

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 Indiana increased 1% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 3%.
- among the 50 states, Indiana ranked 46th 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*.

Pre-Medical and Health Scholars Program – University of California San Francisco Fresno

The Pre-Health Scholars Program mission is to increase retention and academic success of Latino, low income, 1st generation college going pre-health students enrolled at Fresno State. The program includes a summer orientation for incoming freshmen, parental outreach, and on-going support services including seminars, advising, and tutoring for the purpose of diversifying the healthcare workforce. Demonstrated success with programs for middle school, high school and collegiate disadvantaged students; Doctor Academy accomplished a 100% high school graduation and college acceptance rate, and a 94% retention rate for those students enrolled the past two years in the Pre-Medical Scholars Program.

(<http://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/latinocenter/phsp.html>)

Science Educational Enhancement Services (SEES) – California State Polytechnic University

The purpose of the Science Educational Enhancement Services (SEES) program is to increase the retention and graduation rates for Latino, African American, and Native American students pursuing degrees in the sciences and mathematics. The program creates a supportive community that provides opportunities for academic support, career networking, and community outreach through advising, mentoring, academic excellence workshops, study and computer facilities. Over 65% of students served are Latino. SEES students who start as freshman have a retention rate 15% higher than under-represented students not in SEES, and have a similarly improved graduation rate. 50% of students who participate in the Academic Excellence Workshops earn grades of A or B in courses for which the average GPA for all students is about 2.15. The SEES program graduates about 35 students/year, with about 20% going on to graduate or professional schools. (<http://www.csupomona.edu/~sees/>)

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 Indiana:

USA Funds: www.usafunds.org

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