

Press Release

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**REPORT: LATINOS LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA,
EVEN THOUGH THE STATES'S ECONOMIC FUTURE DEPENDS ON THEM**

SACRAMENTO - California will not be able to maintain its high-technology, knowledge-based economy without improving the rates of high school graduation, college attendance and degree attainment among Latinos, according to a new report released by the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy (IHELP), in conjunction with a new nonprofit organization, the Campaign for College Opportunity (CCO).

"It is essential to California's social and economic future that we increase the educational attainment of the Latino population," says Colleen Moore of California State University Sacramento's IHELP, who co-authored the report, "Facing Reality: California Needs a Statewide Agenda to Improve Higher Education Outcomes," with Dr. Nancy Shulock. According to the report:

- California's working-age population will be 36 percent Latino by 2010, and nearly half Latino 10 years later.
- The disparity in educational attainment between the white population and Latinos is high in California, where the share of

the non-Hispanic white adult population that has at least a bachelor's degree is 30 percentage points higher than the corresponding share in the Latino population.

- Nationally, the college-age population is expected to increase by more than 16 percent between 2000 and 2015. The growth rate will be much higher (56 percent) among Latinos, the report says.
- California is leading the country in expecting an increase in more than 1.5 million young adults over that 15-year period, a phenomenon referred to as Tidal Wave II.

Unfortunately, California colleges are not prepared to handle the flood of college-bound students, says CCO's Associate Director Michele Siqueiros.

"Forty years ago, the state of California made a promise that every eligible Californian would be able to receive an education through the public college and university system," says Siqueiros. "That promise led to the prosperity of the California economy and an opportunity for millions of young Californians, many Latino, to achieve the American Dream. For the first time ever, we are going to break that promise, at a time when the state can least afford it."

Moore agrees that California needs to address the problem to secure its economic future.

"The state must find a way to accommodate the growing number of Latino youth in its colleges and universities, and ensure that appropriate policies are in place to support the success in completing certificate and degree programs."

The report also compares California's rates of growth and demographic change to seven other high-growth states: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington. The full text of the report can be viewed on IHELP's Web site, <http://www.csus.edu/ihe>.

The Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy, formed in 2001, seeks to enhance leadership and policy for higher education in California and the nation. The Campaign for College Opportunity is a new nonprofit organization solely devoted to ensuring that the next generation of college students in California has the chance to go to college as promised by the Master Plan of Higher Education. The co-founders of the CCO include the California Business Roundtable, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the Community College League of California.

CCO is organizing a statewide Listening Tour, Nov. 8 through Dec. 15, to learn how Tidal Wave II will impact communities across the state and to solicit ideas from educators, the business community, labor leaders and representative from local communities.

"Any parent with a child in school today wants to know that there is a place in college for their child in the future," Siqueiros says.

"The Campaign believes that California's promise can be kept through more state funding, better efficiency of resources and affordable increases to tuition that ensures financial aid for those who need it. We want to see what Californians think about these ideas."

For more information on the tour, please contact CCO's L.A. office at 213-817-6034.

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