

Partners in Hispanic Education
present

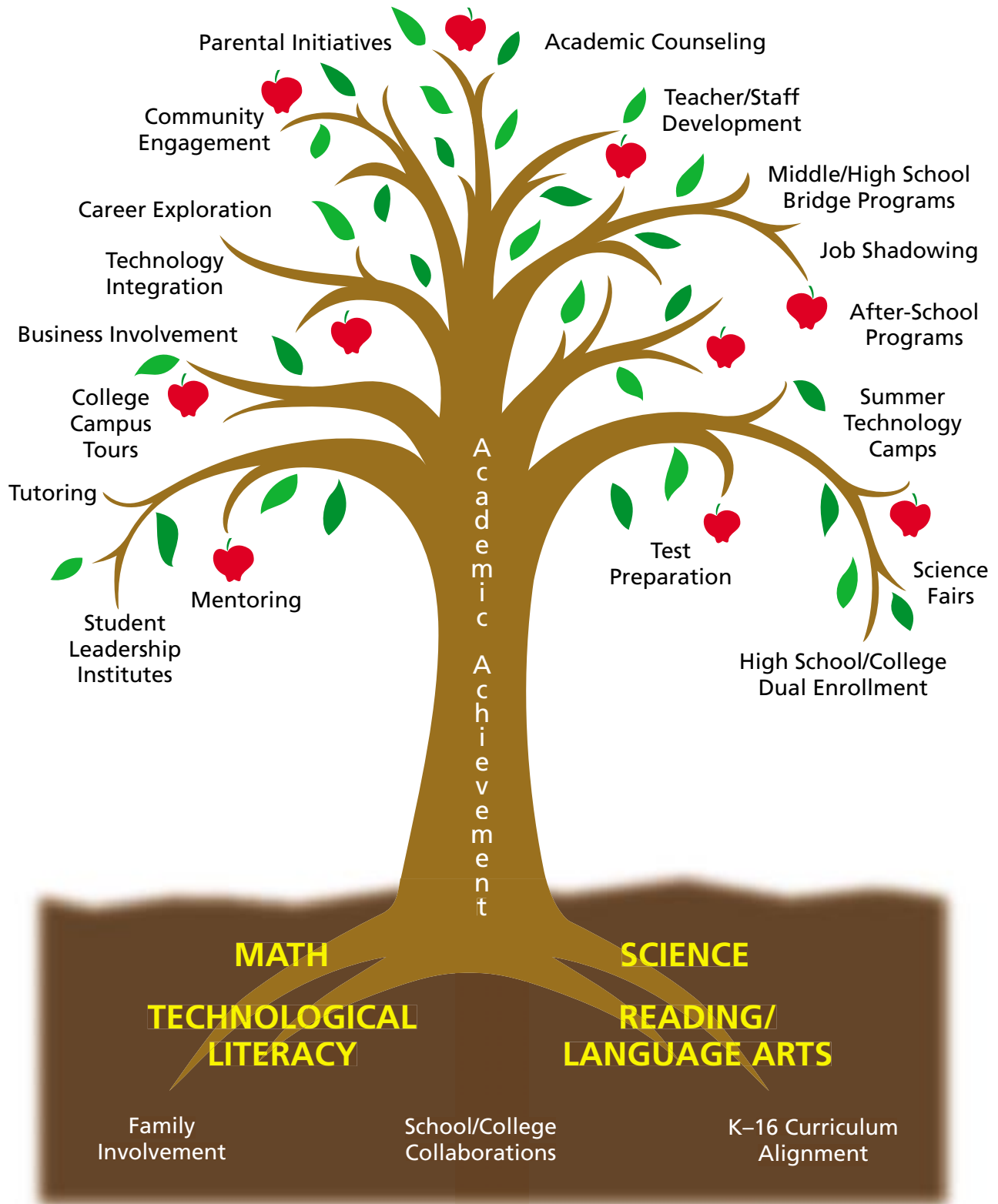


Feria Educativa!

A community engagement event designed to provide Hispanic students and their families with information and resources that will facilitate student academic achievement and their pathway to college. The fair is designed to engage a diverse group of stakeholders to become strong advocates for our children's education. Together we will improve education for Hispanics in the United States.

University of New Mexico
March 19–20, 2004

Keeping Our Eyes on What Matters Most: Academic Achievement and Student Success through Education, Community and Business Partnerships





Feria Educativa!

Sponsored by: Partners in Hispanic Education

Event Lead Sponsor: National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)

Event Co-Lead Sponsor: United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation (USHCC Foundation)

¡BIENVENIDOS!

It is with great pride that we welcome you to this “Feria Educativa” (Education Fair) sponsored by a coalition of national organizations and the U.S. Department of Education through its Partners in Hispanic Education initiative. This event was jointly planned and coordinated by the Washington-based Partners in Hispanic Education and a local planning committee.

The Feria program has been designed to accomplish several major objectives:

- To bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to have conversations about the condition of education in New Mexico and discuss the reforms needed to create systemic change in K–16 public education;
- To engage the community in informational sessions that will help them better understand the role schools, colleges, universities, state and federal agencies, businesses, and community-based organizations can play in support of public education;
- To focus on what matters most: students and their academic achievement;
- To provide Hispanic students and their families with information and resources that will facilitate their pathway to college;
- To provide forums for educators, parents and community advocates to share their knowledge, concerns, program needs and ideas, and seek answers to state and federal policy questions that can promote better educational reforms in New Mexico; and
- To bring the community together in a way that can promote greater collaboration, cooperation and coordination among and between the various education sectors, college access programs and community-based initiatives that currently exist in New Mexico.

We know that the human and program resources that are part of this community engagement event will serve to empower more youth to consider college. The “Feria” will help community leaders to engage others as we work together to make college possible for many more Hispanic youth in New Mexico. On behalf of the program funders and sponsors we hope that you will both enjoy and benefit from “la Feria Educativa.”

Best Wishes and Warm Regards!

Cordialmente,

Héctor Garza, Ed.D

*President, National Council for
Community and Education Partnerships*

Frank Lopez

*President, The U.S. Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce Foundation*



Feria Educativa!

Patrocinado por: La Alianza para la Educación de los Hispanos
Patrocinadores Principales del Evento: National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation (USHCC Foundation)

¡BIENVENIDOS!

