

Contact: Grace Rapkin
(212) 729-2913
grace.rapkin@mhc.cuny.edu

ANNOUNCEMENT

Macaulay Students for Immigration Education Reform (SIER)
Conference convenes September 28, 2012

At Macaulay Honors College
35 West 67th Street, New York

New York, NY - (September, 2012). The inaugural *Students for Immigration Education Reform (SIER) Conference* is the culmination of approximately nine months of collaboration between students and administrators at both Macaulay Honors College, CUNY (<http://www.macaulay.cuny.edu/>) and Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University (<http://barrethonors.asu.edu/>). The conference follows a smaller, "working sessions" conference held jointly at Barrett in April 2012. The daylong conference will include a special focus on local, regional and national DREAM Act efforts, and sessions will allow for both panel presentations and working groups consisting of invited students, community activists, politicians, professors and journalists. This conference is free and open to all.

The conference has been developed, and will be facilitated by, student/alumni leaders from both Macaulay and Barrett, including:

Christina Dumitrescu, Macaulay Honors College at Lehman College '11

Christina grew up in Queens. She was the first in her family to be born in the United States and still maintains close ties with her mom's home country, Romania. Christina graduated from Macaulay Honors College at Lehman in 2011 as a political science major, and is currently a Legal

Assistant at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, and a top corporate law firm in the city. Christina has also been an education policy intern at the Office of the Bronx Borough President's Office. She is currently applying to law school where she plans on specializing in criminal law.

Diego Molano Rodriguez, Macaulay Honors College at Lehman College '12 (M.A. Candidate in Regional Studies, Latin American and Caribbean, MARSLAC Program, Columbia University '14)

Diego Molano Rodriguez was born in Colombia and raised in Port Chester, New York. He is a graduate of the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY Lehman and a current Master's candidate in Columbia University's MARSLAC (M.A. in Regional Studies, Latin America and Caribbean) program. As a student, Diego conducted research with Lehman College Professor Robyn Spencer on the Black Liberation movement and its relationship to the Vietnam War. His honors thesis analyzed the connections between the zombie movie genre popularized by George A. Romero and the realities of black life in America, with special attention to aspects of the films that comment on the changing views of African Americans. As one of the first members of SIER, he hopes to keep discussing the importance of immigration reform, especially within higher education.

Maisha Lopa, Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College '13

Maisha Lopa is a senior at Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College where she is studying International Affairs with a focus on international development. She has held a position at the United Nations as part of the UN NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, where she researched South East Asian nuclear security issues. She has also worked as a legislative aide to New York City Councilwoman Diana Reyna, looking at policy issues related to small business and economic development. After graduation, she plans to work with social ventures to increase financial access for the poor.

Official Macaulay posting:

<http://macaulay.cuny.edu/community/now/2012/09/first-annual-macaulay-students-for-immigration-education-reform-conferencefri-sept-28/>

The first annual Macaulay Students for Immigration Education Reform (SIER) Conference will take place on Friday, September 28, 2012, 8:30am – 3:00pm

Conference Program:

8:30-9:15AM – Registration and continental breakfast

9:15-10:15AM – Deans' Welcome: Ann Kirschner, Macaulay Honors College, CUNY and Mark Jacobs, Barrett Honors College, ASU
Opening Address: Daniel Dromm, New York City Council Member, and Immigration Committee Chair.

Barrett and Macaulay Student Leaders' Presentation: "Experiences and Goals"

10:30-11:45AM - Working Groups: Each working group will be led by a cohort of Macaulay and Barrett students, alumni, professors and community leaders:

Working Group #1

Session #1: The Politics of Belonging: Tracing America's History of Federal Citizenship Laws in the Twentieth Century.

Session #2: The Undesirables of the 21st Century: A Discussion on the Creation of a New Cultural Underground of Unauthorized Immigrants.

Working Group #2

Session #1: A Threat to Economic Security? What the Numbers Actually tell us About the Economic Impact of Unauthorized Immigrants.

Session #2: Don't Ask, Don't Tell: A Look at the CUNY Way to Offer Affordable Higher Education to Unauthorized Students.

12:00-1:00pm – LUNCH

1:15-2:15pm – Concurrent Panel Presentations:

Panel #1: Academics/professors/researchers – including: Dr. Margarita Jimenez-Silva, Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College, ASU and Dr.

Carlos Ovando, School of Transborder Studies, ASU
Panel #2: Community leaders/activists/organizers

2:30 - 3:00pm – Closing Address: Allan Wernick, Esq. CUNY
Citizenship Now Director

About Macaulay Honors College

Macaulay Honors College at The City University of New York offers exceptional students a uniquely personalized education with access to the vast resources of the nation's largest urban university and New York City itself. Selected for their top high school records and leadership potential, Macaulay students receive a full-tuition scholarship, a laptop and technology support, and a \$7,500 Opportunities Fund to pursue global learning and service opportunities. A Cultural Passport provides access to museums, libraries, and other treasures around New York City. Macaulay students enroll in one of eight CUNY senior colleges (Baruch, Brooklyn, City, Hunter, John Jay, Lehman, Queens and Staten Island). For more information, see macaulay.cuny.edu.