

Challenges Facing Latino/Hispanic Students

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The following notes were scribed during this workshop:

Barriers

- Parents not familiar with the process
- Convincing parents it's a "good thing"
- Location- Proximity to the student
- Student Perception: "wont qualify for financial aid"
- **Cost of Education**
- Not put on college track by HS
- Linguistic/Language Barriers
- Middle of Road students
- Expectations of colleges vs HS and K-12
- Family Values/traditions/ female students unable to leave home
- "No one in my family has ever been to college"
- Culture shock when going back home or leaving home
- Access via scholarships
- Undocumented students
 - Lack of access to financial aid
 - (?) How can students find employment after graduation if they are undocumented?
- Student Perceptions- "Why go do to college at all?" (Due to the community around them.)

Strategies

- Private scholarships vs Federal Financial Aid
- "Dream Act" regarding undocumented students (still in proposal stage)
- Get universities involved at HS level
- Explain financial aid to families vs just "selling the university"
- Student Organizations already on campus (helps prospects see themselves on campus)
- Exposing students to explore leadership opportunities- broaden their exposure
- Program: community night to speak to students about why college is important. Explaining resources to students and families
- Providing resources for student success once on campus
- Educating students about opportunities after HS "why go to college"
- Work with pre-college programs (Upward Bound, etc.)
- 1 on1 relationships with students