts with you and us. It has also given me a lot to reflect on with what we've accomplished and what we hope to accomplish in the future."

- Xiomara Flores
Mountain View High School Senior, Class 2023

My time spent as a fellow with Aliento has enabled me to prioritize my mental health awareness without hesitation. Their greatest contribution to my future has been the knowledge and support to find my voice. That has allowed and motivated me to continue advocating for my community. Because of Aliento, I am not just a student. I am a passionate learner and an advocate for my loving community."

- Miah Gomez
Mesa High School Senior, Class 2023



"Excitement and nervousness color my memories of joining the Aliento Fellowship. Other students from previous cohorts that I was familiar with convinced me to join, and like entering a dark room before turning on the lights, I wasn't sure what would await me. An almost indescribable experience is what it was. Because everyone there always had high spirits and genuine resolve to tackle the problem of Arizona's education system, it enabled the fellowship to be the vehicle for change. I learned to confront my misconceptions of myself, my environment, and the people within that environment. All in all, my peers and I became better leaders and grew to understand the multi-sidedness of things. "

- Daniel Martinez Romero
Brophy College Prep Senior, Class 2023



'23-'24 FELLOWS COHORT

In September, we welcomed our Arizona's Future 6th fellowship cohort comprising 12 students hailing from various parts of Arizona. This program centers students' lived experiences, builds their civic participation, and supports their education journey.

The fellows have also been working on bringing the Aliento way through events at their schools. Each of them has organized diverse events on their respective campuses, spanning from arts and healing workshops to informative education sessions and panel discussions.

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT ESVEIDY RODRIGUEZ



You are undocumented, unlike your classmates or siblings. And because of this, you must work harder than everyone else to achieve your dreams.

Hello, I am Esveidy Jazmin Rodriguez Melendez, a sophomore at Grand Canyon University. I arrived in the United States in 2006 when I was only two years old, as my parents were pursuing the American dream to provide me with a brighter future and a better education.

They held onto the belief that we would no longer face financial struggles and that I would have access to educational opportunities. However, the reality was far from easy for them and me, as we encountered obstacles while striving to achieve our dreams and aspirations.

On my first day of kindergarten, I felt extremely anxious about meeting new people, learning, and being in school. However, what mattered most was fulfilling my father's advice from the previous night. The night before, my father had said to me, "Esveidy, you are different from others. You are undocumented, unlike your classmates or siblings. And because of this, you must work harder than everyone else to achieve your dreams." I needed clarification on what he meant by "undocumented" and couldn't comprehend how this confusing word should impact my efforts in school. Nevertheless, I followed his advice diligently and became the best student I could be.

I always volunteered, completed my homework, and assisted my struggling peers. My father had asked me to become the best student, and I was determined not to disappoint him.

However, I began to notice this difference slowly during SB1070. This was a time when I saw my parents avoid driving and would instead choose to walk to the store in order to avoid being questioned by the police if they didn't have "papers." Hearing stories of community members being stopped by police officers or ICE officials at their jobs and being asked for "papers," only to be detained and deported to their country of origin because they didn't have the necessary documents, made me wonder desperately where I could obtain these "papers" to protect my parents. Aside from these stories, I would frequently hear about ICE presence at certain locations, stricter police officers in certain areas, and families being separated by ICE and the police. This caused me to experience a significant amount of fear and anxiety whenever I saw a police car. I would cry every time I spotted a police car while we were driving because I was afraid that my family would be torn apart because we were undocumented and lacked "papers."

I also witnessed my mother filled with worry every time my father went to work and a sense of relief when we would all be together again. It became a miserable routine that my mother endured. She would pray that our family would not be torn apart and constantly anxious about what she would do if it ever happened. She would even walk to buy newspapers in hopes of finding phone numbers of lawyers, just in case we needed one someday. Additionally, I remember that around this period, my father's employment began to decline, leading to him working merely three days per week. This had a significant effect on my family's finances, forcing us to make adjustments. As a result, we had to cut back on spending on non-essential items in order to allocate money for essential bills. Seeing my mother constantly cry, and my father worry about our finances, I started feeling guilty because I couldn't do anything to help alleviate their doubts and concerns, especially considering I was only seven years old and lacked the necessary information.

