

## **St. Francis Director of Freshman Admissions Receives National Recognition**

Joliet, Ill.- University of St. Francis Director of Freshman Admissions, Eric Ruiz, recently attended the National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC) national conference where he received the “Rising Star Award” for his efforts with the recruitment and counseling of undocumented students. USF was also recognized at the conference for its efforts in supporting undocumented students and hosting the “Illinois Sharing the Dream Conference” two years in a row.

The Dreamers Conference, hosted by St. Francis, welcomes over 400 admission and high school guidance counselors from Illinois and the Midwest. A variety of topics are discussed by professionals from surrounding educational institutions including advocating for undocumented students, legal and immigration policies and panels for two- and four-year institutions.

“St. Francis is very fortunate to have someone as knowledgeable and dedicated to student success as is Eric is,” shares Chuck Beutel, vice president for Admission and Enrollment Services. “I receive numerous compliments from students and parents who are appreciative of Eric’s efforts to walk them through the college selection process and work with them in trying to make a college education affordable.”

The Rising Star Award honors individuals and programs that exemplify excellence and dedication to serving the needs of students in transition from high school to college. Ruiz has traveled throughout Illinois and several locations across the country to educate counselors on measures to help undocumented student. He has also conducted national webinars and spoken at other conferences on the same topic.

The NACAC was founded in 1937 and includes a membership of 15,000 professionals from around the world who are dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education. The organization provides tools for professionals and students alike.

The University of St. Francis, in Joliet, Ill., serves 3,800 students nationwide, offering undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs in the arts and sciences, business, education, nursing and social work. There are 47,000 USF alumni across the globe. For information, call 800-735-7500 or visit [stfrancis.edu](http://stfrancis.edu). University of St. Francis: Bigger thinking. Brighter purpose.

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