



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT “THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA – LATINO REPORT”

“The State of Higher Education in California – Latino Report is an urgent call to action for Los Angeles. If L.A. is to maintain its position as an economic leader, we must ensure that all Angelenos have the opportunity to learn the skills they need to succeed in our competitive global economy. This valuable report challenges L.A. to take action to break down barriers that our students face getting into and through college, because our city’s future depends on it.”

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles

“With Latinos comprising the largest ethnic group in the state, we need to ensure that our Latino students are well prepared for college and career success so they can be positioned as major players in California’s workforce. At the Silicon Valley Education Foundation we strive to help Latino students overcome the challenges noted in *The State of Higher Education in California – Latino Report*, especially supporting them in the middle school grades when rigorous high school coursework and college planning begins.”

Muhammed Chaudhry, CEO, Silicon Valley Education Foundation

“PPIC surveys show that Latino parents in California have high educational hopes for their children. This important report reveals the gap between those aspirations and the reality of low college enrollment and completion among Latinos. Addressing this challenge must be a priority for state leaders. California’s future depends on it.”

Mark Baldassare, President & CEO, Public Policy Institute of California

"This report leaves no doubt that Latino college degrees are essential to meet the workforce demands of the next decade. The lack of a statewide college attainment plan with specific goals for the three public sectors puts California at great risk."

**Estela Bensimon, Co-Director, Center for Urban Education, Rossier School of Education,
University of Southern California**

"For over 20 years, InnerCity Struggle has focused on improving educational opportunities for high school students in Los Angeles, specifically in the predominant Latino neighborhoods of East Los Angeles. We understand that providing Latino youth with quality conditions for learning and success in high school is only a part of the fight for educational justice. Over and over, in our work with Latino families and education stakeholders, we hear their voices lifting up the need for a stronger focus on college retention. InnerCity Struggle applauds The Campaign for College Opportunity for bringing to light the challenges and opportunities confronting California to adequately support Latino student success not only in the K-12 pipeline but in higher education as well."

**Maria Brenes, Executive Director
InnerCity Struggle**

"It is clear from the Campaign for College Opportunity report that there is a post-secondary education crisis affecting California's large Latino population and it impacts all of us," said Carl Guardino, CEO of the nearly 400-member Silicon Valley Leadership Group. "The need for a comprehensive higher education plan is clear. In an economy that is increasingly driven by technology, we need to not only ensure more Latinos are earning bachelor degrees, but that they also are diversifying Silicon Valley's STEM workforce."

**Carl Guardino, Chief Executive Officer
Silicon Valley Leadership Group**

"The Campaign for College Opportunity's new report on Latinos in higher education is an alarming reminder that when we do not focus on race/ethnicity in our public policies and practices, equity gaps in education persist. The work we are collectively doing to reform K-12 funding, implement Common Core and expand A-G completion is called into question when higher education is not working for our largest ethnic group in the state – Latinos! We agree that it is time for a new plan for higher education that aligns K-12 efforts, closes equity gaps and helps California succeed."

**Ryan Smith, Executive Director
The Education Trust-West**

“Access to and success in higher education is something all of us care about in California. But, when it comes to improving Latino college-going and completion rates, we have to do more than care. We have to act, and we have to act now. All industry sectors in our state – education, business, military, faith-based, community – have a role to play and should work with and hold accountable our elected officials for a new statewide plan for higher education that keeps the American dream alive and keeps our state’s economy strong. We are proud to partner with the Campaign for College Opportunity and underscore the importance of this report.”

**Barrie Becker, California Director
ReadyNation**

“The disparities highlighted in this report are critical as we plan the future of the state of California,” stated Thomas A. Saenz, MALDEF President and General Counsel and Chair of the board of the Campaign for College Opportunity. “The report should lead to immediate legislative and administrative efforts to address the serious education gaps identified, which threaten our state’s continued leadership nationally and globally.”

**Thomas Saenz, President and General Counsel
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund**

“The Campaign for College Opportunity’s ***The State of Higher Education in California - Latino Report*** is cutting-edge research. Latinos are underrepresented within every segment of higher education in California. The California Student Aid Commission, with its partners, developed the annual ‘Steps to College’ university fair for Latino families to gain information, access, and financial aid for college and vocational education. The Commission, which also administers the *California Dream Act*, invests in all students regardless of their citizenship status.”

**Diana Fuentes-Michel, Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission**

“Workforce preparedness continues to be one of the top concerns for the business community. ***The State of Higher Education in California – Latino Report*** demonstrates the critical need to better prepare Latino students to achieve academic success that meets the demands of our global economy. If we are going to remain competitive, our colleges and universities must do better to address the ongoing barriers that jeopardize Latino students’ ability to complete their education and succeed in our 21st Century workplace.”

**Rob Lapsley, President
California Business Roundtable**