Even though my family was confronted with the threat of being separated by ICE, financial struggles, and emotional distress due to our undocumented status and lack of "papers," we managed to overcome these obstacles by effectively managing our finances and collaborating with the community to avoid areas where ICE or officers were present. Yet I grew tired of living in constant fear due to my immigration status. It felt frustrating to be afraid of something beyond my control. I wanted to feel empowered and make a positive impact in my community, but I was unsure how to do so. Nevertheless, my strong desire to help my community persisted, motivating me to search for organizations that supported the cause.

That's when I discovered Aliento, which provided me with valuable knowledge about immigration status, the political issues surrounding it, and the opportunities available. As time went on and I acquired more information about my own circumstances, I gradually started to understand the implications of being undocumented.

When the DACA program initially closed on September 5th, 2017, I was ineligible to apply due to my young age. The program required applicants to be 15 years old. Despite this setback, I remained hopeful from 2017 until 2021, when the Biden Administration reopened the program. Determined, I diligently gathered all the necessary documents to demonstrate my presence in the USA since 2006, when I was just two years old. These documents included my school records, medical records, and various awards. With a hopeful heart, I submitted my application. Finally, after enduring a 4-year wait, the prospect of obtaining "DACA papers" seemed within reach. However, my hopes were dashed when a federal judge in Texas blocked the USCIS from administering the program. Along with approximately 100,000 other nationwide applicants, I found myself blocked and feeling utterly defeated. It felt as though all the sacrifices my parents had made for me and all the efforts I had put into proving myself were in vain.

Initially, I questioned if pursuing higher education was the correct financial decision for my family. However, considering my parents' immense hard work and countless sacrifices, I felt obligated to figure out a way to pay for school; my only option was scholarships. Not having access to in-state tuition significantly impacted my choice of college, as I had to consider which institution would be best for me financially.

Despite not having access to in-state tuition, access to federal financial aid, and being limited to a few private scholarships, I could enroll at Grand Canyon University. Due to my grades, involvement in school, and community service, I received scholarships that covered my tuition costs. My hard work had paid off. I was going to be a college student without crippling my parents financially. I could pursue my educational goals, and my parents could continue to support our family. I was filled with joy and relief.

Growing up undocumented, with no access to in-state tuition, driver's license, ability to work, or just existing without the fear of deportation motivated me to help others. I don't want immigration status to be a barrier for others or my family, and that is why I want to become an immigration lawyer. I want to provide comfort, guidance, and information to the undocumented community so that they will not experience what my family once did. My parents believed that we would achieve the "American dream" of a middle class with a home, career, and life like my classmates. We have realized that achieving greater opportunities and financial stability is not easy and comes at a price.



“ Growing up undocumented, with no access to in-state tuition, driver's license, ability to work, or just existing without the fear of deportation motivated me to help others.



No matter the cost, it has taught me the importance of valuing my parents' sacrifices and endurance, motivating me to work harder and put forth more effort to achieve my goals and make them proud.

Two years remain until I graduate and receive my bachelor's degree from Grand Canyon University. My intention is to attend law school afterward to pursue my career dreams. Even though I will walk an unknown path, there are no undocumented attorneys in Arizona, and I still fear for my loved ones and my safety. I will face these obstacles head-on. I am the first in my family to graduate high school, and I will be the first college graduate, and I won't stop now. My family believes in me. I believe in me. I will become an immigration attorney. I will help the little Esveidy who cried to sleep out of fear. I will say to little Esveidy that I am here with nothing to fear.

