



**The National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials
Educational Fund**

presents

NALEO Education Leadership Initiative

*7th Annual NALEO National Summit on the
State of Latino Education*

*A National Completion Agenda:
Policy that Supports Postsecondary Quality and
Completion*

September 26-28, 2011

**The Westin Georgetown
2350 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037**

Convening Sponsor:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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***A National Completion Agenda:
Policy that Supports Postsecondary Quality and Completion***

September 26-28, 2011
Washington, D.C.

Throughout the country, Latinos serving in public office are molding policies and programs to improve educational outcomes for all students. As such, all elected and appointed education policymakers are invited to attend a timely national training to address the current state of education, with a particular focus on Latino higher education access and success. In 2008, President Obama announced an ambitious goal for the United States to lead the world in degree attainment by 2020. The President's vision for higher education in America will not be met unless a dramatically new course for education is established in this country. Only one in five Latino adults has a college degree. This is an alarming statistic given that Census data shows that 25 percent of students are Latino. It also highlights the moral and economic necessity of developing policy that creates greater educational opportunities for the Latino community. Latino policymakers have a distinct role to play in cultivating and shaping the public and political discourse related to Latino college completion.

The NALEO 7th Annual Education Summit is a national gathering of Latino elected and appointed officials and is part of the NALEO Education Leadership Initiative (NELI). NELI provides intensive training and professional development through institutes organized throughout the year. The overarching goal of NELI is to provide Latino public servants with the enhanced capacity and governance skills they need to become effective advocates for their students, families, and communities.

As the second largest population group in the United States, the educational attainment of Latino students is intrinsically connected to the nation's future growth and success. Recently released 2010 Census data confirm population estimates that indicate the Latino population will continue a rapid rate of growth. The steady increase of this very youthful population makes it imperative that Latino students benefit from full access to educational experiences of the highest quality. Education policymakers from all levels of government have a critical role to play to ensure that our schools continue to be the center of community development, regardless of the economic challenges we face.

The Summit will use a college readiness and completion framework for tackling the pressing policy and governance challenges facing education leaders across the country. Participants will have access to leading education experts from the public, private and non-profit sectors and will engage in structured discussions on topics of national consequence as we look to build public and political interest in a completion agenda, create college and career ready system development, support dual enrollment and early college high school, address the affordability crisis and value policy that focuses on institutional quality.

Monday, September 26, 2011

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Summit Registration

Scott Foyer, Conference Level

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Summit Welcome – Introduction, Program Overview & Evaluations

Scott Room, Conference Level

- Ms. Erica Bernal-Martinez, Senior Director of Programs and Communications, NALEO Educational Fund
- Mr. Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, NALEO Educational Fund

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks – The State of Latino Education

Scott Room, Conference Level

An educated society is critical to a strong democracy. For the seventh consecutive year, the NALEO Educational Fund brings education practitioners, researchers and leading policymakers together in the nation’s capital to address the state of Latino education. This three day convening commences with opening remarks on the economic, social and political importance of accelerating Latino student success along the preschool to graduate studies (P-20) education pipeline. The Summit will explore the concept of college completion in great depth, including 1) building public and political interest in a completion agenda 2) college and career ready system development 3) dual enrollment and early college high schools 4) addressing the affordability crisis 5) supporting institutional quality and how these areas can impact the way policymakers develop solutions for accelerating student achievement.

- Hon. Alex Padilla, California State Senator; NALEO Vice President 

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Session I – Public and Political Will for Latino Student Success and College Completion

Scott Room, Conference Level


As state support for fully funded public education is threatened by the economic downturn, the importance of a positive and productive public discourse on how to achieve this becomes increasingly important. If all students have the capacity to perform to high standards of achievement and the knowledge exists to help them do so, policymakers have the opportunity to create the systems that will support their success. This includes shaping public and political will on important topics such as college completion. Hear from experts how to develop a public narrative on the value of Latino student success in your community.

