

When a College Is Out of Reach

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To the Editor:

"Pricing the Poor **Out** of **College**" (editorial, March 27) doesn't mention a significant reason many low-income students don't get Pell grants: they aren't citizens and don't have permanent resident status.

Federal rules prohibit granting student financial aid to undocumented immigrants, even if they have lived here for years, learned the language and performed at the top of their class in high school.

Federal law also sets a standard for state schools that imposes higher, **out**-of-state tuition on such students.

These students will likely live the balance of their lives in the United States. Higher education makes a huge difference in lifetime earning power. We should encourage immigrants to go to **college**, not thwart their efforts.

RONAY MENSCHER

New York, March 28, 2002

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