ALIENTO FELLOW NETWORK

48 FELLOW ALUMNI

Arizona's Future Fellowship is a transformative leadership development program for immigrant youth. Coming from schools across the Valley, fellows work within their schools to practice self-advocacy skills and implement the organizing principles they learn during their monthly cohort training. Fellows strive to promote equity and inclusivity in both their schools and communities by spearheading Aliento's campaigns. Our fellows are provided with weekly 1:1 coaching with our experienced team.



DIANA OJEDA

Senior at Grand Canyon University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
& Honors College. Director of
Transformative Leadership with GCU
Honors College.



SAUL RASCÓN

International Relations B.A. &
Student Body President at Loyola
Marymount University



JOSE MORALES

Freshman at Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University. Major in
Global Security & Intelligence
Studies with a minor in Cyber
security.



LIZBETH ESPINOZA

Junior at Arizona State University
Transborder and Chicano and Latino Studies.
Congressional intern with the Congressional
Hispanic Caucus Institution (CHCHI).

ALIENTO INTERNS

This year, we onboarded 26 interns during the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Each intern was essential to each department they were responsible for. We have returning fellows as interns and interns continuing as we cultivate/nurture future youth leaders.

225 INTERNSHIPS
SINCE ALIENTO
STARTED

26 INTERNSHIPS
IN 2023

15 SCHOOL
PARTNERS





ALIENTO HUBS



Our Hubs are official school clubs that focus on providing art workshops, tricks, and tips to pursue educational dreams, as well as ways to integrate into Aliento's current campaigns. Through our hubs, students build community, develop leadership skills, and become change agents at their schools and beyond.

This year, our Hubs hosted:

23
EVENTS

400+
ATTENDEES

STUDENT CLUB PARTNERSHIPS



Advocacy Club



Grand Canyon Dreamers



Latino Club

CULTIVA[®]

ART + HEALING PROGRAMS

CULTIVA
IMPACT 24

ART GALLERY 25-26

ECFI GALLERY 27-28



CULTIVA IMPACT

700+

TOTAL UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED

1000+

TOTAL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
24 yrs or younger

600+

IMPACTED YOUTH REACHED
Youth who are Undocumented, DACAmented, or part of a mixed immigration status family

20+

CULTIVA EVENTS HELD



"I used to be the quiet girl in class, but after the Aliento workshops at ECFI I learned to express my feelings and that I belong, and now I am more social with my classmates"
- Melany, 6th grade.

64%

Increased and/or maintained high levels of Agency

76%

Reduced and/or maintained low levels of Stress

64%

Increased and/or maintained high levels of Resilience

80%

Reduced and/or maintained low levels of Anxiety



4

OPEN MICS



19

ARTS + HEALING WORKSHOPS



5

SCHOOLS ENGAGED

ALIENTO ART GALLERY



A HUMAN EXPERIENCE

STORIES OF MIGRATION, EXPRESSION, AND COMMUNITY

About the Gallery

Our art gallery, 'A Human Experience: Stories of Migration, Expression, and Community,' was hugely successful. Beyond the high turnout, the core essence was its ability to authentically engage our community in sharing their diverse human experiences.

Aliento workshops are where healing and art intersect to build coping skills for those impacted by their immigration status. The art created by our Aliento workshop participants sparked thought-provoking conversations. Through art, we fulfill a crucial objective: supporting our community by fostering coping abilities. Our performers stood as shining examples of resilience and empowerment!




ALIENTO ART GALLERY





A HUMAN EXPERIENCE

STORIES OF MIGRATION, EXPRESSION, AND COMMUNITY



 **200+** **ATTENDEES**

 **30+** **ART PIECES DISPLAYED**

 **9** **PERFORMERS**



CONEXIONES: ART IN THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND COMMUNITY

ALIENTO ECFI FELLOWS

Aliento and Eisenhower Center For Innovation (ECFI) have been in partnership for four years now, and with each year that we are connected, we are evermore invested in the growth, leadership, and healing of the youth, starting with our 19 selected fellows for Year 4! Since our comeback from the virtual times, we were able to bring monthly workshops to the students after school where they would engage in activities that explored their emotions, identity, self-love, and agency and also tap into their bravery and resilience, all while building connections between one another through their experiences and art.

