



Dr. Julie Figueroa

Professor of Ethnic Studies


Julie López Figueroa is a Professor of Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University. With a focus on retention, her qualitative research focuses on access and success of first-generation students within higher education, specifically Latino males. She is recognized as one of the earliest contributors informing and framing the body of knowledge examining the academic success of Latino males in higher education. Julie is particularly interested in understanding how teaching and learning in diverse classroom settings can contribute towards institutional retention efforts. In terms of making college accessible to minority, underrepresented, or under resourced communities, Dr. Figueroa has served as the Faculty Fieldtrip Coordinator for the 65th Street Corridor Community Collaborative Project for the last 16 years. She partners with students, parents, teachers, and school leaders to make sure college readiness is a reality.

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Overall, her teaching, research and scholarship have earned her numerous distinctions at local, state, and national levels, including an Outstanding Teaching Award in the College of SSIS. Nationally, Dr. Figueroa serves as the Associate Editor for the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) Journal, serves as a Center Affiliate for the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving



Institutions, Research, and serves as a Faculty Affiliate of Project MALES (Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success).

As a first-generation college professor who was first generation college student, Julie prioritizes being actively involved in mentoring students either through the McNair Program or something informal. Either way, Dr. Figueroa engages in mentoring many undergraduates, doctoral students as well as junior faculty through various professional organizations or through informal networks. She volunteers to advocacy causes that broadly support education equity.

Dr. Figueroa completed her doctoral studies in Education from the University of California, Berkeley; a M.A. in Education from the University of California, Santa Cruz; and her B.A. in Sociology and Chicano Studies from the University of California, Davis. Finally, she is the proud daughter of two Mexican and migrant parents.



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