

## “Sin Pais” and “We All Have Dreams”

On Wednesday, February 20, 2013, the Trans-Border Institute (TBI) hosted the screening of two films, “Sin País” and “We All Have Dreams.” The first movie, “Sin País,” conveyed the tough and sensitive journey of a Guatemalan family being deported, presenting the hardships that a typical undocumented family faces when they try to build their future in the United States. It also expressed the emotional distress faced by family members who leave relatives in the United States when they are deported, as there is a possibility of never seeing them again. The second movie, “We All Have Dreams,” is a documentary on the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) that addressed facts about how the act could benefit undocumented immigrants, why it should be approved, and what the consequences would be if it were approved. “We All Have Dreams” was produced by the Teen Producers Project, hosted by the Media Arts Center San Diego, which strives to teach teens how to be active leaders in our community through self-expression.

The film screenings were followed with a Q&A session with Olivia Ruiz and two participants from Teen Producers Project: Anais Bernard and Oscar Perez. Ruiz is TBI’s senior analyst on U.S.-Mexico immigration issues and a professor of anthropology at Colegio de la Frontera Norte. Bernard, a junior at San Diego High School of International Studies, has been a teen producer at the Media Arts Center for two and a half years, while Perez, an eighth grader at East Middle School, has been a teen producer for three years. Both students collaborated in the production of “We All Have Dreams.”

At the beginning of the Q&A session, Ruiz, Bernard, and Perez expressed their desire to further disseminate information and knowledge regarding the DREAM Act. It is important to make people aware of this matter, they argued, because stripping undocumented migrants of the opportunity to be successful is not fair. Afterwards, the audience asked the panelists several questions regarding their initial involvement in the activist movement, their future goals for continuing to express their beliefs, and their emotive experience while studying this subject and interviewing immigrants who have gone through similar experiences as those conveyed in the films. The event was well received by the audience, as guests were actively asking questions and expressing their interest with regards to immigration.