

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 Missouri increased about 5% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 2%.
- among the 50 states, Missouri ranked 37th for the increase in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years.

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 www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

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

Mesa Community College Program – University of California

The MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Community College Program (MCCP) provides academic and social support needed to succeed in science and math, and to transfer to four-year institutions as majors in those fields. A major MCCP initiative is to develop a strong peer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) network for its students. As most community college students are commuters (with many holding jobs while attending school and/or shouldering significant family responsibilities), they lack the benefit of the informal connections developed by full-time students residing on campus while attending four-year institutions. Latinos comprise nearly 50% of the students served by MCCP and by MESA. In 2006-07, 467 MCCP students transferred to four-year institutions. Of these students, 95% transferred as majors in STEM fields. Latinos comprised 41% of all transfers.

(<http://www.ucop.edu/mesa/>)

Graduation Achievement Project – Colorado State University - Pueblo

GAP integrated services to expedite and ease the return of Latino/Latina students with 90 credits hours or more who left the university in good standing without completing a Bachelors degree. The project coordinator evaluated students' transcripts to determine the courses to be completed for graduation and then worked closely with each student to complete all necessary forms, a program of study with a timeline, register for face-to-face and/or on-line courses that meet the needs and schedule of each student, contacted faculty when necessary, and essentially acted as a concierge, guiding each student through graduation. CSU Pueblo contacted 375 students who had completed 90 credits or more, of those 88 students enrolled, 40 (46%) completed a degree, 44 (50%) are continuing, and 4 (4%) stopped out.

(<http://guides.library.colostate-pueblo.edu/content.php?pid=177862&sid=1645869>)

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

Ensuring America's Future partners in Missouri:

Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC): www.mhec.org