

# LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: ARIZONA

#### STATE RANKING

Arizona had the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Latino population in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

#### K-12 POPULATION

In Arizona, **41%** of the K-12 population was Latino.<sup>2</sup>

#### STATE POPULATION

In Arizona, **30%** of the state population was Latino.<sup>3</sup> Projections show a continued increase.

#### **MEDIAN AGE**

The median age of Latinos in Arizona was **25**, compared to **38** for White non-Hispanics.<sup>4</sup>

# DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Arizona, **17%** of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **35%** of all adults.<sup>5</sup>

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million degrees by 2020.

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2020, Arizona can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in Arizona.

# **Equity Gap in Degree Completion**

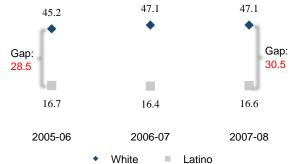
Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 3 measures provided below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire "story" of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity gap in degree attainment between Latino and white cohorts in Arizona in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

	2007-08		
Arizona	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	43.9	51.1	7.2
Completions per 100 FTE Students	18.9	18.9	-
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	16.6	47.1	30.5

**Graduation rates** - Total graduation within 150% percent of program time for first-time, full-time freshman **Completions per 100 FTE students** – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 100 full-time equivalent students (incorporates part-time students)

Completions Relative to the Population in Need – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 1,000 adults aged 18 to 44 relative to the adult population with no college degree

#### Completions Relative to the Population in Need: 2006 to 2008



- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census 2010, American Fact Finder, Demographic Profile Summary. <a href="http://factfinder2.census.gov">http://factfinder2.census.gov</a>
- <sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2009-10, v.1b. <a href="https://www.nces.ed.gov/ccd">www.nces.ed.gov/ccd</a>
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Census 2010: Arizona. <a href="http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/">http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/</a>
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. www.census.gov/acs
- <sup>5</sup> Lumina Foundation for Education. A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education. Educational Attainment Levels for the States. www.luminafoundation.org

### **Degrees Conferred**

Another metric to benchmark college completion is to track the progress of total degrees awarded over time. This measure may be the result of an increase in overall enrollment numbers rather than an increase in rates of completion. From 2005-06 to 2007-08,

- the number of Hispanics who earned an undergraduate degree in Arizona increased about 32% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 41%.
- Arizona had one of the largest increases in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

For more information on these metrics, download *Benchmarking Latino College Completion to Meet National Goals:* 2010 to 2020 and *Degrees Conferred to Latinos:* 2006-2008 at <a href="www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking">www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking</a>

# **Examples of What Works for Latino Students**

There are institutions in Arizona showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of institutional programs with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

# Achieving a College Education (ACE) Program - Maricopa County Community College District

The Maricopa Achieving a College Education (ACE) Program is a collaboration of area universities, high schools, "at risk" students, and their parents. The ACE cycle takes two years and integrates nine essential elements. The goal is to increase the number of students graduating from high school, increase the number of students continuing on to college, and increase the number of students earning a degree or certificate. From its inception ACE has served 6,133 students. In 2002, 88-96% of participants had graduated from high school, and 83% of ACE graduates enrolled in college. The average ACE college grade point average (GPA) is 3.1 vs. 2.81 for the general student population. (http://www.maricopa.edu/studentaffairs/ACE.php).

## Bilingual Nursing Fellows Program - South Mountain Community College

South Mountain Community College (SMCC), in partnership with Gateway Community College (GWCC) and Banner Health, created its Bilingual Nursing Fellows Program (BNFP) in 2002 to respond to the medical community's critical need for bilingual Registered Nurses. BNFP combines an innovative nursing curriculum with a system of support services that allows students to stay in their cohort by taking prerequisite nursing courses and requisite Registered Nurse (RN) courses simultaneously. These stages of licensure permit students who cannot immediately move to the next sequence or level to qualify for employment as a CNA or as an LPN in a local hospital. The Maricopa Student Information System (MSIS) registered a 95% persistence rate from the start to the end of the semester for BNFP participants and an 89% rate from the end of the semester to the next semester. (http://nursing.southmountaincc.edu/).

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia* in Education's Growing What Works database at <a href="http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples">http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples</a>

# **Ensuring America's Future partners in Arizona:**

Helios Foundation: www.helios.org

Maricopa Community Colleges: www.maricopa.edu

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE): http://wiche.edu