



## [ PRESIDENTS FOR LATINO STUDENT SUCCESS ]



## [ PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT ]

December 2017

This has been quite a year. Even as our country navigates turbulent times, your steady leadership and active commitment throughout the year has been essential to building the national momentum to accelerate Latino student success in higher education.

It is reinforcing to the *Excelencia* team each time you make the active decision to stay with us through your annual enrollment in Presidents for Latino Student Success and designate your institutional affiliates. Concurrently, each month more presidents and chancellors are discovering our “community of action” and choosing to publicly communicate their commitment to providing learning environments where Latino, and other post traditional students, will thrive.

In this final message for 2017 we highlight how our collective efforts are supporting continued positive impact in accelerating Latino student success. We look forward to the honor of working with you in 2018.

Wishing you, and everyone you love, the happiest of holiday seasons,

Sarita





## What We Accomplished Working Together in 2017

Through your leadership over **55 presidents and 300 campus affiliates** from institutions across the country engaged with *Excelencia* and one another to leverage our collective expertise and resources. We are growing the knowledge and use of successful strategies for accelerating Latino student success and college completion. Working together allows us to:

**Grow awareness of evidence based practices** – [Examples of Excelencia](#) received 161 program nominations, including many from institutions in the E-Action network. Thirteen of the 19 Examples of *Excelencia* and Finalist programs have joined the network and offer exemplary practices in Latino student success that inspire and inform stakeholders throughout the country.

**Create action plans for accelerating Latino student success** – Nine institutions in Arizona, Florida, and Texas that enroll nearly 250,000 Latino students and 500,000 total students are engaged in an 24 month intensive examination of data, practice, and leadership to develop and share successful strategies and action plans to accelerate Latino college completion at their campuses and beyond. Leadership teams within each institution work throughout the year with the *Excelencia* team and the other institutions to refine and assess their strategies and impact to develop plans for their institutions.

This work will be featured in a plenary session at the 2018 Accelerating Latino Student Success (ALASS) Institute to be held in Washington DC on October 12th.

**Promote the value of serving** – Through [Presidents for Latino Student Success](#), more than 50 presidents, chancellor and their teams met to discuss and design action steps to better address SERVING Latino students at Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other colleges and universities. At convenings in California, Texas, and Illinois, higher educational leaders have addressed ways to build on their success in enrolling Latino students through greater emphasis on serving them through effective retention, quality and completion practices and institutional review for Latino student success.

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## Leaders for Latino Student Success Making News



**Mildred Garcia**, President of CSU Fullerton has been tapped for the presidency of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) effective January 22, 2018.

Under President **Judy Genshaft's** leadership, University of South Florida is named Institution of the Year as part of **Education Dive's 2017 Dive Awards** for Higher Education. USF won based on its use of data analytics to eliminate the graduation rate gap between race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

### [To a Degree Podcast by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

These colleagues explored why some institutions have more success than others in helping students from low-income backgrounds move up the socioeconomic ladder.

**Shirley Reed**, President South Texas College home to a 2017 Examples of *Excelencia*: **[Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership \(BASOL\)](#)**

**William Covino**, President California State University, Los Angeles whose institution was ranked number one university in the nation for upward mobility for its students by the **[Equality of Opportunity Project](#)**.

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## Solutions at Work

Since 2006 Examples of *Excelencia* has served as the only national initiative to identify and promote programs at the forefront of advancing educational achievement for Latino students in higher education. Through a comprehensive year-long process, evidence-based practices at the associate, baccalaureate, and graduate levels in higher educational institutions and community-based organizations are recognized and cataloged in the **[Growing What Works Database](#)**.

With this issue we highlight recognized programs that are active at your institutions. This is in preparation for 2018 discussions about taking innovation to scale within institutions, systems and across higher education as a sector.

### **The Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Pre-Graduate School Internship Program**

*"The IE Pre-Grad Internship is more than an amazing internship opportunity—it's about the community that it creates and builds and how it provides an incredible support system which serves as the overall foundation of any pre-graduate's stability and success."*

- Jillian Perez, 2017, IE-Neuroscience Pre Grad intern



Richard Cherwitz, Founder and Director, IE Consortium, shared via webcast: "Over 70% of IE students are either the first in their family to attend college, come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or are persons of color - and over 50% of them enter graduate school."

Listen [here](#).

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## **Coming in 2018: Seal of *Excelencia***

While Latino students have become the largest and most rapidly growing minority group in U.S. higher education, Latino college completion is significantly behind other racial and ethnic groups. Policy initiatives to support institutions of higher education based primarily on minority enrollments – as well as institutional efforts that are strong within specific departments but are not implemented at scale. Designating institutions as Hispanic-Serving Institutions based on Latino enrollment is no guarantee that institutions will serve their students well.



To respond to this challenge, in 2018 *Excelencia* in Education will initiate a new national effort—the Seal of *Excelencia*. Based on our years of research and analysis to identify and grow what works at the institutional level, the Seal will signal an institution has developed a comprehensive and systemic approach to accelerating Latino student success and seeks to raise the bar by which institutions are evaluated with regard to serving Latino students. The intended outcomes of the Seal are to:

- Significantly increase the percentage of Latino students who persist and attain degrees by 2025.

- Increase the number of institutions that use data to concretely show the impact of institutional strategies and efforts to increase Latino students' success.
- Raise awareness and action among institutions of higher education to accelerate Latino student success.
- Influence policy discussions about how to help institutions of higher education better serve Latino students.
- Build consumer demand within the Latino community to enroll in institutions that demonstrate success in serving Latino students well.

Colleges and universities will earn the Seal of *Excelencia* once they demonstrate consistent success in helping Latino students graduate. Specifically, to attain the Seal, institutions will demonstrate they have reached benchmarks in the three core areas *Excelencia* has determined are more likely to lead to Latino student success: Data, Practice and Leadership. *Excelencia* will provide expertise and technical assistance through a network of peer-to-peer learning through workshops and institutes where institutional teams of faculty, staff and administrators will help institutions build the capacity needed to achieve the Seal.

We will share updates about The Seal of *Excelencia* with President for Latino Student Success in the first quarter of the 2018.

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#### **Our Contact Information**

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