

In 2009, Ensuring America's Future (EAF) by Increasing Latino College Completion began with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Kresge Foundation, and Lumina Foundation. *Excelencia* had two major goals for the EAF initiative – to bring the issue of Latino college degree completion to the forefront of public attention, and to equip higher education stakeholders with strategies to accelerate Latino college degree completion.

To date, *Excelencia* has accomplished the following in the EAF initiative:

### **Increased engagement and collaboration**

- *Excelencia* hosted the first ***Latino College Completion Policy Forum*** in Washington, D.C. with over 75 invited participants representing seven sectors of stakeholders;
- *Excelencia* organized more than 60 ***partner organizations*** committed to working to increase Latino college completion;
- *Excelencia* leadership has participated in ***discussions on what works to increase college completion*** at community, state, and national levels as well as initiating conversations with elected officials and institutional leaders; and,
- *Excelencia* has developed a ***first phase state strategy*** of the initiative to engage state and place-based efforts piloted in Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas and California.

### **Increased knowledge of tactics**

*Excelencia* developed two key products to increase the knowledge of tactical activities to increase Latino college completion.

- a ***policy brief on federal programs*** highlights three policy areas at the federal level – academic preparation, institutional capacity, and financial aid – that can support the achievement of Latino students entering and successfully completing a college degree.
- a ***policy roadmap*** serves as a tool for stimulating and facilitating dialogue in communities across the nation about action needed to increase degree attainment generally, and Latino degree attainment specifically in coordination with our 60 partners.

### **Informed the field**

*Excelencia* developed and disseminated a ***benchmarking guide*** for reaching a national goal for college completion disaggregated by race/ethnicity and with multiple metrics to inform and guide policy efforts to increase Latino college completion as part of broader college completion efforts.

*Excelencia's* progress in positioning Latino college completion within the broader public discourse and identifying strategies for increasing Latino college completion create a solid foundation for the next phase of work. In addition to continuing to enhance public attention on the role of Latinos in the broader college completion agenda, *Excelencia* intends to organize partners and focus on concrete deliverables in local, state, and regional efforts to ensure improvements in Latino college completion.

For more detailed information on the achievements of the Ensuring America's Future Initiative, please visit <http://www.edexcelencia.org/initiatives/EAF>