At the end of the 2023 year, the cohort and their families came together at the end-of-the-year gallery, "*Conexiones: Art in Thoughts, Feelings, and Community.*" The fellows' art was showcased, and all the families, friends, and staff there experienced the connections they made during the cohort through their artwork and artistic expressions.



About our Partner ECFI

Eisenhower Center For Innovation is a K-6 neighborhood school serving 450 students from a variety of families and cultures. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to creating a community of learners and supporting whole-child development. This looks like placing equal priority on engaging, technology-infused academic instruction, social-emotional development, and restorative justice practices in the daily student experience at school.

Our Eisenhower family is committed to values that include acceptance, compassion, creativity, diversity, a growth mindset, joy, perseverance, respect, resilience, responsibility, service, and tolerance. We are inspired by the strength of our families and invested in the future success of all of our students!

CONEXIONES:

ART IN THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND COMMUNITY



TRANSFORM[©]

POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

PROP. 308

30-31

IMPACT

TELEMUNDO

32

COMMUNITY

33-34



MARIA LEÓN PEÑA - PROP. 308 IMPACT

After graduating high school in 2015, I immediately went to Paradise Valley Community College. As a DACA recipient, I had access to in-state tuition but didn't qualify for FAFSA or public scholarships. However, I was able to afford higher education by working part-time at a local Barro's Pizza. I remember proudly paying about \$1,000 for my first semester.

During my first two years of college, I was a full-time student earning good grades, mentoring, training in diversity and inclusion, and more. My goal was to become a pediatrician. I looked up to doctors like Patch Adams. I later met him at a healing festival in Phoenix.

The uncertainty of my immigration status became a reality for me when the 2017 presidential administration terminated DACA. With this news, I attended my first Allies training with Aliento. The amount of support I received was healing. Aliento also provided a unique opportunity to drive from Arizona to Washington, DC, in hopes of finding a permanent solution for all Dreamers. We talked to many members of Congress.

That summer, in-state tuition for DACA recipients was challenged by the state. With Aliento, a group of students and I asked for an appeal from the Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board. I thank MCCCDC for their appeal. However, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled against us because of Prop 300.



ROAD TO  
1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

MARIA LEÓN PEÑA - PROP. 308 IMPACT

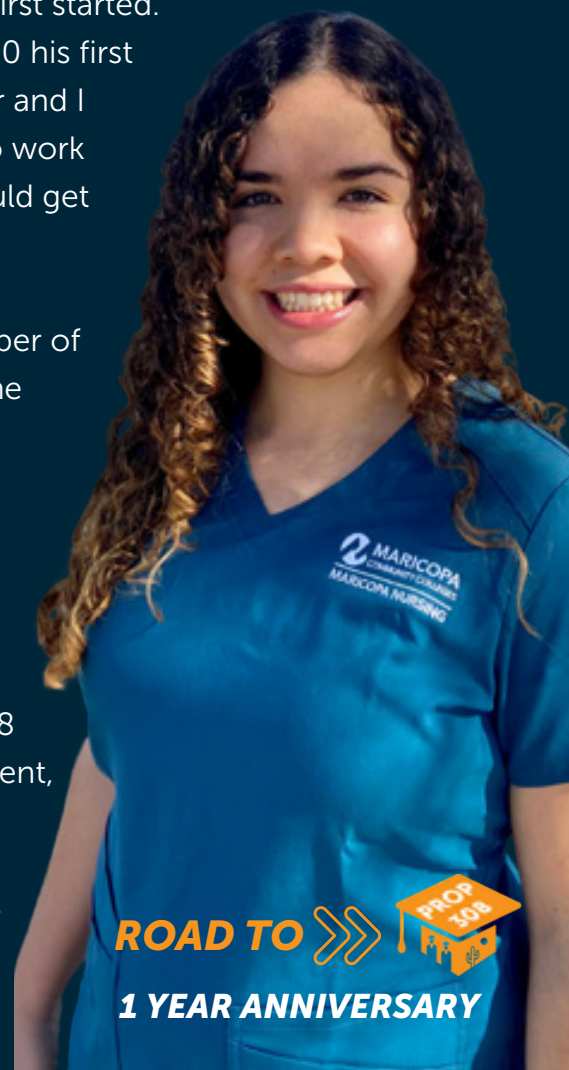
This led me to join the inaugural cohort of fellows with Aliento. Together, we launched Arizona's Future Campaign: A campaign dedicated to ensuring all Arizona high school graduates have access to higher education regardless of immigration status. This mission was engraved in my heart because I wanted every high school student to feel as empowered as I did when I first entered community college.

