
A LIFE IS WAITING:

Latino males in Nevada higher education institutions

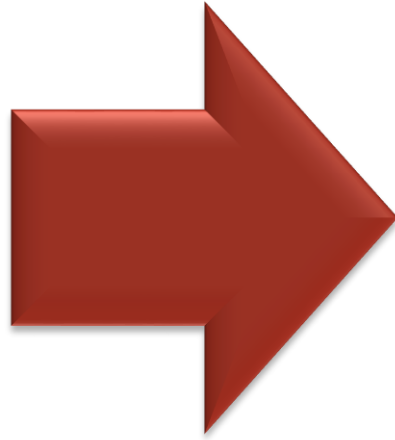
Dr. Luis Ponjuan

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Research Director, Investing in Diversity, Equity, Access, and Learning (iDEAL) Research Project

October 3, 2014

Dr. Ponjuan goes to Washington

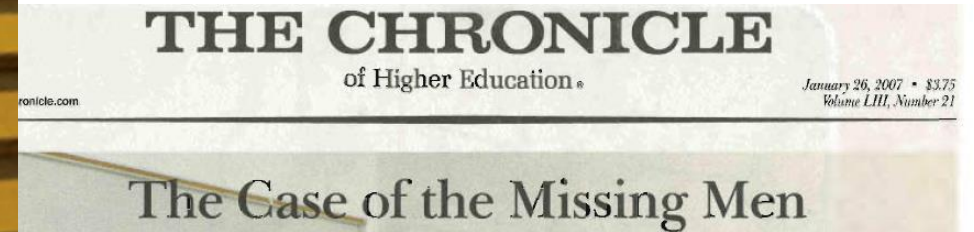
CUBAN IMMIGRANTS, 1973



PROFESSOR PONJUAN, 2014



National Dialogues about Male Student Success



Success
Education

HER

opportunities
young men



Hispanic
Education
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CollegeBoard
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Framing the educational experiences of Latino Males



Why does this matter?

REALITY

- Latino males are not achieving success at the critical junctures across the educational pipeline
- Especially for the transition from K-12 to postsecondary education

NATIONAL LEVEL

- White House
- College Board Advocacy
- Excelencia in Education
- Gates Foundation
- Kellogg Foundation
- Lumina Foundation

STATE LEVEL

- Texas A&M University
- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- State of Nevada?

Understanding Hispanic male ethnic groups

Language

- Unlike African American males, Hispanic males also face **language barriers** in their education

Culture

- Hispanic males struggle to balance their unique **ethnic heritage** and their American identity

Heterogeneous

- Hispanic males should **not be viewed as a monolithic ethnic group**

National male high school completion rates

	White	Black	Hispanic	A/PI
1990	88.6	81.4	56.6	95.3
1995	92.0	88.4	55.7	90.5
2000	92.9	87.6	59.2	92.1
2005	91.8	86.6	63.2	96.8
2010	94.6	87.9	65.7	93.8
2012	93.8	86.2	73.3	96.1

Latino males are outpaced by their male ethnic group counterparts in High school completion rates

Male students of color encounter “dramatically different social experiences” than other students.

(College Board, 2011b, p. 21).

The struggle is real: 16-24 year olds males' high school dropout rates

9%
All males

5.5%
White males

9.8
Black males

16.4%
Hispanic males

10.1%
Born in U.S.

