

The mission of *Excelencia* in Education is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. A critical group of institutions enrolling and graduating Latino students are Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

## History and Definition

In the 1980s, leaders recognized a small set of institutions enrolled a large percentage of Latino students but had low levels of resources to educate these students. The classification of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) formally recognized these institutions for capacity-building and other support.

HSIs are defined in federal law as accredited and degree-granting public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education with 25 percent or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent student (FTE) enrollment.<sup>1</sup>

## Overview: 2016-17

- There were 492 HSIs, representing 15% of all institutions of higher education.<sup>2</sup>
- HSIs enroll the majority of Latino undergraduates. Nearly two-thirds of Latino undergraduates (65%) were enrolled at HSIs.
- The number of HSIs is growing. Over the last 10 years (2007-2016), the number of HSIs grew from 264 to 492 (85%).
- Almost half of students enrolled at HSIs (46%) were Latino.
- HSIs have relatively low enrollment. Over half of HSIs (58%) had Latino student FTE enrollments of 2,000 or less. Only 15% of HSIs (72 institutions) had FTE Latino student enrollments of over 5,000.

## Location

- HSIs are very concentrated geographically. While HSIs are located in 21 states and Puerto Rico, 84% were located in 6 states and Puerto Rico. California has the most HSIs (163), followed by Texas (90), Puerto Rico (63), New York (26), Florida (25), Illinois (24), and New Mexico (23).
- HSIs were also located in states not generally known for having large Latino populations. Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee each had 1 HSI, and Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon and Washington, each had 6 HSIs.
- The majority of HSIs were located in urban areas. Over 85% of HSIs were in either cities (264) or suburbs (154), while 15% were in rural areas (30) or towns (44).

## Governance

- A slight majority of HSIs were four-year institutions. Nearly 25% of HSIs (120) were public colleges or universities and 27% (135) were private, not-for-profit 4-year institutions. In comparison, almost half of HSIs (44%) were community colleges (215) and 4% (22) were private not-for-profit 2-year institutions.
- The majority of HSIs were public institutions; 68% were public institutions and 32% were private.

## Emerging HSIs

- In 2016-17, there were 333 Emerging HSIs (defined as institutions with 15-24% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment).
- Emerging HSIs were located in 36 states and DC. Ten states have at least 10 Emerging HSIs, California (58), Texas (47), Florida (31), New York (30), Illinois (25), Colorado (17), Arizona (15), Connecticut (13), New Jersey (11), and Massachusetts (10).
- Two-thirds of Emerging HSIs were four-year institutions. Over 44% were private not-for-profit 4-year, 22% were public 4-year, 31% were public 2-year, and 3% were private not-for-profit 2-year institutions.

## HSIs with Graduate Programs

- Of the 472 HSIs, 192 offered graduate degrees in 2016-17 (115 offered doctoral degrees).
- The largest number of HSIs with graduate programs were in California (52), Puerto Rico (39) and Texas (37).

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institutional Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2016-17, institutional characteristics and fall enrollment surveys. Analysis run March 2018.

<sup>1</sup> Summary of Title V of the Higher Education Act, as amended in 2008. To be eligible for the "Developing HSIs Program", the law further requires an HSI have a high enrollment of needy students and low educational and general expenditures.

<sup>2</sup> Institutions of higher education are defined as public or private not-for-profit degree-granting institutions.