Con mucho orgullo les damos la bienvenida a la Feria Educativa patrocinada por un grupo de organizaciones a nivel nacional y el Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos a través de la Alianza para la Educación de los Hispanos (Partners in Hispanic Education). Este evento fue conjuntamente planeado y coordinado por la Alianza para la Educación de los Hispanos (Partners in Hispanic Education), localizados en Washington, DC y un comité de planeamiento local.

El programa de la Feria ha sido diseñada para lograr los siguientes objetivos:

- Reunir a un grupo diverso de la comunidad para discutir la condición de la educación en Nuevo Méjico y las reformas necesarias para crear sistemas de cambio en la educación pública (K–16);
- Involucrar a la comunidad en sesiones informales que les ayudará a comprender mejor el papel que las escuelas, universidades, agencias estatales y federales, negocios, y organizaciones comunitarias pueden desempeñar para apoyar a la educación pública;
- Enfocar en lo que más importa: nuestros estudiantes y sus logros académicos;
- Proveer a nuestros estudiantes hispanos y a sus familias con la información y recursos necesarios para facilitarles el camino a la universidad;
- Proveer foros para educadores, padres y miembros de la comunidad para que puedan dar a conocer sus inquietudes, necesidades e ideas, buscar soluciones a problemas de política a nivel estatal y federal que pueda promover mejores reformas educativas en Nuevo Méjico; y
- Reunir a la comunidad para promover la colaboración, cooperación y coordinación entre los diversos sectores educativos, programas de acceso universitarios e iniciativas comunitarias que existen actualmente en Nuevo Méjico.

Sabemos que los recursos humanos y programáticos que son parte de este evento servirán a los jóvenes para que consideren la universidad como su meta. La Feria ayudará a los líderes de la comunidad a comprometer a otros para así trabajar juntos para hacer posible la universidad a muchos jóvenes hispanos. En nombre de todos los patrocinadores esperamos que disfruten y se beneficien con la Feria Educativa.

Nuestros mejores deseos y saludos,

Cordialmente,

Héctor Garza, Ed.D
*Presidente, National Council for
Community and Education Partnerships*

Frank Lopez
*Presidente, The U.S. Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce Foundation*

iBienvenidos!

Welcome to the Education Fair

FRIDAY ■ MARCH 19, 2004

Johnson Center, University of New Mexico

9:15 am–4:00 pm

Special Program for Students, Parents and Educators

9:15 am–9:35 am

Opening Remarks

Conveners: **Dr. Héctor Garza**, President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Adam Chavarria, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

Welcome Remarks:

Louis Caldera, President, University of New Mexico

The Honorable Mayor Martin J. Chavez and First Lady Margaret Aragon de Chavez, City of Albuquerque

The Honorable Manny M. Aragon, Majority Floor Leader, New Mexico Senate

9:35 am–10:25 am

She Flies: Theatrical Production

Conveners: **Ranjit Sidhu**, Vice President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Gilbert Moreno, President, Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans

Join playwright Mike D. Garcia and the Nushank Theater Collective as they present David Rice's short story "She Flies" featuring a young woman's struggle between her family's wishes and her desire for something greater—a higher education.

Cast

Annika Trevino..... Milagros
Marita De La Torre..... Leila/Tia Mana/Milagros' Mother
Gavino Barrera Raul/Teacher/Milagros' Father
Mike D. Garcia Bus Driver/Teacher/College Representative
Ellen Stader Technical Director

**All events will be held at the Johnson Center, University of New Mexico unless indicated otherwise.*

***The Partners in Hispanic Education recognize and value the diversity represented by the terms "Hispanic" and "Latino." Since the use of either term largely depends on personal or regional preferences, we use both interchangeably in our work, acknowledging the richness in diversity within this population.*

10:25 am–12:00 noon

What Matters Most on the Pathway to College for Students

This session is designed to provide students and their parents with information about what it will take to enroll and succeed in higher education. The panel will share practical information and resources to provide students with a roadmap and the tools necessary to begin planning their pathway to college.

Convener: **Dr. Letitia Chambers**, Executive Director New Mexico Commission on Higher Education

Special Remarks: **The Honorable Heather Wilson**, U.S. House of Representatives

Presenters:

■ Community College/University Admissions Process and Academic Preparation

Cindy Stuart, Director of Admissions, University of New Mexico

Phillip Bustos, Vice President for Student Services Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute

■ Student Financial Aid Process & Resources

Hazel Mingo, Office of Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education

Natalie Sanchez Campos, Interim Executive Director, New Mexico College Awareness Coalition

Marianna Kihuen, National Association of Hispanic Publications

■ Test Preparation Process

Ann Farrell, Director, Albuquerque Kaplan Center

12:00 noon–12:45 pm

Lunch

12:45 pm–1:10 pm

PLENARY ADDRESS

This session is designed to explore the federal role in helping communities increase student achievement and improve the participation rates of Latino** students in postsecondary education.

Convener: **The Honorable Diane Denish**, Lieutenant Governor, State of New Mexico

Introduction: **Dr. Elizabeth M. Everitt**, Superintendent, Albuquerque Public Schools

Speaker: **The Honorable Eugene Hickok**, Acting Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

1:10 pm–1:55 pm

Cultural Traditions and their Impact on College-Bound Students

This student-centered presentation will focus on the importance of youth leadership and the need for more Hispanic students to earn baccalaureate and advanced degrees. Using a story-telling format, the speaker will address some of the cultural traditions, challenges, and opportunities that Hispanic students face as they consider enrolling in college.

Introduction: **Frank Lopez**, President
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Motivational Speaker: **LTC Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch**, U.S. Army (RET), Educational Achievement Services

1:55 pm–2:15 pm

Raffle Giveaway and Closing Remarks for Students/Students Depart for Home Schools

Karen Sanchez-Griego, Director, ENLACE New Mexico

Patricia Mattioli, Project Director for New Mexico GEAR UP, New Mexico Commission on Higher Education

Bill Guerra, Sales Manager, Integrity Networking Systems, Inc.

2:15 pm–4:00 pm

Professional Development for Principals, Teachers, and College Access Professionals: The Impact of the “No Child Left Behind” Act and Other Programs on Hispanic Communities

Location: Kiva Lecture Hall, University of New Mexico

This session has been specially designed with educators and community leaders in mind. The purpose of the session is to have an honest and open exchange of ideas and concerns about the condition of education for Hispanics in New Mexico. The dialogue will focus on the need to create the public and political will at both the state and national levels to adequately address the educational needs of the Hispanic community. Also, this session will highlight some of the most effective college access programs (ENLACE and GEAR UP) and their educational strategies for improving the condition of education for Latinos in New Mexico.

