DREAM Team History

The DREAM Team is a coalition of Immigrant Rights groups, organizations, and allies from all over Southern California who in support of the DREAM Campaign. After seeing the need for stronger collaboration among different groups here in Southern California, CHIRLA Wise Up! started meeting with the Korean Resource Center (KRC) to create the coalition in January 2003.

In February 25th, the first meeting was held and had the presence of CHIRLA Wise Up!, Korean Resource Center, MALDEF, ACLU-SC, and the United Students Against Sweatlshops (USAS) calling themselves the DREAM Team Coalition.

The goals include:

- To represent a unified student-based effort in Southern California to support the DREAM Campaign,
- To empower and involve students in the issue around student legalization, and
- To expand the unified work around the campaign to new areas and constituencies in California
- Network and gather support from new groups and organizations supporting youth and their access to higher education

Our current coalition is made up of: the Korean Resource Center (KRC), CHIRLA Wise Up!, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU-SC), Service Employees International Union 434B (SEIU 434B), Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Hermanada Mexicana, National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), and Our Lady of Victory/Sacred Heart Church, IDEAS & Immigrant Rights Coalition of UCLA, Teens In Action (TIA), Arts Corps LA, and more. Together we have managed to generate more support from our congressional representatives both Democrats and Republicans and have increased the educational outreach efforts to inform the community about the campaign and the work being done.

Our coalition always welcomes any organization or group who is willing to help in the DREAM Campaign who has a youth or student base, can come to our bi-weekly meetings, and show both staff and student representation. Together, we work with our communities to address the need for student legalization through the DREAM Campaign.

For more information, have questions, or want to get involved, please contact Wise Up! at harroyo@chirla.org, or call at (213) 201-4449,