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Excelencia in Education Releases Compilation of Evidence-Based Practices That Work for Latinos in College

Higher Education Programs Across the Country Identified For Improving Latino Student Achievement In Five Areas

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 24, 2024) – *Excelencia* in Education announces today the release of a compilation of evidence-based programs that are at the forefront of improving higher educational achievement for Latino, and other, students.

The compilation, “[Advancing What Works to Intentionally Serve Latino Students: Opportunities for Action – 2024](#),” emphasizes cultural responsiveness and asset-based approaches to serving Latinos, as well as other post-traditional students, in five key areas:

1. Engagement to Prepare Students and Families in College
2. First-Year Experiences Building Strong Foundations for Success
3. Bilingualism Enhancing Academic and Career Connections
4. Experiences and Partnerships Building Career Pathways
5. Gender-Based Learning Communities to Support Success

Excelencia’s compilation brings national attention to noteworthy efforts increasing Latino student success in higher education to inspire and support educators, community leaders, funders, and policymakers to replicate and bring to scale evidence-based practices. It builds on the organization’s 20-year history of applying a Latino lens to critical issues in postsecondary education while linking data and practice to support Latino student achievement.

“*Excelencia* increases awareness of programs that work for Latino students with the understanding that what serves our students ultimately serves our country,” said Deborah Santiago, co-founder and CEO of *Excelencia*. “These data-informed and evidence-based practices tell unique stories of our students and prove what is possible. These programs also show there is no excuse for inaction to make a positive difference for students.”

For nearly two decades, *Excelencia* has led the charge in highlighting and growing effective practices for Latino students through [Examples of Excelencia](#). Examples is the only national data-driven effort to recognize and promote programs increasing Latino student success in higher education. Since launching Examples, *Excelencia* has received over 2,000 program submissions, recognized over 400 programs for their impact, and raised and awarded over \$2 million to sustain the life-changing work of



those programs.

“America’s future is brighter with the talents of Latinos,” said Sarita Brown, co-founder and president of *Excelencia*. “Now more than ever, *Excelencia* commits to bringing national attention to effective efforts advancing students’ higher education journeys to completion. By sharing information and supporting replication we build momentum for institutional transformation that accelerates Latino student success and thus grows our civic leadership and future workforce.”

Excelencia releases this publication at *Prepárate 2024*, a national convening hosted by the College Board for those committed to advancing educational opportunity for Latino students. Together, we champion asset-based approaches that uplift the strengths of and opportunities for Latino students.

Programs from the compilation are featured in *Excelencia’s* [Growing What Works Database](#) — the only national, searchable database for institutional leaders, funders, policymakers, and others interested in effective programs for Latino students.

“Advancing What Works to Intentionally Serve Latino Students: Opportunities for Action – 2024” benefited from the support and public leadership of 24 colleges and universities that have earned the Seal of *Excelencia*:

- *Arizona State University*
- *Austin Community College District*
- *California State University Channel Islands*
- *California State University, Fresno*
- *California State University, Fullerton*
- *California State University, Long Beach*
- *California State University, Northridge*
- *City Colleges of Chicago, Richard J. Daley College*
- *City Colleges of Chicago, Wilbur Wright College*
- *El Paso Community College*
- *Florida International University*
- *Grand Valley State University*
- *Long Beach City College*
- *Mercy University*
- *Miami Dade College*
- *San Antonio College*
- *South Texas College*
- *St. Edward’s University*
- *University at Albany, SUNY*
- *University of Illinois Chicago*
- *The University of Texas at Arlington*
- *The University of Texas at Austin*
- *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- *The University of Texas at San Antonio*

Access the full compilation:

EdExcelencia.org/advancing-what-works-latino-students-2024

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About *Excelencia* in Education

In 2024, *Excelencia* in Education marks 20 years of service to accelerate Latino student



success in higher education by promoting Latino student achievement, conducting analysis to inform educational policies, advancing institutional practices, and collaborating with those committed and ready to meet the mission. Launched in 2004 in the nation's capital, *Excelencia* has established a network of results-oriented educators and policymakers to address the U.S. economy's needs for a highly educated workforce and engaged civic leaders. For more information, visit: EdExcelencia.org