Convener: **Ranjit Sidhu**, Vice President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Presenters:

Kathleen Leos, Associate Deputy Under Secretary and Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Education

Patricia Mattioli, Project Director for New Mexico GEAR UP, New Mexico Commission on Higher Education

José C’ de Baca, Project Director, New Mexico Highlands University/San Miguel GEAR UP

Karen Sanchez-Griego, Director, ENLACE New Mexico

Christina Chavez-Apodaca, President, Santa Barbara-Martinez Town Neighborhood Association

Evangeline Trujillo, Expansion Director, MESA USA

SATURDAY ■ MARCH 20, 2004

Johnson Center, University of New Mexico

9:00 am–3:00 pm

A Community Engagement Activity

The purpose of this event is to engage the community in addressing critical issues that are important to achieving excellence in education in New Mexico. The sessions will focus on the education reforms and policy changes that are necessary to improve public education and student achievement. The sessions have been designed to be highly interactive, allowing for members of the community to candidly and honestly express their concerns, opinions, observations, experiences, and desires for a better educational system in support of Latino youth.

9:00 am–10:00 am & 12:15 pm–1:15 pm

College Fair: Outreach Feria for Students and Families

Parents, families and prospective college/university students are encouraged to visit with college and university personnel to learn about different college options. Federal agencies and community based organizations will distribute educational material and be available to support youth on the road to college.

10:00 am–10:30 am

PLENARY ADDRESS

Conveners: **Héctor Garza**, President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Frank Lopez, President, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Adam Chavarria, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

Introduction: **Dr. Veronica Garcia**, Secretary, New Mexico Public Education Department

Presenter: **The Honorable Bill Richardson**, Governor, State of New Mexico

10:30 am–12:00 noon

A Discussion Between Policymakers and the Community

This community dialogue provides a forum for interacting with federal, state, and local policymakers, national education association executives, and others on the topic of what can be done to improve public education in New Mexico. The community will be asked to share

their thoughts, ideas and concerns about the status of education and to explore the possibilities for improved change.

Convener: **Dr. Héctor Garza**, President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Presenters:

Kathleen Leos, Associate Deputy Under Secretary and Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Education

Dr. Veronica Garcia, Secretary, New Mexico Public Education Department

Dr. Eliseo Torres, Vice President for Student Affairs, The University of New Mexico

The Honorable Rick Miera, State Representative, New Mexico House of Representatives and Chairman, House Education Committee

Eduardo Holguin, President, National Education Association of New Mexico

Tina Cordova, President, Queston Construction and Vice Chair, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

12:15 pm–1:15 pm

Lunch

1:15 pm–1:45 pm

PLENARY ADDRESS

This session is designed to provide state government education officials and federal policymakers with an opportunity to talk about the importance of developing a concerted state effort to deliver the “college is possible” message to Hispanic children. The session will focus on what schools, parents, and educators must do to make the dream to attend college a reality for the children of New Mexico.

Convener: **Ranjit Sidhu**, Vice President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Introduction: **Dr. Letitia Chambers**, Executive Director, New Mexico Commission on Higher Education

Presenter: **The Honorable Pete V. Domenici**, United States Senate

1:45 pm–3:00 pm

Empowering Parents Through Knowledge

Research studies have proven that parental involvement is key to improving academic achievement and student success. For many parents, this task is often a challenge as many have limited time to participate in school activities. Language proficiency may further limit their options for engagement. This session is designed to explore ideas, program models, and effective parental engagement strategies that work with Latino parents in New Mexico.

Convener: **Natasha Bannon**, Program, Membership and Diversity Consultant, Girl Scouts of the USA

Presenters:

Steve Ulibarri, First Vice Chair and Trustee, Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options

David J. Valladolid, President & CEO, Parent Institute for Quality Education

Marco Elizondo, Director, ENLACE Family Centers, Valley and Albuquerque High Schools

Kate Smith, “Tutoring Plus” Coordinator, GEAR UP

3:00 pm

Raffle Giveaway and Adjournment

The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) wishes to thank the local planning committee of New Mexico for their dedication and tireless efforts to ensure the success of this “Feria Educativa.” We are especially appreciative for the leadership of Patricia Mattioli, Project Director for New Mexico GEAR UP, New Mexico Commission on Higher Education; Karen Sanchez-Griego, Director, ENLACE in New Mexico; and Tim Gutierrez, Director, Special Programs Office at the University of New Mexico, for all of their support and hard work in making this education fair program a reality.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) extends our sincere thanks to Louis Caldera and the faculty, staff and students from the University of New Mexico for their generous support of these events and for allowing us to engage the greater Albuquerque community on important issues related to education. We would also like to publicly recognize our friends and colleagues in the Partners for Hispanic Education coalition for their unwavering support for Latino youth: the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, U.S. Department of Education; United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation; MANA, A National Latina Organization; Girl Scouts of the USA; Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; State Farm Insurance Companies; National Association of Hispanic Publications; U.S. Army; Hispanic College Fund; Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options; National Society of Hispanic MBAs; Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans; Cuban American National Council; El Valor; and the College for Texans Campaign, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We wish also to thank Integrity Networking Systems, Inc.; Kaplan, Inc.; Advanced Presentation Systems of New Mexico; Sadie’s Dining Room; and Albuquerque Public Schools for their generous contributions to the Feria Educativa.

Speaker Biographies

Manny M. Aragon

Born and raised in the Barelás neighborhood of Albuquerque, Senator Manny M. Aragon has represented the people of District 14 (Bernalillo and Valencia Counties) at the New Mexico State Senate for 30 years. Senator Aragon earned both his Bachelors degree and law degree from the University of New Mexico then began his career in public service as an Assistant District Attorney, and has practiced law ever since. Since 1975, Senator Aragon has served in key leadership positions in the Senate, such as Chair of the Committees' Committee, as well as Finance, Judiciary, and Rules Committees. He was elected President Pro Tempore, serving from 1988 until 2000 and is currently the Senate Majority Floor Leader.

