

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT “THE STATE OF LATINOS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA”

“The State of Latinos in Higher Education in California is an urgent call to action for all of us to work together to improve college access and completion. Ensuring more Latinos in California -- and in Los Angeles where Latinos represent nearly 50% of the population -- complete college is critical to creating a prepared workforce and robust economy for tomorrow.”

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles

“The Campaign for College Opportunity's report further demonstrates the need for California to have a comprehensive plan to improve completion and transfer rates for Latino students. This is good for business, good for the Silicon Valley economy and good for California.”

Dennis Cima, Senior Vice President, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

“The *State of Latinos in Higher Education in California* report underscores the need for our education system to better prepare students for the 21st century workplace. Ensuring Latino students achieve academic success is critical to building and maintaining a workforce that can compete in the global economy. It's an economic imperative that will help ensure the future success of Latino students and our state.”

Rob Lapsley, President, California Business Roundtable

“The *State of Latinos in Higher Education in California* is an urgent reminder that in order for Latinas to improve their economic status we need an educational system that promotes both access to and completion of higher education for Latinas, and successful job development training programs for low-income wage earners.”

Helen Torres, Executive Director, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)

“The Campaign's snapshot on Latinos in California should compel investment and intentional focus so that the demographic profile of limited opportunity we see today is not the destiny we create for our collective tomorrow.”

Deborah Santiago, Co-Founder and COO, *Excelencia* in Education

“At the Silicon Valley Education Foundation we strive every day to ensure more students can reach their full potential and our region and state can meet the workforce needs of tomorrow. *The State of Latinos in Higher Education in California* is a reminder that our work doesn’t end with college acceptance letters. We must improve rates of college completion, especially for Latinos in the state who will soon be California’s new majority.”

Muhammed Chaudhry, CEO, Silicon Valley Education Foundation

“For the past two decades, the state of Latinos in education in California has progressed. The progress, however, has been piecemeal and slow. Latinos are not enrolling at four-year institutions at rates comparable to their ethnic counterparts and above all, Latino college graduation rates are strikingly low. In its report, the Campaign for College Opportunity identifies California’s biggest educational challenges and provides clear cut solutions to close the educational gap. Most importantly, the Campaign emphasizes the importance of investing in support programs and partnerships in the K-20 community, which is essential for the future of our educational system.”

Linda Vasquez, Vice President of Partnerships, New Futuro

"Despite high interest and enrollment in college, the data shows significant disparity in college completion for Latinos. It is imperative that California adopt policies to increase college completion rates for Latino students."

Deborah Povich, The Working Poor Families Project

“Never has a generation been so dependent on California’s ability to invest and improve our college and university system. No more excuses! It is time for collective action.”

Ron Gonzales, President & CEO, Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley

“Applause to the Campaign for College Opportunity for this thought-provoking report on the state of our Latino student population and the work that needs to be done to ensure that we prepare them to obtain a college education. These five recommendations should be given the utmost priority by our state and local leaders, education leaders at the secondary and k-12 levels, and the broader community. The success of California’s future will be measured by our ability to have the college-educated workforce that is needed to ensure that we remain a dominant world economy.”

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

“The Campaign for College Opportunity always provides such meaningful and relevant data! It is evident that we have made great strides in creating a college-going culture within the Latino community, however there is still a great need to provide support to ensure that student dreams are being realized.”

Maria Elena Meraz, Executive Director, Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)

“Families In Schools works tirelessly to ensure families have the information they need to make decisions about their child’s post-secondary options. This reports highlights that college access and completion remains elusive for Latino students. Families and communities must work in partnership to maximize and support student learning and success.”

Oscar E. Cruz, President, Families in Schools

“The Alliance for a Better Community is glad to see the important data and information revealed in this report. Latinos will help to shape the state’s future economy, highlighting the importance of ensuring that Latino students are successfully completing higher education. It is imperative that we all work together to move the needle in the right direction and support efforts called out in this report to safeguard Latino student success.”

Angelica M. Solis, Executive Director, Alliance for a Better Community

“The State of Latinos in Higher Education in California rightly calls on state leaders and us advocates to launch a more focused, more urgent, effort to improve college access AND completion for Latino students. There are several local practices that are working to improve Latino college going and completion and now is the time to take those to SCALE. Our students and our state cannot wait!”

Alison De Lucca, Executive Director, Southern California College Access Network

"Latinos are the largest and fastest growing population among young people in California. Policymakers should pay close attention to the Campaign’s thoughtful recommendations about how to ensure that they can access and succeed in higher education in our State."

David Levitus, Ph.D., California Deputy Director, Young Invincibles

“This report shows that more progress needs to be made in improving college access and completion. There is tremendous potential in the large and growing number of Latino students in the state to help close the state’s workforce skills gap.”

Hans Johnson, Senior and Bren Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

"A comprehensive profile on the status of Latinos in California's colleges and universities that should be carefully read by presidents and policy makers."

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

“The State Latinos in Higher Education in California provides another great example of why California needs a credible and permanent structure responsible for articulating a broad public agenda for higher education. Latinos are a significant part of the pipeline that will help us to reach our goal of 2.3 million degrees. Who's tracking our progress? Californians deserve to know that the state takes seriously meeting that goal, and that the state is committed to advancing Latino college achievement as a part of the solution.”

**Lande Ajose, Ph. D., Deputy Director,
California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy**