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Excelencia in Education Announces its 2017 Examples of Excelencia

Honors four programs at the forefront of accelerating academic success for Latino students at all levels of higher education

October 5, 2017 – WASHINGTON, D.C.– *Excelencia in Education* today announced its 2017 Examples of *Excelencia*, spotlighting four programs that have shown outstanding, evidence-based results of improving Latino student success in higher education. Examples of *Excelencia* is the only national initiative recognizing and celebrating programs at the forefront of advancing educational achievement for Latino students. *Excelencia in Education* made the announcement at its annual *Celebración de Excelencia* held at the Mayflower Hotel. Leaders, decision-makers, and grantmakers from across the country attended the event.

“While angry voices attempt to minimize Latinos’ contributions to our nation, *Excelencia in Education* brings national recognition and celebrates our contributions,” said Sarita Brown, President, *Excelencia in Education*. “We celebrate each program’s initiative and recognize their success. We are mindful that each helps prepare Latino students to make their own unique and timely contributions to the fabric of our nation, and that their contributions and voices will help forge a stronger, more united, more vibrant nation.”

Programs recognized as the [2017 Examples of Excelencia](#) in four categories are:

Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), Bronx Community College, Bronx, New York (Associate). This pathways based program, with over 1,200 Latino students participating, has increased its students’ semester-to-semester retention rates to 93%, while maintaining a 54% three-year completion rate among enrolled students, compared to a three-year graduation rate of 18% among the rest of the student body.

Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership (BASOL), South Texas College, McAllen, Texas (Baccalaureate). This accelerated competency-based learning program allows for 87% of their students to graduate in three years and helps increase skills in the workforce. Of those in the program, about 92% are Latino.

Preparing Undergraduates through Mentoring towards Ph.D.s (PUMP), California State University – Northridge, California (Graduate). This program helps increase the number of Latino students enrolling in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics graduate programs. Since 2014, 31 Latino students have entered a master’s program and 18 have entered a Ph.D. program since 2014.

Waukegan to College (W2C), Waukegan, Illinois (Community-Based Organization). This community-based organization has used parental support, intensive academic support, and community involvement to help its 135 Latino students persist toward a college degree. 100% of student participants matriculate into college.

This year, the Examples of *Excelencia* were selected from among more than 160 nominations, nominated from 25 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Profiles of each program are published in the 2017 [“What Works For Latino Students in Higher Education”](#) compendium, and as part of the [“Growing What Works Database,”](#) the nation’s largest database providing tactical information about how to accelerate Latino degree completion.

Celebración de Excelencia is presented in collaboration with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Sponsors of the 2017 Examples of *Excelencia* program are: ACT, Ford Motor Company, Pearson Education, Phi Theta Kappa, and Strada Education Network.

Editor’s Note: Interviews with students and program leaders available upon request.

About *Excelencia* in Education

Excelencia in Education accelerates Latino student success in higher education by promoting Latino student achievement, conducting analysis to inform educational policies, and advancing institutional practices while collaborating with those committed and ready to meet the mission. Launched in 2004 in the nation’s capital, *Excelencia* is building a network of results-oriented educators and policymakers to address the U.S. economy’s need for a highly educated workforce and engaged civic leadership. For more information, visit: www.EdExcelencia.org, or follow us on Twitter [@EdExcelencia](#).

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