Letitia Chambers

Recently appointed as the Executive Director of the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, Dr. Chambers began her career as a secondary school teacher and, in addition to her history of public service, was the founder and CEO of Chamber Associates Incorporated. Dr. Chambers was the first woman in history to head a major Standing Committee of the U.S. Senate when she was named Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. She also served as Senior Policy Analyst for Education, Employment, and Social Services on the first staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget and served as Staff Director for the Minority of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. In 1996, Dr. Chambers served as U.S. Representative to the United Nations General Assembly, a Presidential appointment of Ambassadorial rank. Dr. Chambers serves on numerous corporate, educational, and philanthropic boards. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, she holds a Doctoral degree from Oklahoma State University.



Pete V. Domenici

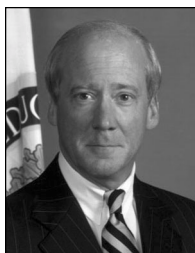
Pete Domenici is the longest serving U.S. Senator in New Mexico's history. A graduate of St. Mary's High School in Albuquerque, the Senator was a baseball player and math teacher before entering elected public service. In the 108th Congress, Senator Domenici serves as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, as well as numerous subcommittees. Senator Domenici holds a Bachelors degree in Education from the University of New Mexico and a law degree from the University of Denver.

Veronica C. Garcia

In November 2003, Dr. Veronica Garcia was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson as New Mexico's first education secretary. Prior to her appointment, Secretary Garcia served as a superintendent of Santa Fe Public Schools, as a regional superintendent for the Albuquerque Public Schools, a classroom teacher, school psychologist, coordinator, principal, and as the executive director of the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators. Secretary Garcia holds New Mexico certifications in five areas: elementary education, special education (K-12), educational administration, school psychologist, and speech/communications. She received her Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral degrees from the University of New Mexico.

Héctor Garza

Héctor Garza serves as the founding president of the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). NCCEP is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the principle that every child deserves an equal chance at obtaining a high quality education. NCCEP's goal is to bring together colleges and universities with local schools, parent groups, government agencies, foundations, corporations, and community-based organizations to work collaboratively to improve student achievement and expand educational opportunities for all of America's children. Prior to founding NCCEP, Dr. Garza served as the Vice President for Access and Equity Programs at the American Council on Education (ACE) in Washington, DC. In this position, Dr. Garza directed the Office of Minorities in Higher Education and also coordinated and supervised the programs and activities of the Office of Women in Higher Education, and the office serving disabled students. Dr. Garza has served as the Associate Graduate Dean for Academic Program Development and Review at Eastern Michigan University; Executive Director, Governor's Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs, State of Michigan; and Coordinator of Experiential Education/Learning at The University of Michigan. Dr. Garza holds Baccalaureate, Masters, and Doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.



Eugene Hickok

Dr. Eugene W. Hickok is the United States Under Secretary of Education and Acting Deputy Secretary. President Bush formally nominated Dr. Hickok on March 30, 2001, and he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 10, 2001 as Under Secretary of Education. In his role as Under Secretary, Dr. Hickok serves as one of the Education Department's top three ranking officials and as a principal adviser to U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Hickok was Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education, responsible for overseeing the state's education system. For 15 years, Dr. Hickok taught political science at Dickinson

College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and served as director of the college's Clarke Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Contemporary Issues. He was recognized as an outstanding teacher and was twice awarded Dickinson's prestigious Gano Award for Inspirational Teaching in 1985 and 1990. An expert on public policy, the U.S. Constitution and Federalism, Dr. Hickok has published numerous articles and books on government and public policy, and has made presentations on these topics before local, state and national organizations. Dr. Hickok holds a Bachelors degree from Hampden-Sydney College and Masters and Doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia.



Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch

Born and raised in a tiny barrio in Laredo, Texas where she overcame the fierce challenges of poverty, discrimination and illiteracy, Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch grew to become a successful leadership role model for her community. Breaking barriers and setting records in the military, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Kickbusch rose to senior officer position and became the highest-ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support Field of the United States Army. During her career, LTC (Ret.) Kickbusch received numerous decorations including the Legion of Merit, the National Defense Service Medal, Meritous Service Medal (four times), the Army

Achievement Medal (twice) and the National Image's Uniformed Services Award for significant contributions to the United States of America in the areas of civil/human rights, race relations, equal opportunity, human resources, and public service. Just prior to retirement, she was notified of her selection to a command post which would have opened the path to General Officer Level. She respectfully declined the offer to establish Educational Achievement Services Inc. to realize her personal dream and mission of preparing tomorrow's leaders today.

Kathleen Leos

Kathleen Leos is the Associate Deputy Under Secretary and Senior Policy Advisor to the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) in the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC Ms. Leos is charged with developing policy and disseminating regulations throughout the United States for all of the 5.5 million non-English speaking students who attend America's public, private, and charter schools. In this effort, Ms. Leos has personally visited 35 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC to interpret federal policies, train, and create Federal-to-State-to-Local partnerships. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Leos was a trustee of the Dallas, Texas School Board where she served as President, Vice-President, and Chair of the Business, Personnel, and Education Committees.

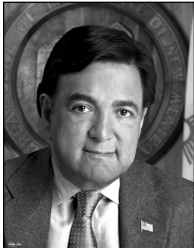
Patricia A. Mattioli

Patricia A. Mattioli is the Program Director for GEAR UP New Mexico at the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, where she directs all aspects of the federally funded grant program. In addition, she has an extensive background in community outreach and charity events. Along with the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, Ms. Mattioli strives to improve the quality of life, culture and economic well being of New Mexico's students. Albuquerque has been Ms. Mattioli's home since 1980 and she received her Bachelors degree from the University of New Mexico.

Rick Miera

Rick Miera has been a youth advocate throughout his life and career. He began his twenty-year career at the University of New Mexico where he served as the Coordinator of the drug/alcohol program at the Department of Psychiatry. Upon leaving the University of New Mexico in 1992, Rick continued his work as a national and international consultant in the area of drug abuse and drug prevention program development, management and training. Mr. Miera is a licensed drug/alcohol counselor and is the Director of Ayuda, a drug-counseling program and mental health facility, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Rick Miera has a long history of local political

involvement and is currently serving his 7th term as the New Mexico State Representative for District 11, representing the downtown corridor of Albuquerque. As a representative, Mr. Miera is the Chairman of the House Education Committee where he has served for the past eight years. In addition, he co-chairs the Legislative Education Study Committee. Mr. Miera formerly served as co-chair of the DWI Oversight Committee, chairman of the House Labor and Human Resources Committee, and on the Human Services Interim Committee. In a leadership capacity, Representative Miera is nationally involved in educational equity, juvenile justice, and health care access issues.



