

PIQE honored as America's top Community-Based Organization at increasing Latino student success in college

The Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) added to America's largest inventory of proven practices for accelerating degree completion among Latinos

Hillary Clinton video message marks 10 years of national initiative inspired by her work on Latino higher education issues as First Lady

San Diego – Elected officials and higher education leaders from across the country come together at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., September 22, 2014 to announce the 2015 Examples of *Excelencia*, America's top programs that increase higher education achievement for Latino students. *Excelencia* in Education, the non-profit that conceived and runs this national initiative, honored PIQE's Parent Engagement in Education program as America's top program for increasing achievement for Latino students in the community-based organizations category.

PIQE's Parent Engagement in Education Program was selected from among 265 programs from 30 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia nominated in four categories: associates degree, bachelors degree, graduate degree, and community-based organization.

"PIQE is truly honored to be recognized and awarded by the Excelencia in Education for increasing higher education for Latino students. PIQE's "Parent Engagement in Education Program" is a tested and proven program that has graduated more than 600,000 low-income parents from 16 diverse language communities in California (80% Latinos) and enhanced the education of more than 1.8 million K-12 students. PIQE's "Best Practice Model" has been expanded to ten states nationwide." **David Valladolid, National President & CEO**

Examples of *Excelencia* is the only national initiative to systematically identify and promote evidence-based programs and departments effectively boosting Latino enrollment, performance and graduation. Celebrating its 10th year, Examples of *Excelencia* was inspired by then-First Lady Hillary Clinton's 1999 Convening on Latino Youth, a historic, first-ever White House gathering that resulted in the publication, "What Works for Latino Youth." To mark this year's anniversary, Clinton produced a special video tribute that premiered during today's program. Over the past decade, Examples of *Excelencia* has reviewed more than 1,300 program nominations and recognized over 150 programs across the nation.

Today's announcement event, *Celebración de Excelencia*, coincided with the release of the 2015 edition of "What Works for Latino Student Success in Higher Education," a compendium of all 20 recognized programs along with the evidence of their success. Through this annual process, *Excelencia* in Education continues to grow America's largest inventory of programs and strategies that education leaders, policymakers, and others tap into to accelerate degree completion among Latinos.

PIQE is at the forefront improving higher educational achievement for Latino students and we congratulate them for their current and continued efforts," said **Sarita Brown, president of Excelencia in Education**. "By increasing awareness of top programs like this, informing program strategies, and reinforcing investment in what works, Examples of *Excelencia* is creating new energy and inspiring a network of action-oriented leaders to discover and implement innovations that are effective with Latino and other post-traditional students."

To download "What Works for Latino Student Success in Higher Education," which includes detailed information about all of the programs recognized today, visit www.EdExcelencia.org.

"We remain committed to advancing what works to support educators, community leaders, funders, and policymakers to take an asset-based approach to serving Latino students," said **Deborah Santiago, COO and vice president of *Excelencia in Education* and author of the publication.** "You can count on us to continue inspiring, informing, and supporting the recognition, replication and scale of evidence-based practices that serve Latino students and thus serve the country."

Examples of *Excelencia* is presented in collaboration with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. The 2015 sponsors are ACT, Comcast NBCUniversal, Telemundo, Univision, DeVry Education Group, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, the Edwin Gould Foundation, the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, and PG&E Corporation.

Excelencia in Education accelerates Latino student success in higher education by promoting Latino student achievement, conducting analysis to inform educational policies, and advancing institutional practices while collaborating with those committed and ready to meet the mission. Launched in 2004 in the nation's capital, Excelencia is building a network of results-oriented educators and policymakers to address the U.S. economy's need for a highly educated workforce and engaged civic leadership. For more information, visit: www.EdExcelencia.org.

PIQE's mission: To provide families with the knowledge and skills to partner with schools and communities to ensure their children achieve their full potential. PIQE is a California statewide and national 501(c) (3) community-based organization dedicated to innovative educational reform by informing and motivating low-income and immigrant parents to become knowledgeable about how to navigate the school system and seek the educational opportunities available for their children. Since its inception in 1987, PIQE has graduated more than 600,000 parents and impacted the social and educational development of over 1.8 million children. For more information, please visit www.piqe.org.

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