

Amber Montoya
Humes 103
Professor O'Geen
November 18, 2025

Campus Commentary
A Collection of Events
November 17, 2025 - November 20, 2025

The series of events I chose to string into a collective commentary piece are: 'Pathways to Impact: Careers in Immigration and Refugee Support' (a panel discussion), 'A Call to Action' (informational meeting), and 'Open Mic Night' (an informational meeting/open speaking space). All 3 events I attended this week centered around creating a safe and inclusive space at Davidson following the ice raids in Charlotte, North Carolina. The ice raids, not a new event to the United States, recently started to get more worrisome as they have begun to racially profile and deny citizens their 4th and 5th amendments. The 4th amendment does not allow law enforcement to enter private property without a judicial warrant, and the 5th amendment is the right to stay silent before and after arrest. The Davidson student body is diverse and includes international students and Latinx students, the main target of the ice raids. Due to this, students began to feel fear as misinformation that ICE was on campus was spreading. In retaliation to the fear, Immigration Justice Coalition (IJC), Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), and The Bonner Scholars gathered together to create informational events, panel discussions, and bring in attorneys to speak about the current ICE situation in Charlotte.

All 3 events were interconnected and served the purpose of informing students of their rights. At 'Pathways to Impact: Careers in Immigration and Refugee Support', there was a wide range of panel speakers consisting of immigration attorneys and a non-profit refugee worker. They spoke about their experience and current job complications due to the current political climate. They were outraged at how their clients were being treated, and they fought to protect their clients from ICE. At 'A Call to Action', IJC, OLAS, and Professors Cornejo and Gonzales ('G') informed students of their rights in case ICE questions them and opened a community discussion amongst staff and students. It felt very personal and inclusive, considering it was a small table discussion. At the end of the week, the 'Open Mic Night' event included attorney Will Hummel going into detail about immigration law, rights of citizens and non-citizens, and how to correctly identify ICE, border patrol, or state officers. In addition, the open mic night allowed students to read poetry and share their struggles with the current political climate in an inclusive, open space.

[Were they successful?] The events successfully managed to create a sense of community and inform respective students and staff of their amendment rights. Opening the space for students who were fearful or who wanted to be more informed to help others created trust amongst peers. Though the information presented was daunting and difficult to hear, many students left the space feeling more prepared than before. For example, different government official uniforms, ICE and Border Patrol, were distinctly pointed out so peers may identify how different they look from one another. The initial event I went to, 'Pathways to Impact', was

slightly different in nature from the other two since it was tailored to inform students about the path to working in immigration or refugee work, as opposed to strictly an informational panel about ICE in Charlotte. Though this was its initial purpose, students got to witness their anger and continuous fight against the government's intrusion into their clients' lives. I believe their purpose was served, as they detailed how rewarding being in the immigration field can be, and how the current political climate does not deter the fact that the work is more important now than ever.

From my own subjective perspective, I still believe all 3 events managed to complete their goals. Much like the objective opinion, I believe they were informative, community-oriented, and inspiring. The event information was gathered quickly after ICE arrived in Charlotte, and the speakers graciously answered any questions peers had. It was clear to see that there was a newly formed bond amongst those who attended these events as they felt seen by one another. The event organizers cared about the Davidson student body, the students cared about one another, and they inspired others to attend. I believe it was good for the 'Pathways to Impact' event to speak on the difficulty of current immigration and refugee work, and to also speak about how rewarding it can be at the same time. It still validated the fear that the current administration is tearing apart the field, but it didn't let anyone in that room lose their hope that it might change. To see established professionals standing strong and supporting their clients gave me hope. The 'Call to Action' and 'Open Mic' events left me with a similar feeling of fear, but also newfound trust in those around me. Learning about one another and making friends, even in such difficult situations, reminded me that community is especially important in such difficult times. My perspective was expanded by the information given. I learned what types of warrants are needed, rights I have as a citizen, different official uniforms, how to help others if detained, and the risks of being involved in such situations. My perspective remained limited in how to create effective, immediate change politically, but I still learned that it must come from a community effort.