Bill Richardson

Bill Richardson was elected Governor of New Mexico in 2002 by the largest margin of any candidate since 1964. During his public service career, the Governor served for 15 years in northern New Mexico representing the 3rd Congressional District where he ascended to one of the highest ranking posts in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving as Chief Deputy Whip. In 1997, Governor Richardson served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and in 1998, was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. Governor Richardson was nominated four times (1995, 1997, 2000, and 2001) for the Nobel Peace Prize. Governor Richardson received his Bachelors degree from Tufts University and a Masters degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Karen C. Sanchez-Griego

Karen C. Sanchez-Griego is the director of ENLACE “ENGaging Latino Communities for Education” Albuquerque and the Lead Director of ENLACE New Mexico. She is a former middle and high school teacher within the Albuquerque Public Schools. Ms. Sanchez-Griego has served as a high school activities director, summer school principal, assistant principal of curriculum and instruction, and was instrumental in the development of one of the first Small Learning Community programs in New Mexico. She received a BA in Political Science and a BA in Secondary Education with teaching endorsements in English, History, and Special Education from the University of New Mexico and the College of Santa Fe. She holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from the University of New Mexico and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education.

Ranjit Sidhu

Ranjit Sidhu is Vice President for Corporate and Community Relations at the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). In this role, he is assisting NCCEP in building its capacity around corporate and community relations services in order to promote the council’s mission of forming partnerships among schools, communities, and colleges for the purpose of helping minority and underserved children obtain a higher education. Prior to joining NCCEP, Mr. Sidhu served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the National Association of Partners in Education where he oversaw external strategic alliance activity as well as all internal operations. His professional background includes experience as: a community/school partnership manager for the George Washington University; a high school social studies teacher in the District of Columbia and Prince Georges County (MD) public school systems; and as a policy analyst for the American Petroleum Institute. He holds Masters degrees in Education as well as Public/International Affairs and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education at the George Washington University.



Heather Wilson

Heather Wilson has served the citizens of New Mexico’s First Congressional District since June 23, 1998 and is the first woman veteran in American history to serve in Congress. Congresswoman Wilson sits on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, the House Committee on Armed Services, and chairs the Subcommittee on National Security in the Republican Policy Committee. Prior to her service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Wilson was an Air Force officer, the Director for European Defense Policy and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff at the White House, and founded Keystone International Inc. in Albuquerque. A distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1982, Congresswoman Wilson was a Rhodes Scholar and earned her Masters and Doctoral degrees in international relations from Oxford University in England.

“Feria Educativa” Funders and Sponsors

Partners in Hispanic Education

The formation of an historic collaboration, Partners in Hispanic Education, was announced on July 9, 2003 in Washington, DC. This effort brings together the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (WHI), a unit of the U.S. Department of Education, and some of the nation’s leading Hispanic and education organizations, corporate leaders, and national private entities in the important mission to improve education for Hispanics in the United States.

The aim of Partners in Hispanic Education is to assist communities in becoming stronger advocates for their children’s education—from early childhood to college completion. The partners work in a bipartisan way with local communities to reinforce the notion that more Hispanic students must receive a college education. Together with local communities, the Partners in Hispanic Education host education fairs that provide information about: promoting educational excellence in schools and communities; improving students’ academic achievement; increasing degree attainment; and improving parental involvement and awareness about what it takes to send youth to college. After-school and mentorship programs, successful strategies to engage the business community in local education efforts, and the role of parents, teachers, and CBO leaders in helping to increase Hispanic student enrollment in college are also addressed during the Education Fairs.

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (WHI) is housed within the U.S. Department of Education and serves to gather and disseminate information relating to the educational achievement gap of Hispanic Americans using a variety of means, including conducting surveys, conferences, field hearings, meetings, and other appropriate vehicles. The WHI works actively to encourage the participation of organizations and individuals interested in such issues, including parents, community leaders, academicians, business leaders, teachers, employers, employees, and public officials at the local, state and federal levels in Hispanic education issues. The WHI conducts considerable national outreach in Hispanic communities, bringing awareness to all stakeholders on educational opportunities afforded under the *No Child Left Behind Act*. For more information, please visit www.yesican.gov.

The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

The mission of the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) is to develop and strengthen broad-based partnerships throughout the education continuum, from early childhood through post-secondary education. By creating education/community partnerships, linking schools and communities, developing new initiatives, supporting proven programs, and using research findings to create successful frameworks for action, NCCEP aims to invigorate the principle of equal educational opportunity for all, and in the process, to help improve K–16 education. Specifically, NCCEP seeks to expand access to higher education for low-income students and their families. Toward this end, NCCEP brings together colleges and universities with local K–12 schools, parent groups, business leaders, government agencies, foundations, corporations, and community-based organizations to work together to improve public education. Examples of these K–16 education/community programs include: the W.K. Kellogg Foundation sponsored program **ENgaging LA**tino Communities for **E**ducation (ENLACE); and the federally-funded **G**aining **E**arly **A**wareness and **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms (GEAR UP). NCCEP works with college access professionals to help students become college eligible and academically successful in higher education. For more information about NCCEP, contact (202) 530-1135 or visit www.edpartnerships.org.

The U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Youth Entrepreneurship Program

The USHCC Foundation is committed to the purpose of giving Hispanic youth alternatives for life preparation by providing leadership training, entrepreneurial skills, and business acumen to help ensure that they reach their full potential and become future business leaders.

To fulfill this mission, the USHCC Foundation builds alliances, partnerships, and collaborative efforts to link Hispanic youth to educational programs that will develop and enhance their business skills, close the digital divide, increase economic awareness, encourage alternative learning methods and positively impact their cultural self image. The development of these tools through the established programs of the Foundation serves to open the broader vista of entrepreneurship to Hispanic youth, fostering the creation, growth, and expansion of minority-owned businesses and renders them into formulating a positive and valuable business contribution

to the United States and global economies. For more information about the USHCC Foundation, contact (202) 842-1212 or visit www.usbcc.com/foundent.htm.

