

HOW NORTH CAROLINIAN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOSTER PUBLIC EDUCATION EQUITY FOR HISPANIC/LATINX YOUTH

Abstract

I discuss how nonprofit organizations promote education equity for Hispanic/Latinx youth by providing services to meet education needs that are left unmet by federal and state policy. I explore ESL and DACA, which are both programs where Hispanic/Latinx students comprise the vast majority of recipients in North Carolina, to see where ESL programs are underfunded, what ESL-related state policies enforce the denial of federal education equity laws, and how underfunded DACA and ESL programs impacts the livelihoods of Hispanic/Latinx youth in North Carolina. These factors set the context of my research on the activism work of North Carolinian nonprofit organizations within an environment of rising national anti-immigrant sentiment and exceptionally limited state-based ESL funding. I analyze the programs offered at 12 different nonprofit organizations that are in direct dialogue with the shortcomings of state and federal policy related to DACA and ESL. Services considered include DACA counseling, DACA renewal financial support, political advocacy for the reinstatement of DACA, scholarships for any immigration states, ESL courses and tutoring, dual language preschools, and youth mentorship. The analysis of these services sheds light upon how nonprofit organizations are reshaping education equity in North Carolina by providing services to underserved Hispanic/Latinx non-native ESL students in primary school and non-citizen youth who are pursuing higher education.

Research Question

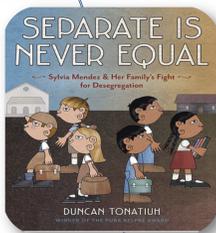
How do nonprofit organizations provide support for Hispanic/Latinx youth where state and federal policy fail to adequately do so?

Methodology



Hands on Research

- Macdonald Community Fellowship
- Carolina Center for Public Service Mini Grant: Funding DACA renewals
- El Centro Hispano ESL Reading Comprehension Instructor



Read Secondary Literature

- ESL-Related Federal and State policy
- Peer-reviewed
- Scholarly articles
- news coverage



Gathered data from 60+ nonprofit organizations

- Located 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations in North Carolina who serve primarily Hispanic/Latinx populations
- Narrowed scope based on online resources available



Analyzed programs offered at 12 nonprofit organizations

- Categorized programs offered online by how they interact with Federal and State DACA and ESL policies

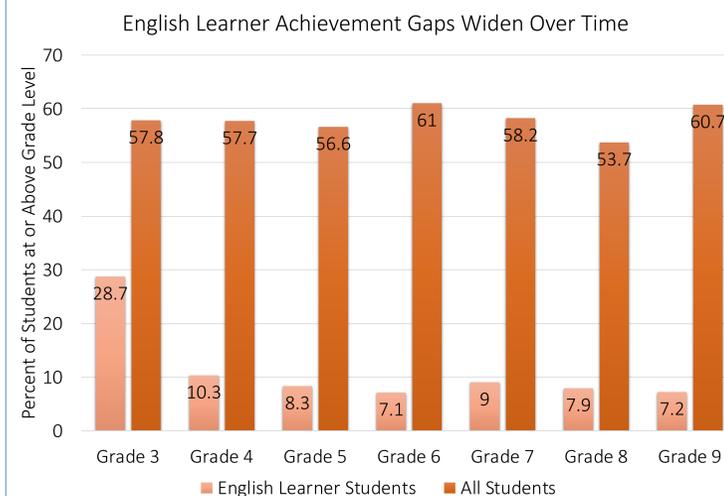
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Background and Context

ESL Programs are falling short of expectations due to funding shortages and funding policy limitations that are unique to ESL program structure



The suspension of DACA by the Trump Administration has denied the Dreamers of our state access to institutions of higher education



"Locked Out of Higher Education" During a photovoice session, a high schooler drew this photo to visualize how she feels 'locked out' of North Carolinian colleges due to a sign that states 'ss (social security) needed to enter.'

Valdivia, Carolina, and Diana Valdivia. "My Un(DACA)Mented Life: Experiences of Undocumented Immigrant Young Adults Growing Up and Resisting Through Activism." *Journal of Transborder Studies*, Summer 2014.

Nonprofit Organizations with Services for DACA Recipients and Non-citizen Youth Pursuing Higher Education

Education Reform Advocacy

- El Pueblo (Raleigh)
- Latin American Coalition (Charlotte)

Financial Support

- El Centro Hispano (Durham, Carrboro, Raleigh)
- Pupusas 4 Education (Chapel Hill)
- Latin Americans Working Towards Achievement (Charlotte)

DACA Counseling

- Hispanic League (Winston-Salem)
- Hispanic Liaison (Siler City)
- Faith Action ID Network (Greensboro)
- El Centro Hispano (Durham, Carrboro, Raleigh)

Nonprofit Organizations with Services for English Learner (EL) Primary School Students

Tutoring

- El Buen Pastor (Winston-Salem)
- El Centro Hispano (Durham, Carrboro, Raleigh)

Youth Mentorship

- Hispanic League (Winston-Salem)
- LatinxEd (Chapel Hill)

ESL Courses

- AMEXCAN (Greenville)
- El Buen Pastor (Winston-Salem)
- El Centro Hispano (Durham, Carrboro, Raleigh)
- Latin American Coalition (Charlotte)

Dual Language Preschool

- El Centro Hispano (Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh)

Broader Implications

I have documented how local nonprofit organizations act in resistance to the denial of education equity for Hispanic/Latinx youth by providing supplementary services and political advocacy. One must not turn a blind eye to the implications of federal and state policies that impede North Carolinian residents from an equitable education. However, while recognizing the shortcomings of such policies is important, the focus of this thesis is truly the resiliency and empowerment that can be found in Hispanic/Latinx nonprofit organizations. The advocacy and support created through a variety of different nonprofit programs across nonprofit organizations throughout North Carolina embody resiliency and empowerment within Hispanic/Latinx communities.

Avenues for Future Research

As an Educator: How does ESL funding deficits impact student outcomes in the wake of technological innovation in the classroom and the development of new teachings strategies?

As a Geographer: How does ESL performance and local DACA support vary from state to state? Do the most under supported areas correlate with the presence of nonprofit organizations who offer similar services?

As a Political Scientist: How can the federal government hold states accountable to education equity laws? How can they hold themselves accountable throughout changing administrations?

As an Business Leader: What key factors contribute to a nonprofit organization's ability to fulfill these needs?

As an Advocate for Social Justice: What about the populations who do not have access to the resources offered by nonprofit organizations who serve primarily Hispanic/Latinx populations?