

**Jose Mejia was one of 18 young adults in the FCNL 2016-2017 Advocacy Corps, organizing his community to speak with their members of Congress about the need for immigration reform.**

Jose was born in Mexico on October 3rd of 1994, at the age of two his mother carried him across the U.S. – Mexico border, and he arrived as an undocumented immigrant to Staten Island, New York in 1997. Jose comes from a family of eleven, but only his two younger sisters are American citizens.

He writes, “All I have known is life in the United States. I had no control over the conditions in my home country that forced my parents to immigrate to America for a better life.”

Like so many young people in Jose’s shoes, receiving DACA in April 2013 opened doors to opportunities previously unattainable. He was able to work legally, pay taxes, obtain a driver’s license and medical insurance, pay for his college education, and visit his home country of Mexico for the first time in two decades through a study abroad program. He studied to become a Certified Nursing Assistant which allows him to take care of America’s sick and disabled. Jose worked to pay for two semesters of college by himself. He is pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science with a minor in Legal Studies. His goal after college is to go to law school and become an attorney.

He started working with FCNL in May 2016, organizing and mobilizing his communities in New York to develop relationships with members of Congress and encourage them to take up immigration reform again. He hopes to bring change to this broken immigration system that tears families apart, incarcerates children and keeps millions of hardworking immigrants stuck in legal limbo.

Jose writes, “Throughout my journey in life I have acquired skills and overcome numerous obstacles, which has magnified the level of success that I have achieved. I have grown to become a strong undocumented student who will keep fighting for my community to achieve dignity, equity, and justice.”

We call on Congress – including Jose’s congressman Dan Donovan – to act for Dreamers like Jose so that he can continue pursuing his dreams and changing his community.