- Mr. Nizar Farsakh, Teaching Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Opening Reception

*Sponsored by American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, and Texas High School Project
The Promenade, Lobby Level*

- Mr. Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, NALEO Educational Fund
- Hon. Alex Padilla, California State Senator; NALEO Vice President 
- Mr. Roberto J. Rodríguez, Special Assistant to the President, White House Domestic Policy Council; Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. **Summit Registration**
Scott Foyer, Conference Level

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Presentation and Breakfast**
Scott Room, Conference Level

- Dr. Deborah Santiago, Vice President of Policy and Research,
Excelencia in Education

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Session II –College and Career Ready System Development and College Completion**
Scott Room, Conference Level


College and career readiness is a popular term used to measure a students’ knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce. Although there has been a strong focus on how college and career readiness should be defined and measured, there has been little policy focus on how local and state stakeholders can support its system development. Explore policy models that engage multiple sectors to support an agenda that provides all students to be successful in college and in their career.

Session Chair: Hon. Ana Sol Gutierrez, State Delegate, Maryland  (*Invited*)

- Mr. Kevin Days, Associate Director for Postsecondary Engagement, Achieve
- Ms. Dominique Raymond, Director of Alliance State Relations,
Complete College America

10:30 – Noon **Session III – College Readiness, Early College High Schools and College Completion**
Scott Room, Conference Level

An exciting model of partnerships gaining policy traction between K-12 and higher education is early college high schools in which students are dually enrolled to receive both high school and college credit. More than half of all states have at least one early college, with North Carolina leading the nation with 71 early colleges. Examine how accelerated learning options can help students make a smooth transition into college and improve access to higher education and help support college completion.

Session Chair: Hon. Raquel Regalado, Board Member, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; NALEO Board Member 

- Mr. Joel Vargas, Vice President, High School Through College,
Jobs for the Future; Massachusetts
- Dr. Pepe Barron, Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent,
Luz Guerrero Early College

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Capitol Leadership Luncheon –Partnerships and College Completion

'M' Street Grille, Lobby Level

Educational partnerships are not only a means for sustaining good policy; they have become a means for survival in a challenging economy. Partnerships between multiple stakeholders to support better coordinated, quality programs and services for students and families require extraordinary time and effort. However, their benefits in supporting an agenda like college completion can transform a community and help build capacity in new and powerful ways. Learn new strategies for cultivating multi-sector partnerships.


- Mr. Jim Larimore, Deputy Director of Student Success U.S. Program, Postsecondary Success, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Session IV – Addressing the Affordability Crisis and College Completion

Scott Room, Conference Level

A recent report shows that the national cohort default rate on federal student loans is 7 percent for borrowers who entered repayment in 2008, which is comparable with the default rate for credit cards (8.8 percent) and home mortgages (9.1 percent). Yet student debt only tells a part of the story. For many students, the total cost of attendance for college has reached a point in which students no longer have the financial capacity to begin enrolling in a postsecondary institution. Engage in a conversation with other local and state policymakers to discuss how college affordability policies should be integrated as part of a local, state and federal completion agenda.

Session Chair: Hon. Ricardo Lara, California State Assemblymember 

- Ms. Lauren Asher, President, The Institute for College Access and Success
- Dr. Jose Cruz, Vice President for Higher Education Policy and Practice, The Education Trust

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Celebración de Excelencia

Capitol Visitors Center

Wednesday, September 28, 2011


8:00 a.m. Summit Registration
Scott Foyer, Conference Level

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast Presentation & Remarks – Update on Dream Act
Scott Room, Conference Level

- Ms. Adey Fisseha, Policy Attorney and Campaign Coordinator, National Immigration Law Center
- Ms. Gabby Pacheco, DREAM Activist, Co-Founder of End Our Pain

9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Session V – Institutional Quality and College Completion
Scott Room, Conference Level

Measurement of institutional quality for higher education campuses continues to evolve. However, the orientation for measuring quality has not changed-student success still continues to be the underlying measure for college quality. Local and state policies can support the delivery of a high quality education while simultaneously supporting a completion agenda. Discuss possible ways to accomplish both quality and completion at the local and state level and how policymakers can begin to tackle both areas of importance.

Session Chair: Hon. Juan Pichardo, Rhode Island State Senator 

- Dr. Juliet Garcia, President, University of Texas at Brownsville
- Dr. Magdalena Martinez, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Evaluations and Closing Remarks