ENGAGING LATINO STUDENTS
For Transfer and College Completion

In partnership with Excelencia in Education

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For more than a decade, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) have collaborated in bringing a strong focus on educational quality, equity, and high-impact practices to higher education institutions and the national discourse. With support from The Kresge Foundation and Greater Texas Foundation, NSSE and CCCSE now join with Excelencia in Education in a special project focused on helping institutions strengthen Latino student engagement, transfer, and college completion.

Twenty-two institutions from urban locations—that is, 11 pairs of community colleges and baccalaureate institutions—will be invited to participate. Among other commitments, selected institutional pairs will bring teams of five leaders from each institution to an intensive 2 ½-day institute focused on strengthening the engagement, transfer, and college completion of their Latino students. Priority is given to institutions in California, Michigan, and Texas—high-priority states for the project funders and also states with large urban areas and growing Latino populations. Institutions in other urban areas will be considered if strongly aligned with project purposes.

Facilitated college and university team work prior to and during the institute will focus on disaggregated institutional data from NSSE and CCCSE’s engagement surveys, as well as disaggregated student cohort and transfer data. The institute will feature promising and high-impact practices from selected institutions, and participating teams will develop action plans for collaborative work to strengthen postsecondary attainment of Latino students.

PROJECT GOALS AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Deepen understanding within and between the community college and university sectors regarding the assets and challenges that Latino students bring with them to college
- Conduct special analyses of student engagement survey data pertaining to the experiences of Latinos in community colleges and baccalaureate institutions
- Build awareness and consideration of factors that may inhibit or enhance student engagement, persistence, transfer, and completion for Latino students
- Assist participating institutions in serving these students more effectively, through preparation for and participation in an intensive student engagement institute (September 11–13, 2014); facilitate development of concrete, collaborative action plans focused on needed changes in policy and practice within and across sectors
- Follow up with participating institutions to support and monitor progress in implementation of action plans developed during the institute
- Create descriptions of promising/high-impact institutional initiatives demonstrating cross-sector collaboration
- Build an informal network of participating institutions; facilitate a follow-up workshop in conjunction with Excelencia in Education’s Accelerating Latino Student Success (ALASS) event in fall 2015

CONTACTS: Jillian Kinzie, NSSE (jikinzie@indiana.edu) Kay McClennen, CCCSE (kmcllenney@cccse.org)