The Sagar Patagundi Alumni Scholarship for DACA and Undocumented Students

Established by alumnus Brian Buford (College of Education and Human Development, 1990), the Sagar Patagundi Scholarship will be awarded to subsidize the cost of higher education at the University of Louisville for undergraduate DACA and undocumented students. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by funds available at the time the awards are granted, and will be managed by the director of the Hispanic/Latino Initiatives Office (HLSI) at the University of Louisville.

About the namesake: Sagar Patagundi came to the United States when he was 11 years old with his family. They all entered the country legally, but his father was eventually denied a green card after his application was pending for 11 years and was forced to return to their native country, India. Later his mother returned as well, leaving Sagar and his two brothers alone in the United States to pursue their dream of a college education.

Sagar enrolled at U of L and became a key figure in the immigrant rights movement, founding a student organization called FIRE (Fighting for Immigrants Rights and Equality) and speaking nationally about the issues that undocumented students face. He graduated from the University of Louisville in 2014 with BA in Communication and continues to work as an advocate for social change with the ACLU of Kentucky and other local organizations.

Qualifications: To apply you must meet the following qualifications:

1. Plan to be seeking a degree at the University of Louisville in the upcoming academic year.
2. Have DACA status or be undocumented.
3. Be enrolled for at least six credit hours.

To be considered for this scholarship please submit the application via the link below and attach an essay answering the following questions.

All essay questions are required, 500-750 words max.

1. What are your goals for your education?
2. What is your plan after you have completed all of your education?
3. What activities are you currently involve in? Be sure to highlight involvement that supports undocumented and/or immigrant communities.
4. What has been your biggest personal, financial, or academic challenge?