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, California 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 California.

**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 California in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>Whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rates</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completions per 100 FTE students</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completions relative to the population in need</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degrees Conferred
Another metric to benchmark college completion is 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 California increased about 12% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 7%.
- California had the largest increase 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

Examples of What Works for Latino Students
There are institutions in California 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.

Puente Project – The University of California
The mission of the Puente Project is to increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn college degrees, and return to the community as mentors and leaders of future generations. To accomplish this, counselors, teachers and mentors work together to provide students with the necessary tools to successfully transfer to four-year institutions. Through the Puente Project, Latino students persist at greater rates than other students (83% vs. 68%), transfer to four-year institutions at higher rates than other students (52% vs. 39%), and graduate at similar rates to white students (86% vs. 83.9%). (http://www.puente.net)

The Enlace Program – Evergreen Valley College
Enlace has six primary program goals: 1) to successfully matriculate and retain Latino students, 2) to enable Latino students to successfully complete the Enlace Guidance courses, 3) to mainstream Latino students into the general education and transfer curricula, 4) to increase the number of Latino students who graduate with an Associate degree, 5) to increase the number of Latino students who transfer to four-year colleges and universities, 6) to create a cadre of student leaders. From Fall 2001 to Fall 2004, Enlace Latino students had a 76% course success rate and a 55% success rate in non-Enlace courses. In the Spring 2006, the overall Enlace Program success rate was 82% vs. 55% for all other students enrolled in similar courses. (http://www.evc.edu/enlace/)

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 California:
California Community Colleges, Chancellors Office: www.cccco.edu
California State University System: www.calstate.edu
Campaign for College Opportunity: www.collegecampaign.org
College Board: www.collegeboard.org
Hispanic Scholarship Fund: www.hsf.net
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials: www.naleo.org
National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education: www.highereducation.org
Nexus Research and Policy Center: http://nexusresearch.org/home
University of California System: www.universityofcalifornia.edu
Univision: http://vidayfamilia.univision.com/es-el-momento/