

# Hispanic<sup>1</sup> Serving Institution (H.S.I.) Faculty Learning Community



*“PASO aims to expand educational opportunities for and improve the academic attainment of Hispanic/Latino students. Through the Pathways to Academic Success & Opportunities project, CSUSM will address the achievement gap among its Latino students by implementing innovative student services, culturally relevant curriculum, and meaningful co-curricular offerings aimed at increasing retention and graduation rates specifically for this student group.”*

*– Provost Graham Oberem*

## **PASO – The H.S.I. Grant**

This year, our university was awarded a 5-year grant by the US Department of Education to increase the *Latino and Latina* retention and graduation rates. Our grant is called Pathways to Academic Success and Opportunities ([PASO](#)). Minerva Gonzalez is the PASO Project Director ([minervag@csusm.edu](mailto:minervag@csusm.edu)). Part of the grant is devoted to developing **culturally validating academic & curriculum enhancements** related to Latina and Latino experiences, strengths, and voice. The H.S.I. / PASO Faculty Learning Community is one of the programs in the grant that is aiming for the creation of more cultural relevant curriculum.

## **What will we do in this FLC?**

The main goal is for participants to enhance one or more courses to include more Chicano/Latino related content and assignments. Participants will also learn about pedagogical strategies that are proven to be successful for students of color, the 1.5 generation, and first-generation college students.

Specific themes include:

- Understanding the experiences of Latina and Latino students
- High Impact Practices related to students of color
- Validating Theory and Pedagogy
- Identifying Latinos and Latinas scholars by discipline

## **Who is leading the PASO FLC?**

Kimberly D’Anna-Hernandez, Ph.D, is the Faculty Lead for the PASO grant. She has expertise in Mentoring Diverse Students (Entering Mentoring), Latino Communities and the role of stress and the environment on shaping Health Disparities in vulnerable underserved communities. She was the recipient of the 2016 Kerry G. Mowen Mentoring Award at CSUSM and has a strong interest increasing the retention and graduate rates of our Latinx students through research and other high-impact practices. As a Chicana, she is dedicated to social justice issues, especially as they relate to the diversity of experiences of Chicana/Latinx in the United States. Collaborators who will help deliver curriculum for the PASO FLC will join Kimberly for an exciting year of discovery and learning.

---

<sup>1</sup> The federal government uses the term Hispanic but, as indicated throughout this document, there are numerous ways to describe people who originate from and whose heritage includes México, Central America, the Caribbean and Latin America.

### **Who can apply?**

Anyone, regardless of rank, who regularly teaches a course at CSUSM and who is interested in enhancing their course(s) with content and pedagogy related to Latinas and Latinos. Online, hybrid or face-to-face courses are welcome. Ideally the proposed course(s) would be required for the major or regularly in high demand. We will be aiming for a learning community of five (5) faculty members.

### **What is the time commitment?**

We will meet as a *group* for two hours per month in Fall semester (September – December). We will decide on our meeting dates once the FLC group is determined. In the Spring, participants work *individually* on objectives with the one-on-one support of the FLC facilitator.

### **What are the “deliverables”?**

Participants will define what and how they want to work on for the learning community by the end of Fall. In Spring, they will complete their objectives by working individually and with the coaching of the FCL facilitator. The final items required are a brief reflective report and evidence of completed objectives (e.g., revised assignment(s), new web content, new readings, revised syllabus). Participants will also share their results with the Faculty Center.

### **How will faculty be selected?**

- Clearly articulated interest in wanting to enhance a course as part of the PASO FLC.
- We are striving to have participants across the colleges and disciplinary diversity.
- Available to meet in Fall.

### **How will be faculty be compensated for their time?**

\$250 at the end of Fall semester for fully participating and creation of goals statement.  
\$250 at the end of Spring semester for the final deliverables.

**How to apply? Please Apply [Here](#)  
Applications are due September 29, 2017.**

Please email Kimberly to indicate you submitted an online form and for additional inquiries ([kdanna@csusm.edu](mailto:kdanna@csusm.edu)).

