

STUDY OVERVIEW

Assessing knowledge and awareness of 'A-G' university admission requirements among Latino and Latina students and families in North San Diego County

BACKGROUND

The National Latino Research Center (NLRC) at California State University San Marcos has been a member of the San Diego Education Consortium -- a regional collaborative bringing together parent, students, teachers, community organizations, workforce partners and others to pursue solutions that prepare all students to enter the workforce and succeed in life since 2008. For more information about the Education Consortium, visit: www.educatesandiego.org.

During the last two years, NLRC has been reviewing county data regarding completion of rigorous 'A-G' courses that prepare students with the fundamental knowledge and skills they need to become lifelong learners in a changing economy. In order to be minimally eligible for a public university in California, students must complete the 'A-G' course sequence with a grade of C or higher. Though not required to enroll in a community college, the 'A-G' curriculum is important preparation for the college's degree programs. It teaches core skills that are needed for both career and college: strong reading and comprehension clear writing and verbal communication, critical thinking and problem solving, and an awareness of other cultures and languages. In some school districts--like San Diego Unified, Carlsbad, and San Marcos--the 'A-G' course sequence is what all students will soon be expected to complete.

In North County San Diego (specifically, along the 78-corridor: Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, and Oceanside), Latino children under age 10 already outnumber their non-Latino peers. Within North County school districts, Latino children comprise 47% of the student population. However, in every school district in North County San Diego, Latino students receive lower Academic Performance Index (API) scores than any other major ethnic group and among Latinos who complete high school, fewer meet requirements for entry into a state university. Once in college, Latinos have relatively low rates of persistence and completion.

The National Latino Research Center (NLRC) at California State University San Marcos contributes to the knowledge and understanding of rapidly growing U.S. Latino populations through applied research, teaching, research-based services, and information exchange.

NLRC is a university research institute conducting community-based collaborative and participatory translational research; providing culturally and linguistically appropriate training and capacity building workshops to diverse organizations and coalitions; building community and academic partnerships to advance research and education activities; seeking solutions to address contemporary challenges in diverse communities; disseminating and exchanging research and data related to education, health, youth empowerment, disaster preparedness, technology, and civic engagement.

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NLRC's study aims to increase understanding of educational disparities in 'A-G' completion in North San Diego County. In collaboration with Equality Alliance and Education Trust West, NLRC will assess student, parent and community awareness and support for the preparation of Latino and Latina students in 'A-G' course work. Utilizing community-based participatory research methodology, NLRC will host and sponsor a series of community meetings, workshops, and presentations to gather data and disseminate information to increase awareness about 'A-G' requirements in Spanish and English.

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

During the last two years, NLRC has partnered with the Education Consortium of San Diego County to bring together parents, students, teachers, community organizations, workforce partners and others to assess educational disparities and identify evidence-based strategies that prepare all students to enter the workforce and succeed. Partner organizations include:

- ❖ American Civil Liberties Union
- ❖ Education Trust West
- ❖ Association of African American Educators
- ❖ BIOCOM
- ❖ Center for Social Advocacy
- ❖ Chicano Federation
- ❖ Equality Alliance of San Diego County
- ❖ Filipino American Community Empowerment
- ❖ Latinos y Latinas en Accion
- ❖ National Latino Research Center at Cal State San Marcos
- ❖ League of Women Voters of San Diego County
- ❖ San Diego Dropout Taskforce
- ❖ San Diego Human Relations Commission
- ❖ San Diego Workforce Partnership
- ❖ Scripps Research Institute
- ❖ SDSU Associated Students
- ❖ SEIU- United Health Care Workers
- ❖ South Bay Forum

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about College Preparation for High School Students, visit the following websites:

San Diego Education Consortium website: www.educatesandiego.org

Education Trust website: <http://www.edtrust.org/>

Education Trust West website: <http://www.edtrust.org/west>

For more information, to participate in the study, and/or to schedule a presentation for students and parents, please contact NLRC at 760.750.3500 or nlrc@csusm.edu.