



## A Resolution in Support of a Center for Latino/Hispanic Students

1   **WHEREAS,** the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) of California State University San Marcos  
2                   (CSUSM) is the official representative body, and the voice of CSUSM's more  
3                   than 10,200 students and is entrusted to represent the best interests of our  
4                   constituents; and

5   **WHEREAS,** it is the mission of ASI to educate students on issues that impact them, and  
6                   advocate for the student perspective to the appropriate parties, which include the -  
7                   University administration and faculty, government representatives and agencies  
8                   on the local, statewide and national levels; and

9   **WHEREAS,** in the Spring of 2010 the U.S. Department of Education designated CSUSM as a  
10                  Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). HSI designation is awarded to institutions  
11                  having at least a 25 percent Hispanic student population. Currently 36 percent of  
12                  the students CSUSM serves identify as Hispanic/Latino<sup>1</sup>; and

13  
14   **WHEREAS,** a recent report by the Campaign for College Opportunity found that fewer than  
15                  half of Latinos graduate CSU within six years<sup>2</sup>. Research demonstrates that  
16                  Latino students tend to face two critical tasks in their development during their  
17                  transition to college: handling racism and building community<sup>3</sup>; and

18   **WHEREAS,** the University's mission aims at providing a range of services that respond to the  
19                  needs of a student body with diverse backgrounds; and

20   **WHEREAS,** CSUSM has Memorandums of Understanding with nine school  
21                  districts/programs which include Fallbrook, San Marcos and Vista, all which have  
22                  high populations of Latino Students. This is aligned with the regional needs of  
23                  the community, which is once again part of the mission of CSUSM; and

24   **WHEREAS,** The San Francisco Gate reports that California is set to become the second  
25                  Latino-majority state in the nation, as the percentage of Latinos in the population  
26                  is expected to surpass that of non-Hispanic Whites by this March<sup>3</sup>. However,  
27                  only 11% of Latino adults have earned at least a bachelor's degree compared to  
28                  39% of Whites<sup>2</sup>; and

<sup>1</sup>CSUSM Campus Facts [http://www.collegeportraits.org/side\\_by\\_side/48](http://www.collegeportraits.org/side_by_side/48)

<sup>2</sup>The State of Latinos in Higher Education in CA Report 2014

<sup>3</sup>Latinos in Higher Education: Creating Student Success. Ortiz & Santos, 2009; V. Torres & Hernandez, 2007

<sup>4</sup>Latinos in Higher Education: Creating Conditions for Student Success. Nunez, Hoover, Pickett et al, 2013

<sup>5</sup>Racial diversity matters: The impact of diversity-related student engagement and institutional context Bowman, 2009; Denson & Chang, 2009

<sup>6</sup>Diversity and higher education: Theory and impact on educational outcomes. Hurtado & Gurin, 2002; Smith, 2010

29 **WHEREAS,** the creation of a center to support Latino students can facilitate Latino students  
30 ability to build a sense of community, and enhance their sense of belonging and  
31 engagement at CSUSM while also addressing other needs of Latino students<sup>3</sup>; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS,** the creation of a center to support Latino students would provide all students with  
34 more opportunities to develop their intercultural knowledge by providing a space  
35 where Latino culture can be shared and explored; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS,** research informs us that co-curricular resources such as a center for Latino  
38 students can be key to promoting Latino success<sup>4</sup> and can raise the quality of  
39 informal social interactions across race ; and  
40

41  
42 **WHEREAS,** a report by the Campaign for College Opportunity concludes that the economic  
43 security of California is tied directly to Latino college success<sup>2</sup>, and research has  
44 shown that University initiatives that promote diversity enhance  
45 students' academic experience; therefore, when we improve Latino educational  
46 outcomes in California, we all benefit; and

47 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

48 **RESOLVED,** that the ASI of CSUSM supports the creation of a Center for Latino/Hispanic-  
49 students through the Division of Student Affairs or Associated Students Inc; and  
50 be it further

51 **RESOLVED,** that ASI of CSUSM will take an active role in advocating for higher education  
52 and the students we serve through efforts that increase graduation and retention  
53 rates; and be it further

54 **RESOLVED,** that the students of Cal State San Marcos take part in the planning stages, vision  
55 and building of the mission statement for the Hispanic/Latino center; and be it  
56 finally

57 **RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to,  
58 CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, CSUSM President  
59 Karen Haynes, the Cougar Chronicle, CSUSM Office of Communication, the  
60 CSUSM Alumni Association, and the San Diego Union Tribune.

<sup>1</sup>CSUSM Campus Facts [http://www.collegeportraits.org/side\\_by\\_side/48](http://www.collegeportraits.org/side_by_side/48)

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