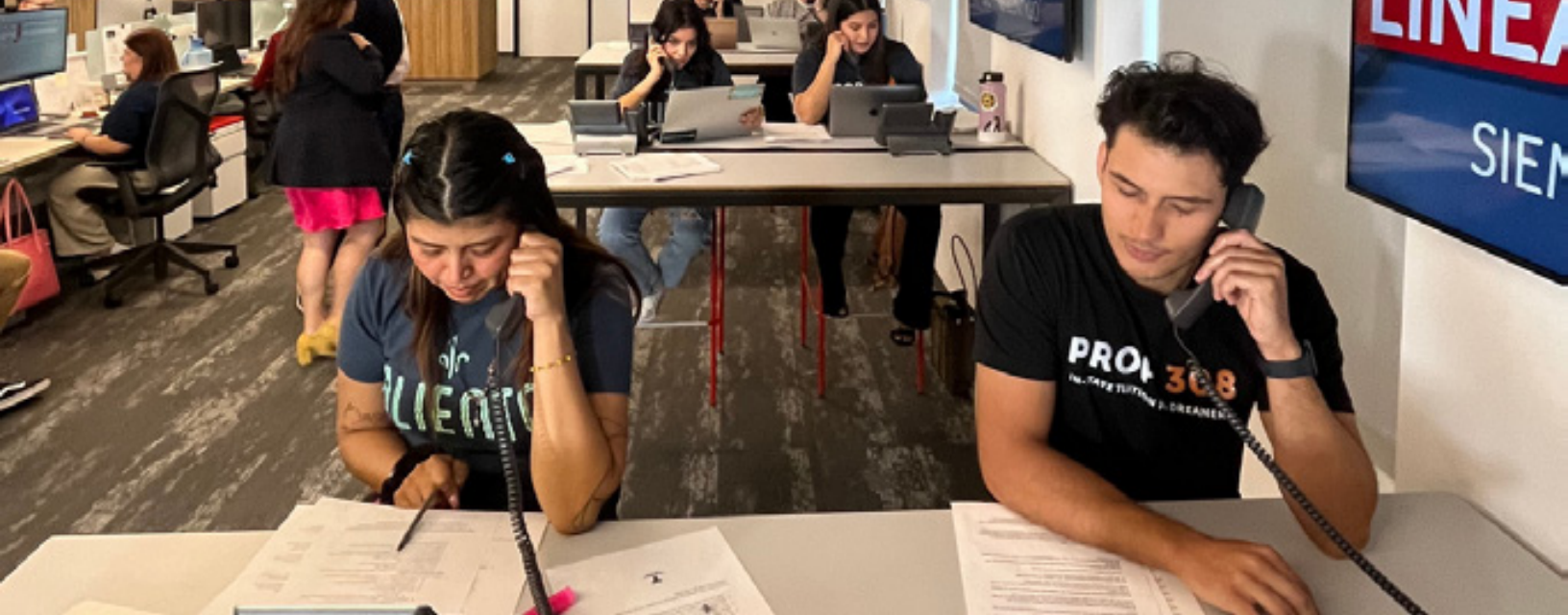
I learned a lot through this fellowship. For instance, I know it takes a village to change a law. Legislators, community members, friends, family, and leaders of all kinds came together to accomplish the campaign's mission.

