



## Examples of Student Success Programs for Latinx Students

### UnidosUS Program: *Avanzando Through College*

The UnidosUS *Avanzando Through College* program established in 2015 serves first-generation, Latinx, low-income, and English Learner (EL) students that have historically faced barriers to completing a higher education. The yearlong college success and retention program offers monthly workshops and events to support Latino students' postsecondary success. Working with both UnidosUS Affiliates and higher education institutions, the goal of the program is to equip students with the skills, information, and support systems needed to identify student services, improve academic performance, transfer to a four-year college (if applicable), and graduate college.

The *Avanzando* curriculum includes the following design components to improve college retention for Latinos: culturally and linguistically responsive content, asset-based approach to building students' self-efficacy, peer-to-peer networking, and emotional and mental health supports.

### Examples of *Excelencia*

*Excelencia* in Education, a national partner, focuses on identifying and promoting evidenced-based programs and practices that accelerate Latino student success in higher education. Building upon their research and analysis, they developed a [database](#) made up of more than 200 active programs that have gone through the organization's Seal of *Excelencia* review process. The Seal of *Excelencia* program recognizes academic institutions for intentionally serving Latino students and for demonstrating positive student outcomes in enrollment, retention, and completion. The framework identifies data, practice, and leadership as core components of a successful program. UnidosUS supports this new certification and hopes that these leading institutions can offer valuable insight to creating a more positive environment for Latino students on campus.

The following institutional program descriptions highlighted below were pulled directly from *Excelencia's* database. They all received the Seal of *Excelencia* and hold a track record of increasing completion rates for Latino students.

1. [Mi Casa Es Su Casa](#): Mi Casa Es Su Casa connects Hispanic community college students to the local campus community, acclimates them to the rigors of academic life, helps them succeed for the duration of their college career, and prepares them to achieve in college and beyond. Mi Casa's goal is to increase the persistence, graduation, and transfer rate of Hispanic students on campus.

### Program Elements

- iMALLs (Information Technology Enhanced Multidisciplinary Academic Learning Lounges) is a collection of collaborative and active learning environments that increase student engagement while enhancing students' academic, cognitive, and non-cognitive soft skills. iMALLs includes the following activities:
  - A) Multimedia Studio iMall - Educates students in TV studio production.
  - B) Career Lab iMall - Features "ready to work" stations (e.g. computer, web camera, and career software) where students can research the career and education path that is right for them, practice interviewing, perfect their resumes, and build soft-skills for the 21st century workplace.
  - C) Library 2.0 iMall — Features emerging technologies to allow students to design, experiment, and create prototypes of their own creations.
  - D) Hispanic Parent Academy - Ensures success of Hispanic students by educating parents on the importance of higher education; helping Hispanic students feel at home in a college atmosphere; and reaching out to parents so that they may better help their child navigate the complex college process.
- CAST (Center for Academic Success and Transition) provides tutoring, career counseling, and transfer/graduation support services.
- MATCH (Meaningfully Aligned Targeted Courses for Hispanic Students) helps ensure students are receiving best-fit instruction based on proven methods and needs. MATCH includes the following activities:
  - A) Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) - Faculty collaborate with certified writing tutors in history and government classrooms to support students' primary research and writing about their family's local history and relationships with local government.
  - B) PUENTE Program - Helps Hispanic students adjust to college life and prepare to transfer to a four-year university. The Puente Program is a nationally recognized program co-sponsored by the University of California at Berkeley.
  - C) English/Spanish Interpreter Certificate Program - Provides professional training for students who wish to undertake careers as bilingual interpreters.
  - D) Summer Math Bridge Program - Prepares graduating high school seniors the summer immediately following high school graduation for math courses required to meet their academic and career goals at Lone Star College-North Harris.
  - E) Professional development opportunities for campus faculty — Includes Teaching Squares, Adjunct Boot Camp, the Adjunct Mentoring Program, 21st Century Faculty Institute, and the True North Chair Academy.

2. [Pathways to Academic Success and Opportunities \(PASO\)](#): The Pathways to Academic Success and Opportunities (PASO) at California State University San Marcos, addresses the achievement gap among Latino students by implementing innovative student services, culturally relevant curriculum, and meaningful co-curricular offerings aimed at increasing retention and graduation rates specifically for Latino students.

#### **Program Elements**

- Strong collaborative effort with Student and Academic Affairs
  - Full-time Financial Aid technician on staff
  - Offers a pilot Chicano Studies course
  - Upper-division students work as PASO community researchers with the CSUSM-National Latino Research Center
3. [Promesa Scholars](#): The Promesa Scholars Program (PSP) is a Latin@ focused leadership and retention program developed to assist students in navigating success throughout their education at Ferris State University (FSU). PSP was created to support the academic advancement and retention of incoming Promesa Summer Success students at Ferris. In 2017, the program was redeveloped and scaled to provide access to resources and opportunities, empowering more students to achieve college completion and career readiness.

#### **Program Elements**

- Practices established within PSP were developed with four pillars in mind: leadership, community, cultural identity, and academic success
- 5th and 10th week academic assessment
- Cultural intelligence assessments
- Research mentoring with faculty to help build exposure to research, graduate school
- Developing professional networking opportunities

## About UnidosUS

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit [www.unidosus.org](http://www.unidosus.org), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).