History and Definition

In the 1980s, leaders recognized a small set of institutions enrolled a large percentage of Latino students but had limited resources to educate these students. The classification of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) formally recognized these institutions for capacity-building and other support.

Federal law defines HSIs as accredited, degree-granting public or private not-for-profit institutions of higher education with 25 percent or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent student (FTE) enrollment. To create this list, Excelencia uses the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), which is maintained by the U.S. Department of Education. The information presented below is the most recent data as of March 2020.

Overview: 2018-19

- **HSIs represent a small segment of higher education.** There are 539 HSIs, representing 17% of all colleges and universities.
- **HSIs enroll the majority of Latino undergraduates.** Two-thirds (67%) of all Latino full-time and part-time undergraduates are enrolled at HSIs.
- **The number of HSIs is growing.** Over the last 10 years, HSIs have grown from 280 to 539 (93%).
- **Latino representation at HSIs is high.** Almost half of students enrolled at HSIs (46%) are Latino.

Location

- **HSIs are geographically concentrated.** HSIs are located in 25 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. California has the most HSIs (176), followed by Texas (96), Puerto Rico (60), and New York (34).
- **States not generally known for having large Latino populations have HSIs.** Arkansas, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Wisconsin each have one HSI.
- **The majority of HSIs are located in cities or suburbs.** Over 84% of HSIs are either in the city (278) or suburbs (175) while 16% are in towns (49) or rural areas (37).

Sector

- **A majority of HSIs are four-year institutions.** Overall, 54% of HSIs are four-year institutions (public—26%; private—28%), and 46% are two-year institutions (public—43%; private—3%).
- **The majority of HSIs are public institutions.** Overall, 69% of HSIs are public and 32% are private.

Emerging HSIs

- **Emerging HSIs represent a growing subset of colleges and universities.** There are 352 Emerging HSIs (institutions with 15-24.9% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment).
- **Over half of states have at least one Emerging HSI.** Thirty-five states, including Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Utah have Emerging HSIs.
- **The majority of Emerging HSIs are four-year institutions.** Seventy percent are either four-year private (44%), or four-year public (26%), while 27% are two-year public, and 3% are two-year private.

HSIs with Graduate Programs

- **More than a third of HSIs offer graduate degrees.** Of the 539 HSIs, 215 offer graduate degrees (40%).
- **HSIs offering graduate degrees are concentrated geographically.** About 72% of HSIs with graduate programs are in California (58), Texas (40), Puerto Rico (38), and New York (19).

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