Tuition costs so much more at the community college than when I first started. My significant other, also a DACA recipient, was paying almost \$5,000 his first semester at the same community college I started. My single mother and I could not afford my college expenses. During this time, I decided to work at a hospital to ensure I used my time wisely because I knew we would get in-state tuition back one day.

After multiple attempts, Prop 308 was finally on the ballot in November of 2022. Being a mom of a beautiful two-year-old, I decided to do some canvassing and phone banking in hopes that it could pass if enough people knew what it meant to us.

After Arizonans passed Prop 308, I immediately started studying for my nursing entrance exam. After four years without school, I passed on the first try. I applied to a competitive program in May. I thought I would have to reapply. Two months later, I was accepted. Prop 308 gave me the confidence to believe in myself again. As a nursing student, I hope to learn how to be the best patient advocate and ally so that one day, I can become the doctor I am meant to become. Not just for me but for every teacher, family, friend, and community member who made me a Dreamer.





TELEMUNDO X ALIENTO

During June, we partnered with Telemundo to host a phone banking session, where we successfully handled over 120 calls from our community. These inquiries revolved around scholarship options and guidance through the college application process. According to Telemundo, this was their most successful phone bank to date.



100+ CALLS ANSWERED

200+ STUDENT APPLICANTS

\$360K GIVEN IN SCHOLARSHIPS





DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ALL

In April, we held a demonstration at the Arizona state capitol to show our communities' support for granting driver licenses to all individuals regardless of immigration status. We had over 50 attendees at the rally, including two Arizona State Legislators, Rep. Flavio Bravo & Rep. Lydia Hernandez. During the rally, community members shared why driver's licenses are essential for all and how they would impact them, personally. Thank you to all who attended and made their voices heard! Let's keep the momentum going.

DREAMER PATHWAY PROGRAM + PHOENIX PROMISE PROGRAM

These programs were launched in partnership with the City of Phoenix and the council members, Maricopa Community College Foundation, and Maricopa Community College District. It benefits Phoenix residents who are historically marginalized, low-income, BIPOC, single parents, and returning students. Students receive complete financial assistance as well as access to wraparound services. The Dreamer Promise Pathway Program provides a way for undocumented individuals and DACA recipients to reach their academic goals of continuing their education with one less barrier to face. The Phoenix Promise Program supports U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents by allowing them to pursue higher education that propels them to succeed.

1250+

**STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED**

1,900+

**SCHOLARSHIP
APPS RECEIVED**



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

 **24** DACA RENEWALS

 **14** LAPTOPS DONATED



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Human Library

Chaparral High School hosted the first Human Library event in a U.S. high school. Mario Montoya, our research analyst, represented Aliento and was one of ten diverse speakers who told their thought-provoking stories in a library setting. The Human Library Organization has successfully challenged stigma and stereotypes since 2000.

The Mexican Consulate

Aliento co-hosted and participated in the Mexican Consulate's 6a. Semana Binacional de Educación (6th Binational Week of Education). We would like to thank our partners Cónsul Jorge Mendoza Yescas and Daniel Perez, as well as the Mexican Consulate of Phoenix Team, for helping us bring together organizations and institutions that shared valuable resources with our community!





DIGITAL IMPACT

DIGITAL INSIGHTS

+ GROWTH

36

ALIENTO IN

THE MEDIA

37-38

DIGITAL INSIGHT & GROWTH



35K+

TOTAL DIGITAL AUDIENCE

Followers from all of our social media, email and SMS lists.



