



## 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 [www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking](http://www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking)

## 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 <http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples>

## Ensuring America’s Future partners in Arizona:

Helios Foundation: [www.helios.org](http://www.helios.org)

Maricopa Community Colleges: [www.maricopa.edu](http://www.maricopa.edu)

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