

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of those here today listening about this issue. My name is Petrona Dominguez. A first generation, DACA recipient, college student. I am a current junior pursuing a bachelors in social work with minor in sociology and chicanx/latinx studies.

As many of you know, the number one struggle many college students face is financial burden. Especially those not privileged to receive financial aid from the government and or any assistance that requires a nine digit number. For me, that was my reality when I first started. Thankfully, with the help of Adelante Mujeres and CASA, I was able to erase that burden temporarily. The IDA program assisted in helping me save up money so that when I started my first year I could concentrate in adapting to the new changes and focus on my education. Along with that, they helped me open my knowledge of the 'Adult life' through various workshops presented. Such as opening a savings account and managing a credit/debit card. As well as how interest fees work with loans and more importantly how to manage it as well. They also provided insight to the housing department and how to create a good credit score. All of which are highly important concepts that are not provided in high school.

Thanks to the IDA program I also learned about scholarships and grants. The knowledge I received from them not only helped me achieve an associate's degree but also helped bring in almost all 3 years of my community college paid for. A huge victory for myself and a huge burden off my family's shoulder as being the first of four! However, as a DACA recipient, I am still very limited to resources so being able to have a program that taught me valuable lessons for money management is truly a blessing. Therefore, I encourage you to support this cause because it impacts a large community who are limited to resources like myself. It wipes of the stress for hard working families and encourages students to continue furthering their education post high school.

Lastly, to all those in the room, especially CASA members, your work and dedication is appreciated. The IDA program is a cause worth fighting for because it aids the community. Through the passing of knowledge and skills, future generations like myself are entering this tough world with power to continue the work. So again, I deeply, with the bottom of my heart, appreciate you.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized letter 'P' that loops around and ends with a horizontal stroke.

Petrona Dominguez