1m

IMPRESSIONS

Number of times people saw our posts



120K+

ENGAGEMENTS

Number of times people interacted with our posts

“

I just wanted to say thanks again for having Stacy and I yesterday. It was great getting to meet the team, and we're super excited for her to begin. As the proud daughter of an immigrant family who would have been ineligible for status under Canada's current immigration system, Aliento is particularly meaningful to me. The work you do is incredible, and I look forward to collaborating more in the future. Wishing you a great week ahead,

- Facebook User

I honestly feel great, and I'm so thankful that I had this opportunity to speak about these issues that impact us as a whole. Being up there with other people in the panel truly was eye-opening.

- Instagram Follower

27,300+

TOTAL AUDIENCE



6,717

6,900

2.7% ↑



1,901

1,944

2.3% ↑



7,240

7,618

5.2% ↑



8073

9,918

23% ↑




681

939

38% ↑

MEDIA IMPACT

 **7.1m+**
UNIQUE VIEWS/ AUDIENCE

 **60+**
LOCAL MEDIA

 **20+**
NATIONAL MEDIA



theguardian

azcentral.

recon

abc family

UNIVISION

TELEMUNDO

Conecta
Arizona

palabra.
A MULTIMEDIA PLATFORM FOR NAJ

THE Nation.

abc 15
ARIZONA

AZ MIRROR

ARIZONA
CAPITOL TIMES

CN Cronkite
News

ARIZONA
Daily Sun

AXIOS

PBS

THE MARY
Independent

truthout

KTAR
NEWS

ARIZONA

ARIZONA

SP

ARIZONA PBS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

yahoo!news

NOTABLE MEDIA



The Nation.

These Activists Are Fighting for Immigrants' Rights. Will Congress Listen?

"Activists from Aliento, an undocumented, youth-led organization fighting inequalities for immigrants, also celebrated the passing of Proposition 308 in Arizona following the midterm elections." - The Nation



The Guardian

Arizona improves college access for undocumented students. Activists say it's a 'first step'

"Proposition 308 is the first step, but we have to keep fighting. We have learned from this country that nothing is going to be given to you."



truthout

Arizona Congressman Andy Biggs Eulogizes Racist Former State Lawmaker

"At Aliento, we believe in truth and reconciliation," the group added. "In order to heal, we must acknowledge the harm caused by those in power as we also acknowledge the humanity of every human regardless of their beliefs."

SENATOR
BEN RAY LUJÁN



MIKE MADRID



ALIEN



AWARDS + RECOGNITION

AWARDS 40

RECOGNITIONS 41-42

STAFF 43

SPOTLIGHT

SCHOOLS + 44

PARTNERS





AWARDS

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD - UNIDOS US

On February 14th, Aliento received the 2023 Unidos US Capital Award for Public Service. Our founder & CEO, Reyna Montoya, traveled to DC to accept the award on our behalf. This award resulted from all the hard work and collaboration of the team, partners, volunteers, interns, voters, educators, business leaders, and everyone else who made Prop.308 a reality.



PETER JENNINGS AWARD

Reyna Montoya & José Patiño won the Annual Peter Jennings Award for Civic Leadership. They were recognized for leading efforts to pass Proposition 308, a law reinstating in-state college tuition for Arizona students regardless of immigration status.



MEXICANA EMPRENDE - MEXICAN CONSULATE

Reyna Montoya received an award on behalf of Aliento for supporting the Consular Entrepreneurship Program for Mexican Women Abroad. This model was incubated in Phoenix, and it has scaled internationally.



RISING STARS & TIMELESS ICONS BY ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES

Reyna Montoya was honored as a Rising Star at the Capitol Times honors. Rising stars are dynamic go-getters who enthusiastically tackle complex issues, earning their reputation through hard work, persistent dedication, and that distinct spirit that captures the American Southwest.



