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, Vermont 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 Vermont.

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

### STATE RANKING

Vermont had the smallest Latino population in the U.S.\(^1\)

### K-12 POPULATION

In Vermont, 1% of the K-12 population was Latino.\(^2\)

### STATE POPULATION

In Vermont, 2% of the state population was Latino.\(^3\) Projections show a continued increase.

### MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Vermont was 26, compared to 42 for White non-Hispanics.\(^4\)

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Vermont, 41% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 44% of all adults.\(^5\)

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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.

**Department of Dietetics and Nutrition Coordinated Program – Florida International University**
The Department of Dietetics and Nutrition provides students with the opportunity to major in Dietetics through undergraduate and graduate level coursework. Students apply to coordinated program where they complete a supervised practicum and then are eligible to sit for the Registered Dietitian exam. The CP program is unique since students from BS, MS and PhD levels can apply. The goals of the Department are to provide quality Dietetics educations for a multiethnic multicultural population in the state of Florida. The program is comprised of over 55% of Latino students. In the last 5 years the department has graduated approximately 250 students, with 110 following the pathway laid out by the program and nearly all of the graduates find suitable jobs in health care. (http://rscphsw.fiu.edu/)

**The First Year for the First Generation Project – Palm Beach State College**
The First Year for the First Generation Project is a college access program whose goals are to designed to to increase Latino participation in the dual-enrollment program, award 24% of first-generation scholarships to entering Latino students, improve Latino first-year student retention, and to ensure 90% of Latino students will access components of the First Experience Program. The First Year for the First Generation Project has a record of success with outreach to first-generation students, many of whom are Latinos. The project met or surpassed the goals detailed above except that the college awarded 19% of first-generation scholarship instead of 24%. (http://www.palmbeachstate.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