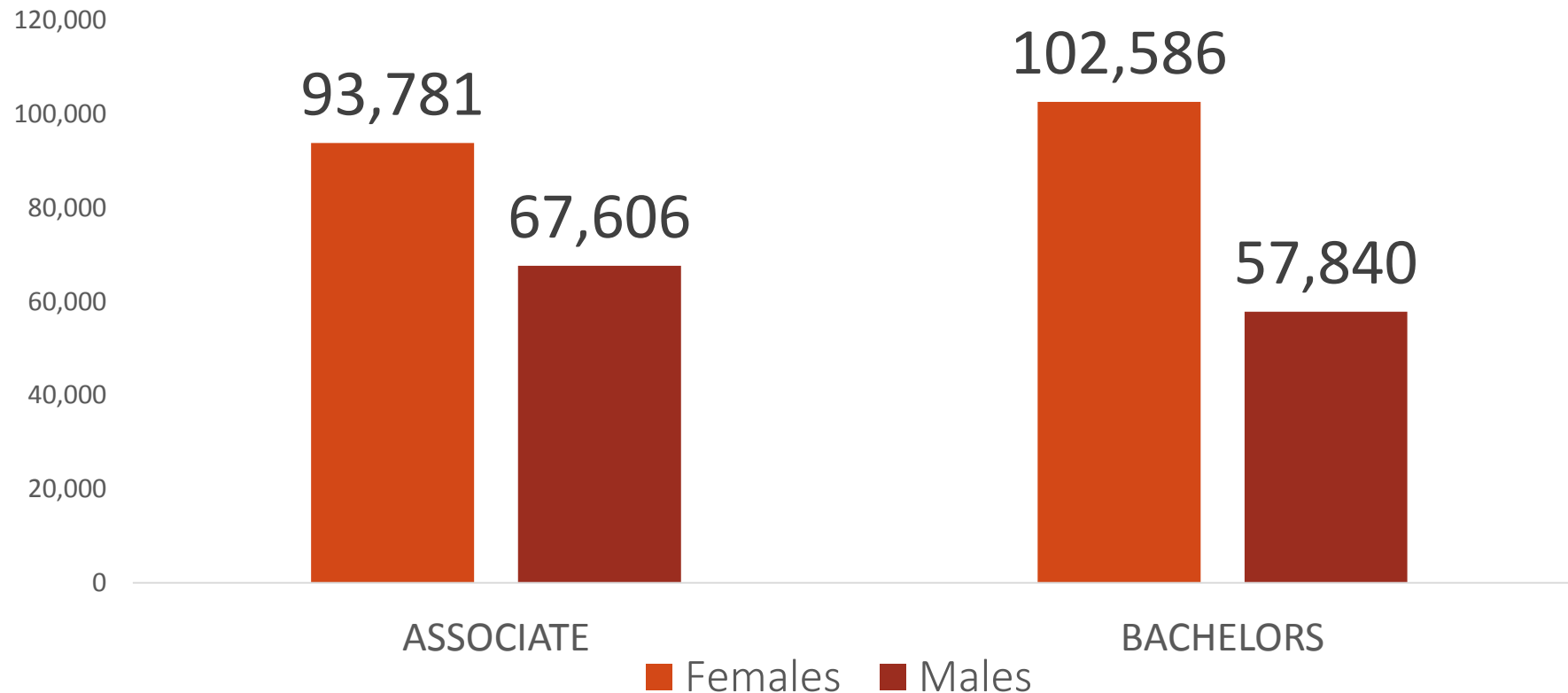
32.2%
Born out of U.S.

National male college enrollment rates

	White	Black	Hispanic	A/PI
1990	45.1	39	45.1	50.8
2000	44.6	37.3	43.1	47.5
2005	44.1	35.7	41.4	46.1
2008	44.5	36.2	42	46

Latino male students, like their peers have decreased college enrollment trends over the last 30 years. (Census, 2010).

HISPANIC STUDENTS DEGREE COMPLETIONS BY GENDER



Females earned
62% of associate
degrees

Females earned
60% of Bachelors
degrees

What happens if the Latina/o and African American education achievement declines?

LOCAL ECONOMY

- Limited pool of educated workforce
- Permanent underclass
- Future negative impact on these communities to attract new businesses

SOCIAL/CULTURAL

- Less educated parents to develop prosperous families
- Fewer role models for the next generation

EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY

- Difficult to identify promising students who have dropped out
- The loss of promising educational role models

INDIVIDUAL

- Increased despair and anger
- A lost sense of hope and promise
- Alternative pathways: **MILITARY, PRISON, SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS, AND DEATH.**

Understanding the BIG PICTURE



BUILDING A CULTURE OF EVIDENCE



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION



TEXAS EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
for MALE STUDENTS *of* COLOR