RECOGNITIONS

SKOLL WORLD FORUM AT OXFORD, UK

Our CEO and Founder, Reyna Montoya, was invited as a delegate to represent the U.S. in the UK along with 1,200+ artists, activists, social workers, entrepreneurs, innovators, and other change leaders from 100+ countries.



From meeting the ambassador who served with Nelson Mandela to witnessing the one and only Cheryl rapping to dancing despacito with Echoing Green fellows to meeting inspiring leaders like Nicole, Don, Esther, and many others, to reconnecting with lovely humans and meeting other ones... I felt a deep sense of gratitude for the space we co-created at the Skoll World Forum at Oxford.

I held our Aliento team in my heart. All immigrants who can't travel as easily, my family, and my partner. As a DACA recipient, this trip was surreal. This trip will always have a special space in my heart."

- Reyna Montoya.



MEXICAN CONSULATE PARTNERSHIP

Reyna Montoya, Founder and CEO, and Pedro Gonzalez-Aboyte, Family & Community Liaison, met with Jorge Mendoza Yescas, Cónsul General of México in Phoenix, to solidify the continuation of our partnership with the Mexican Consulate of Phoenix as part of the Ventanilla De Orientación Educativa (VOE).



THE EDUCATION LEADERS OF COLOR CONFERENCE

We led a panel about Prop 308's victory at the EdLOC 2023 Conference! Our panel was called Hope in Arizona: The Fight for In-State Tuition for Dreamers. Representing Aliento were our Educational Organization Intern, Maria Valeria Garcia, our Founder and CEO, Reyna Montoya, and our VP of Education & External Affairs, José Patiño.



ASU + GSV SUMMIT ATTENDEE

Reyna attended the ASU+GSV Summit, which was held in San Diego. The summit explored the theme "Brave New World: Imagining a new era in which all people have equal access to the future." About 350 higher education institutions were represented, including 22 speakers and 12 deans from Arizona State University.



YOUTH ARTS ENGAGEMENT GRANT

We received the Youth Arts Engagement Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, a State of Arizona Agency! These funds will bolster our Cultiva program, benefiting numerous youths from the entire Maricopa County region.



EDLOC REGIONAL GATHERING IN DENVER

Reyna traveled to Denver to share Aliento's impact at EdLoC's Regional Gathering. Reyna shared insights we gained from our successful Proposition 308 campaign in Arizona, which resulted in the attainment of tuition equity.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



ROCIO DORADOR

Our Art+Healing Coordinator, Rocio Dorador, was named a 2023 NALAC Leadership Institute Fellow! She attended a weeklong professional development program in San Antonio, Texas, along with other artists, art administrators, and cultural workers from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

ABRIL VALENZUELA + GUADALUPE REYNOSO

We are proud of our Arizona's Future Fellowship alumni, Abril (3rd cohort) and Guadalupe (4th cohort), for graduating from Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University, respectively. Their journey continues as they join Aliento as full-time staff members! As Leadership Development Coordinators, they are now sharing their knowledge with our 6th cohort of fellows. Seeing their evolution as both professionals and individuals has been incredibly rewarding.



ILEANA SALINAS

Our Cultiva manager, Ileana Salinas, represented Aliento at the March SEL in Action convening in Austin, Texas. She had the opportunity to join over 300 educators and mental health partners from all 50 states. She was able to network, learn, and spotlight our Cultiva program, which is intended for different age groups of people who are undocumented, DACAmented, or are part of mixed-status families.



SCHOOLS + PARTNERS

We are currently partnering with over **430+** schools & institutions



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

These remarkable achievements are only possible because of your support and our collective commitment to the community we serve.

We look forward to a new year of transforming trauma into hope & action with our DACA, mixed immigration status families, and undocumented youth.

Thank you for being a part of Aliento.

**Donate to Aliento:
alientoaz.org/donate**