



WHAT LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT:

## STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR LATINX CALIFORNIANS

*November 2021*

### STUDENT LEADERS

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"Latines only make up 25% of the University of California (UC) student body despite 5 of the 9 UC campuses being Hispanic-Serving Institutions. The UC and the state and federal government must take more action and invest in the enrollment and persistence of Latine students by adhering to the recommendations in the report."

**Esmeralda Quintero-Cubillan**  
President  
University of California, Student Association

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LEADERS

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"I support the Campaign for College Opportunity's continued and vital work on behalf of current and future Latinx students from every corner of our great state. The recommendations outlined in the Campaign's "2021 State of Higher Education for Latinx Californians" report are bold and forward-thinking actions thoughtfully crafted to build and strengthen pathways to and through college for these talented and deserving students who will become California's future leaders. And the recommendations are closely aligned with the California State University's (CSU) steadfast commitment to providing increased and equitable access for our state's Latinx students, as well as the academic programming and support they need to succeed – on our campuses and beyond."

**Dr. Joseph Castro**  
Chancellor  
California State University

"Latinx make up the overwhelming majority of the college age population in California, and thus a determining factor in the state's future. If we are to prosper and thrive as a community, nothing is more important than our public higher education system — the key ladder of upward mobility after graduation— that remains accessible and affordable."

**Lillian Kimbell**  
Board Chair  
California State University, Board of Trustees

"As a Hispanic Serving Institution recently recognized with the Seal of Excelencia for our University's outstanding support and resources provided to Latinx students, Fresno State celebrates our great strides on behalf of our diverse students as indicated in the 2021 report, while remaining steadfast in our commitment to leading the way in reducing equity gaps. We are proud to be an intentional Hispanic Graduating Institution by taking key actions, from supporting the reform of California's financial aid system to adopting practices that focus on supporting students in foundational college-level English and math courses. Fresno State celebrates its diversity, which reflects an economically, socially and culturally vibrant California."

**Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval**  
President  
Fresno State University

"Latinx students, community colleges, California economic growth are the three things that come to mind immediately upon reading this report. There is no way around it. Community colleges have the daunting and critically urgent responsibility to up the numbers of Latinx receiving the Associate Degree in Transfer and actually transferring."

**Dr. Estela Bensimon**  
Founder

**Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California**

"While the data suggest that the number of Latina/o students accessing our colleges and universities has increased, not enough attention is given to those who aren't enrolled. Far too many brown and black students—especially those from under-resourced schools and underserved neighborhoods—are being left behind. For those who do make it to our academic shores, the completion rates are too low and the time-to-degree is far too long. This powerful and well-researched report should serve as our urgent clarion call for educator-activists and policy makers to do things differently to ensure equitable access and student success, and a relevant curriculum—essential investments towards California's future stability, progress and inclusive prosperity."

**Francisco Rodriguez**  
Chancellor

**Los Angeles Community College District**

"The urgency to help our students get ahead educationally and economically has never been greater. This report by The Campaign for College Opportunity shines a bright light on the progress our colleges have made and offers practical solutions to ensure more Latinx students get to the finish line of their college and career goals."

**Diana Rodriguez**  
Chancellor

**San Bernardino Community College District**

“Low-income Latinx students continue to face barriers in accessing financial aid, limiting their ability to obtain a higher education. One major barrier is navigating the complexity of our financial aid system. The State of Higher Education for Latinx Californians report provides timely solutions to our state's leaders to improve access by reforming the state's financial aid system, building on recent historic state investments to expand the Cal Grant, and expanding federal Pell Grant access to DACA recipients.

The Cal Grant Equity Framework, a proposal that aligns with the recommendations of the State of Higher Education for Latinx Californians report, will be considered in the 2022 Legislative session. The proposal would be transformational for scores of Latinx students struggling to rebound from the COVID-19 crisis and rebuild their lives through a college education.”

**Marlene Garcia**  
Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

## CALIFORNIA LEADERS

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“The Campaign’s report underscores the progress that can be made when policymakers and colleges work to eliminate barriers and prioritize student supports. More Latinx Californians than ever before are graduating from high school and enrolling in college however progress lags and equity gaps remain at the state’s public four-year institutions. If we act on the Campaign’s recommendations for facilitating transfer, expanding financial aid and bolstering student supports, the potential for Latinx student success - and California’s future -- is immense.”

**Monica Lozano**  
President & CEO  
College Futures Foundation

“I’m inspired by the tenacity of Latinx students in California who are persisting in their academic journey in the face of extraordinary struggle. As this report shows, we have the opportunity to build on these successes and open the door to opportunity for all students.”

**Guillermo Mayer**  
President & CEO  
Public Advocates

“The State of Higher Education for Latinx Californians report provides us with evidence for dramatically improving pathways to, through, and beyond college. While notable progress has been made, more work is sorely needed to reach and sustain the equitable outcomes that Latinx students deserve. This report identifies where the problems exist, and provides recommendations on how California's leaders must collectively respond.”

**Martha Kanter**  
CEO, College Promise &

Former U.S. Under Secretary of Education