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY®



Leveraging our collective expertise

RESEARCHERS

PRACTITIONERS

ADMINISTRATORS

The Texas Education Consortium: A statewide research focus

FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

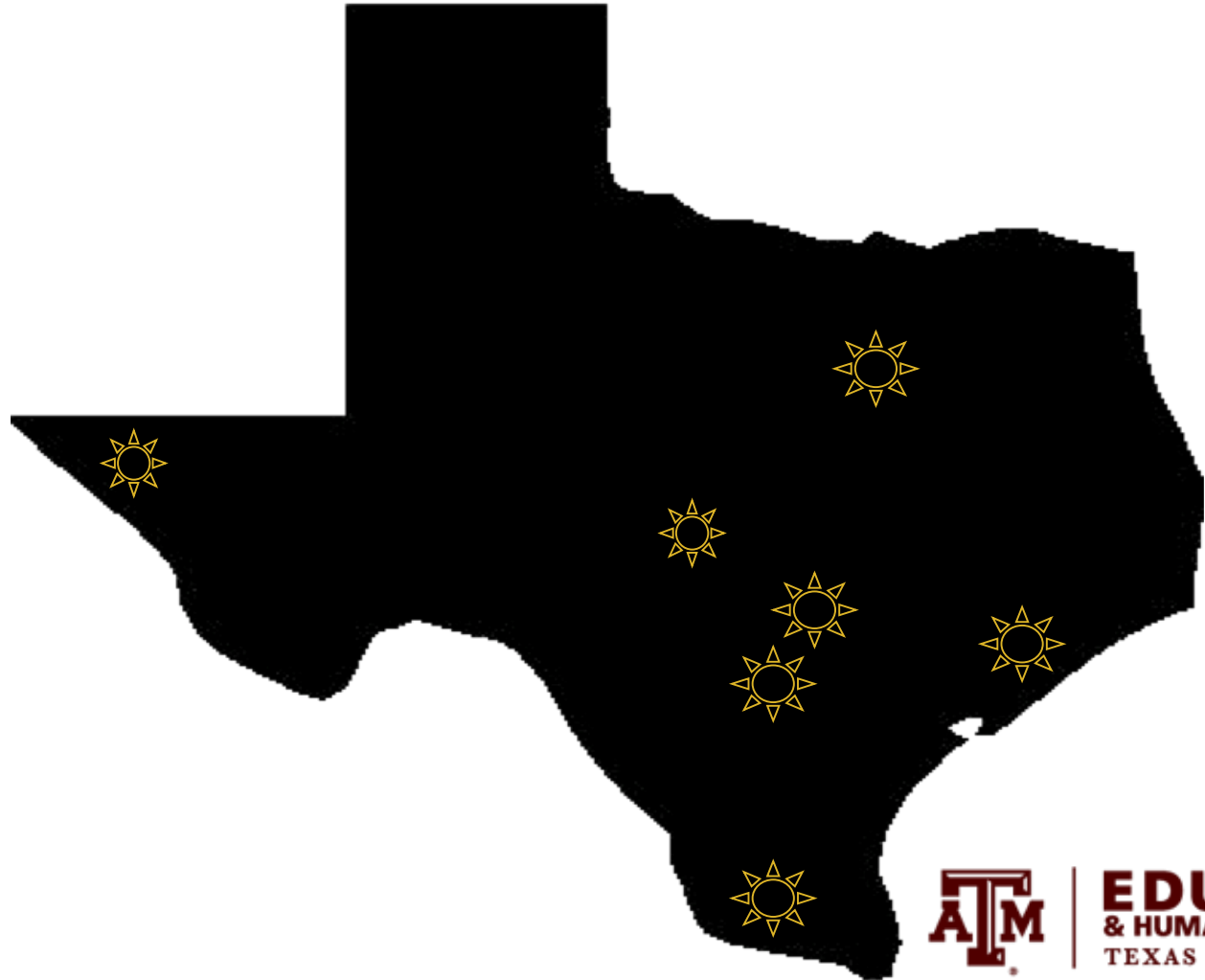
1. University of Texas
2. Texas State University
3. University of North Texas
4. University of Texas San Antonio
5. Prairie View A&M

TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

1. El Paso CC District
2. Austin Community College District
3. Palo Alto College
4. San Antonio College
5. Northeast Lakeview College
6. South Texas College
7. Tarrant County College District
8. Lone Star College District

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1. La Joya ISD
2. Austin ISD
3. El Paso ISD



The Texas Education Consortium: A research agenda

Institutional
site visits

Consortium
survey

Inform
practice

Educate
communities

Empower
leaders

The Texas Education Consortium

Institutionalization

- Male-focused Programs and Partnerships

Effective collaboration

- Across educational sectors (K-12 & HE)

Sustainability

- Develop a long-term Consortium learning community

Leadership

- Consortium members as models of best practice

Policy Development

- Evidence-based, multi-level, viable solutions

Evidence of Impact

- Moving the needle on minority male academic success in Texas



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Implications for Nevada higher education institutions

Discussion of men's
issues & "men in
mind"

Reframing services
from deficit
perspective

Utilizing faculty and
staff at the
frontlines

Enhanced programs
for male first-
generation students

Normalizing college
academic struggle
and improving help-
seeking behaviors

Creating spaces for
discussion of men's
issues

Awareness into Action

Understand

- The unique challenges Latino males face in educational achievement

Believe

- We can improve their educational success

Act

- Commit to student educational excellence

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