Girl Scouts of the USA

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization for girls. In partnership with devoted adult volunteers, girls develop skills that will serve them all their lives, including leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth. Today, there are 3.7 million Girl Scouts. Through Girl Scouting: For Every Girl Everywhere, and in keeping with its long and proud history of diversity and inclusiveness, Girl Scouts has developed the Hispanic Initiative. Girl Scouts recognizes that the Hispanic community has a treasured cultural context of needs, dreams, values and beliefs, many of which are shared by Girl Scouting as evidenced by its strong principles. Girl Scouts strives to reflect the true face of America.

United States Army

The U.S. Army is the largest employer of America's youth and demonstrates its commitment to life-long learning by engaging in community outreach efforts that promote education.

Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans

The Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA) is committed to advancing the lives of at-risk and disadvantaged youth and families through an array of innovative programs of excellence in the areas of education, health and human services, and community development. With over 30 years of service, AAMA is ranked as the 9th largest Hispanic nonprofit agency in the country and serves over 30,000 individuals per year.

National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP)

Founded in 1982, the National Association of Hispanic Publications is the premier organization representing Hispanic print nationwide. The NAHP is comprised of over 200 member publications with a combined circulation of 14 million. Its member publications reach 52 percent of Hispanic households in 55 U.S. markets on a weekly basis. The mission of the NAHP is to promote Hispanic print, the most effective medium to reach the Hispanic population. The NAHP strives to continually inform and educate the Hispanic community on social issues, educate the readership of its member publications, provide technical assistance, and improve the quality of Hispanic publications nationwide.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to apply knowledge to solve the problems of people. Its founder W.K. Kellogg, the cereal industry pioneer, established the Foundation in 1930. Since its beginning the Foundation has continuously focused on building the capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions to solve their own problems.

The University of New Mexico

The University of New Mexico is the largest institution of higher education in the state. Founded in 1889, UNM is now home to more than 25,000 students on the main campus in Albuquerque and another 7,000 who attend branch campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos and Valencia County. With an undergraduate Hispanic enrollment of 34%, UNM is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution and is one of only three in the country to be both a Hispanic-Serving and a Carnegie Research/Doctoral Extensive institution. The University offers more than 200 degree programs and excels in areas such as photography and printmaking, optics and nanotechnology, Southwest studies, and Latin American studies. UNM has also achieved national recognition in areas like primary care medicine, family medicine, rural medicine, clinical law, art, and art history. New Mexico's only School of Medicine, School of Law, College of Pharmacy and School of Architecture and Planning can all be found at UNM, along with the only degree in flamenco dance anywhere in the country.

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education

It is the mission of the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education to administer a coordinated statewide system of public post-secondary education with governance shared between the Commission and the governing boards of the colleges and universities. The functions of the Commission include allocation of funds, budgetary approval and verification of financial accountability of institutions, approval of capital budgets, administering student financial aid, statewide planning and assessment, and research and policy analysis among others. The Commission on Higher Education is a statutory board of 15 members created by the legislature with members appointed by the Governor.

ENgaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE) in New Mexico

The ENgaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE) is a W.K. Kellogg Foundation higher education initiative designed to strengthen the educational pipeline and increase opportunities for Hispanics to enter and complete college. ENLACE aims to serve as a catalyst to strengthen K–16 community/education partnerships and create coalitions among Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other qualifying higher education institutions, K–12 school districts, communities, businesses, and other funders that are working to increase opportunities for Hispanics to enter and complete college. For more information about ENLACE, refer to pages 14–16 of this program or log on to the W.K. Kellogg web site at www.wkkfweb.org/ENLACE.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

In recognition of the need to improve public education and to increase low-income students' access to post-secondary education, GEAR UP was signed into law as part of the Higher Education Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-244). GEAR UP is designed to enable more young Americans to succeed in middle and secondary school, to study hard, and to take the right courses to become college eligible and competitive for admission to colleges and universities. GEAR UP enables states and low-income communities to create new or expanded plans that strengthen their schools and provide more and better educational opportunities for low-income students. Based upon proven models, GEAR UP supports institutions of higher education, local schools and their districts, community-based organizations, businesses, and states as they work together to help students and their parents receive information, training, and support along the road to college. Also, most GEAR UP programs include a scholarship component. For additional information on GEAR UP, see pages 12–13 of this program.

Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute

With an enrollment of more than 24,000 students at four campuses, the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute (TVI) is New Mexico's largest and most comprehensive community college. TVI offers certificate programs in 52 business, health, technologies, and trades occupations; associate degrees in 43 occupational fields and liberal arts; college transfer courses in 28 liberal arts disciplines and occupational subjects; adult and developmental education ranging from basic skills and GED instruction to college prep courses; customized training and assistance to large and small businesses through the TVI Workforce Training Center; apprenticeship programs in trades occupations; and concurrent enrollment and articulation opportunities for high school students. Job training has been TVI's primary mission since it opened in 1965, and 95 percent of its graduates find jobs in their majors.

New Mexico College Awareness Coalition

Founded in 2002, the New Mexico College Awareness Coalition seeks to increase college awareness by educating and inspiring New Mexico's students, parents, and educational personnel. The Coalition strives to become a central source of information about preparing for and financing a postsecondary education and includes the following members: New Mexico Commission on Higher Education–GEAR UP, New Mexico Lottery Authority, New Mexico Student Loans, and the Daniels Fund College Prep and Scholarship Program. For more information, please go to <http://nmcollegeawareness.org>.

The Rio Grande Educational Collaborative

The Rio Grande Educational Collaborative (RGEN) is a nonprofit organization formed in 1998 as a project of the New Mexico Governor's Business Executives for Education to bring quality tools and processes into practice in Albuquerque area schools, focusing on Rio Grande Cluster schools. The mission of RGEN is to leverage resources and opportunities to create a continuum of services for improving public school communities in Albuquerque, NM. This is achieved by providing pathways for student success through the development, deployment, and management of programs and services; providing professional development services for educators; and supporting and organizing community development and school-based organizations. For more information, call (505) 873-6035 or visit www.rgec.org.

Integrity Networking Systems, Inc.

Integrity Networking Systems, Inc is a premier service provider of computers, networking, peripheral solutions, maintenance, and technical services. Based in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado, Integrity Networking Systems specializes in the design of complex, innovative and technically challenging systems and network integration for federal, state, and local government, small-to-large businesses, and educational institutions. Integrity Networking Systems has received two prestigious awards: Regional Minority Business Technology Firm for 2002 and the National Minority Female Entrepreneur of the Year for 2002.

GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

What is GEAR UP?

- GEAR UP, a bipartisan, public-private education partnership created by Congress in 1998, stands for “Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs”
- GEAR UP currently supports 1.2 million low-income students nationally.
- It is a federal college access program that has earned its place as one of the most innovative and inclusive federal education programs currently serving 32% White, 30% Hispanic, 27% African American, 7% Native American/Native Hawaiian and 4% Asian students.
- GEAR UP unites the *entire community* in a responsive, creative effort to get entire classrooms of low-income children ready for higher education, *guiding them from middle school all the way through college admission*.
- It is a federal program housed within the U.S. Department of Education that provides the flexibility to innovate and create more effective teaching and learning strategies.

The Tools Only an Entire Community Can Provide

- Congress recognized that improving student achievement is *everybody's job*. In GEAR UP, it created a *public-private partnership* to enlist the formidable resources of government, industry, business, labor, community groups and places of worship alike in the cause of helping low-income students become academically prepared to enter and succeed in college.
- Recently the SBC Foundation provided the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) with a \$5 million grant to help enhance the GEAR UP initiative. This grant opportunity will engage more communities in promoting college access to low-income students.

The Freedom to Use Tools Wisely

- GEAR UP gives parents and local schools *additional resources* and *maximum flexibility* to form public-private partnerships with local businesses, labor, community groups and places of worship.
- GEAR UP gives schools and communities the tools they need *without* micro-managing their use.
- GEAR UP helps local school systems to improve student achievement by providing them with resources, training and expertise to use the most effective and evidence-based interventions and by letting them know of the educational strategies that have failed or remain untested.

Helping the Entire Class, Not Just a Few Individuals—and *Sticking with Them*

- Unlike other programs, GEAR UP doesn't just focus on a few promising low-income students. Instead, GEAR UP works with *entire grade levels*, and whole schools, so that all children have access to high quality learning.
- GEAR UP serves the students from middle school all the way to college.

GEAR UP Differs from Other Programs Because:

- GEAR UP raises the academic aspirations of entire cohorts of low-income children, not just a few select individuals, and equips them with the necessary motivation, knowledge and skills to succeed along the pathway to college.
- GEAR UP begins serving children *early* in their academic careers—beginning in the 6th or 7th grade when students' career and academic aspirations are at their peak.

GEAR UP (continued)

- Once children get involved in GEAR UP, the program continues to serve them *all the way through high school, preparing them to succeed in college*.
- GEAR UP is a *working public-private education partnership* that enlists the involvement of parents, teachers, guidance counselors and school administrators as well as community groups, businesses, labor and places of worship.
- Unlike other federally-initiated programs, GEAR UP is *locally relevant and responsive*. The program recognizes that *parents and local school districts*—not Washington bureaucrats—are best prepared to teach children.

Why You Should Become Involved with GEAR UP

- **It's good for the nation.** GEAR UP has earned its place as one of the most innovative and inclusive federal education programs. It currently serves approximately 1.2 million students in 47 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. The racial/ethnic distribution of students GEAR UP currently serves is as follows: 32% White, 30% Hispanic, 27% African American, 7% Native American/Native Hawaiian and 4% Asian students—reflective of the overall racial/ethnic distribution of the school age population.
- **It's good for schools and students.** GEAR UP practitioners are reporting gains in student achievement within GEAR UP schools and are documenting ways in which interventions are creating system(s) change in schools and districts. GEAR UP is helping to improve schools and public education and worth talking about with the media and the local community.
- **It's good for business.** Business leaders today are concerned about the significant cost of re-training high school graduates. GEAR UP is designed to improve middle and high school students' academic proficiency in math, science, reading and technology and to better prepare students for college and the workplace.
- **It's good for colleges and universities.** College presidents have suggested that students are coming to their institutions poorly prepared and in need of remediation. GEAR UP provides extra academic support to help students become proficient in the courses that matter most and, in the process, helps reduce the number of college students that require remedial help; this in turn, should help reduce college costs.
- **It's good for the community.** GEAR UP unites people—all people, from local businessmen and women, to community leaders, to clergy—in the cause of improving student achievement. Unlike other programs of this type, *GEAR UP is a true working partnership* that seeks the input and active participation of everyone involved—far beyond just writing a check.

What Role does NCCEP Play in Promoting GEAR UP?

For the past five years, NCCEP has served as the principal lobbyist and technical assistance provider for the GEAR UP constituency. As a nonprofit education organization whose mission is to promote college access for low-income youth, NCCEP serves to build the professional capacities of GEAR UP practitioners and supports GEAR UP partnerships by jointly coordinating national GEAR UP/NCCEP conferences, sponsoring technical assistance workshops, providing school-level, district-wide, and state-wide consultation services, and by serving as the GEAR UP voice in Washington, DC. For more information about how to become involved with NCCEP programs, visit www.edpartnerships.org or call (202) 530-1135.

ENLACE: ENgaging LATino Communities for Education

What is ENLACE?

- ENLACE, which stands for **ENgaging LATino Communities for Education**, is a multiyear national K–16 initiative created to strengthen the educational pipeline and increase opportunities for Latinos to enter and complete college.
- The initiative serves as a catalyst to strengthen partnerships between communities and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), K–12 schools, and community-based organizations. (By Federal definition, HSIs are those institutions of higher education that have 25 percent or more full-time Hispanic enrollment and meet other specifications outlined by Federal regulations.)
- ENLACE, a six-year, \$28 million effort by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, was launched in 1997. In Spring 2001, the initiative began funding 13 partnerships across the country, including communities in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, New York, and Texas.
- The term “enlace” is from the Spanish word “enlazar,” which means to link or weave together; to connect in such a way that the new entity is stronger than its parts. These ENLACE partnerships create ways to keep Latino students engaged in school and support their progress as they move towards college along the K–16 pathway.
- ENLACE is creating a more seamless path to college, providing academic enrichment programs and improving educational services to students and families. These collaborations link the resources of partners—students, colleges, K–12 schools, businesses, families, and communities—to focus community-wide attention on increasing high school and college graduation rates. This work is done collaboratively with other partners and with a goal to seek community-driven educational reforms.

