



# Institutionalizing Support for Undocumented Latina/o Students in American Higher Education

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# Outline of Paper

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Problem
- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Promising Practices

# Introduction & Lit Review

- ▶ Current literature on undocumented students
  - ▶ Challenges: Legal, Financial, and Institutional
  - ▶ Leads to systemic exclusion
- ▶ How policy shapes the participation of undocumented students on college campuses
  - ▶ DACA
  - ▶ In-State Resident Tuition (ISRT) policies (20 states extend benefits, 8 explicitly deny these benefits, while 22 remain policy ambiguous)
- ▶ Limited literature on how services are institutionalized for undocumented students
  - ▶ Positive impact that institutional support has on undoc students' success

# Purpose of Chapter

- ▶ Synthesize research literature about the institutionalization of support for undocumented students
  - ▶ Must attend to different state policy context
- ▶ In examining these support structures, we identify promising practices that institutions might consider

# Promising Practices that Institutionalize Support for Undoc College Students

## Extend In-state Resident Tuition

- ▶ Two flagship institutions in Texas and California
- ▶ Long-standing ISRT policies that extend benefits
- ▶ Offer some state financial aid
- ▶ Both have large immigrant populations
- ▶ Extensive online presence

## Restrict In-state Resident Tuition

- ▶ Two flagship institutions in Arizona and Georgia
- ▶ Deny in-state resident tuition
- ▶ Offer no form of state financial aid
- ▶ Have significant immigrant populations
- ▶ Anti-immigrant



# “Unsupportive” State Contexts

- ▶ University of Arizona and University of Georgia
- ▶ Both States have extreme anti-immigrant legislation and enforcement practices limiting participation for undoc students
- ▶ Georgia adopted a policy that restricts undoc students from attending the five most competitive institutions
- ▶ Populist responses
  - ▶ ScholarshipsAZ in Arizona (personal advising and trainings on relevant law and policies)
  - ▶ Freedom University (free courses for undoc students)

# Promising Practices

- ▶ 1. Trainings for all front line admin, staff, and faculty
  - ▶ Undocumented students rights
  - ▶ Cultural sensitivity (microaggressions)
- ▶ 2. Designate staff members to serve undoc students within diversity or like offices
- ▶ 3. Dedicated undoc staff members can reach out, inform, and partner with other offices on campus and community orgs outside of campus
- ▶ 4. Updated online resources and social media presence



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