The Initiative’s Objectives Are To:

- Strengthen select Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and other qualifying institutions to serve as catalysts and models for educational and community change;
- Support higher education/community coalitions and partnerships that increase educational success for Latino and other students;
- Support the creation or adoption of educational models based on best practices that improve enrollment, academic performance and graduation rates of Hispanic high school and college students;
- Facilitate sustainable implementation or scale-up of successful programs through strategic planning, networking, leadership development and policy efforts; and
- Infuse into key stakeholder groups information and models that stimulate changes in policies and practices related to the education of Latinos.

In promoting community-driven, “home-grown” solutions, ENLACE activities target multiple points at which to support students along the K–16 educational pathway. ENLACE partnerships focus on thousands of Latino young people throughout the educational system—from kindergarten through college. Strategies vary by site, but most efforts target support and retention of Latino college students. For high school students, academic and test preparation, parental involvement, mentoring, and internships are targeted. In the middle grades, early college awareness and preparation are critical. In the primary grades and preschool, projects target literacy. At all levels, linking resources of family, culture, and community to colleges and K–12 schools are seen as central to building educational success.

ENLACE *(continued)*

The research is clear on what helps underserved students make the transition to college. Engaging parents, providing college-preparatory activities, exposing students early to the world of higher education, providing early academic rigor, and building positive peer groups are all strategies shown to make a difference.

The initiative recognizes, however, that only lasting change in the culture and policies of the partner institutions and educational systems will ultimately change the status quo for Latinos. To increase the likelihood of achieving sustainable change, the ENLACE initiative is using strategies in evaluation, communications, and policy. Using evaluation and data collection, sites are working individually and collectively to document results and impact on students and others. Data is now emerging that addresses the partnerships' impact on students, families, and educational institutions. As change often requires stakeholders to inform public policy, ENLACE sites are working to increase awareness of policy issues at the local, state, and national levels.

What Makes ENLACE Unique?

- Latinos and Hispanics represent the fastest-growing segment of the population and will make up fully 20 percent of the workforce by 2020. Preparing students for success in the workforce or higher education is critical. Latino students, however, have the nation's highest dropout rates, and just over half of adults have high school diplomas. Only two percent of all doctorates are awarded to Latinos. Current educational approaches generally target specific parts of the K–16 pipeline and are disconnected from each other. Further, students often are seen as problems—not resources—and the assets of community and culture are discounted. ENLACE unites colleges, schools, and communities in a single-minded commitment to improving Latino education.
- ENLACE is unique in that it is a Latino-specific college access program that serves to teach others about “what works” for Latinos in K–16 education. The most effective educational programs and teaching and learning strategies for Latinos are surfacing from the ENLACE initiative.

Why You Should Become Involved with ENLACE

- **With partnerships, learning adds up.** The ENLACE initiative links the collective resources of students, parents, colleges and universities, K–12 schools, and communities into a united commitment to increase the number of Latino high school and college graduates.
- **The very meaning of enlace is “link” or “weave.”** ENLACE is linking families, colleges, businesses, and communities together and weaving a blanket of support for Latino students. New Mexico is represented with three ENLACE partnerships that are linked on a national level, too.
- **ENLACE is building on successes.** Nationally, Latino enrollment in college preparatory programs has increased. On average, Latino students have earned more credits in computer science, foreign language, and English than any other group. Hispanics account for 11 percent of post-secondary education enrollment and doubled their representation in graduate education, from 2 percent in 1976 to 4 percent in 1996. With rapid population growth, there needs to be many more successes.
- **Hispanics and Latinos are the youngest and fastest growing population group in the nation.** Numbering some 37 million, Latinos are the nation's largest ethnic group. Latinos make up nearly 15 percent of the nation's college-age population (18-24 years of age). Latinos are projected to be 22 percent of this group by 2025. This young population is also a growing segment of the workforce. By 2025, one of every five U.S. workers will be Latino. While Latinos are the fastest-growing segment of United States college-age youth, Latino college admission and completion rates lag behind those of other groups.

- **By the year 2025, Latino students will make up 25 percent of the K–12 school population.** The largest states (California, Florida, New York, and Texas) have already reached that level.
- **For too long, education has focused on deficits.** ENLACE sees all students as assets—not problems. Students aren’t “at-risk”—they are “at-promise.” The promise for the Latino student should be the same—high expectations, high achievement and great success.
- **ENLACE partnerships do not provide just another patch to the pre-K-to-16 “pipeline”; they redefine the “education pipeline” concept altogether by weaving together resources to build lifelong educational success.** As students move from kindergarten to middle school and then to high school, there is often little or no continuity or cohesiveness. Student progress isn’t tracked, support systems aren’t connected. ENLACE partnerships seek to improve communication and coordination by linking families and communities to schools and schools to each other.
- **Latino students nationwide have a 30 percent school dropout rate.** About 55 percent of Latino adults have a high school diploma or college degree. Hispanics will make up fully 20 percent of the workforce by the year 2020. Preparing our young people for success in work or further education is critical for the health of our entire society and our nation as a whole.
- **School reform is mandating tough test requirements that too many students—Latino and others—are failing.** Will these students be left behind? ENLACE uses new approaches that value students, involve their families, and engage the community in solutions. ENLACE shares its lessons and practices, so that other students may benefit from what is learned.
- **ENLACE partners see working together as a strategy for student success.** Parent and family involvement plays a crucial role, too. Supporting and educating parents is central to ENLACE efforts. Building leadership skills helps parents, students, and communities advocate for lasting change.
- **Hispanic and Latino cultural traditions and values play a significant role in building strong student identity and self-esteem that are critical to success.** ENLACE seeks to produce graduates who contribute to their communities with academic and cultural success.
- **ENLACE is linking colleges and universities to communities.** Most higher education institutions were founded to serve the needs of communities. ENLACE is about a return to these roots. Through mutually beneficial partnerships, colleges and communities can work together to take on almost any challenge.

How Is NCCEP Involved with ENLACE?

Through a partnership relationship with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) serves the foundation and ENLACE grantees by providing them with technical assistance and capacity-building support in areas of project-level and cluster-level evaluation, translating the lessons learned from ENLACE practices to promote more effective institutional, state and federal public policies, and helping to ensure that at the federal level, ENLACE is recognized as one of the most effective Latino-specific college access K–16 initiatives. This distinction was realized last year when the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans highlighted the ENLACE initiative as one of very few K–16 education programs that were included in their Commission Report to the President.