



## 2009 Recipients



**Engineering and Computer Science Scholars Program**  
California State University-Fullerton, Fullerton, California

**Dual Enrollment Program**  
Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut

**Latino/a Success Program**  
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

**Mother-Daughter Program**  
Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois

**Connecting Resources to Enhance College Excellence & Retention (CRECER) Program**  
LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, Long Island City, New York

**College-Now, Algebra Transition Program**  
Lehman College, CUNY, Bronx, New York

**Transfer Day, Community College Alliance, and Adelante Scholars Programs**  
Loyola Marymount College, Los Angeles, California

**Pass Math Project**  
Miami Dade College-Wolfson Campus, Miami, Florida

**Doorway to Success: Latino Male Retention Initiative**  
Monroe Community College, Rochester, New York

**New and Enhanced Latino Programming**  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

**The First Year for the First Generation Project**  
Palm Beach Community College, Lake Worth, Florida

**Adelante Certificate in Bilingual Career Development**  
Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, Connecticut

**LEAP2Success (Latinos Educación, Acción y Poder)**  
State University of New York-Fredonia, Fredonia, New York

**Leadership and Involvement for Diversity, Engagement and Retention (LIDER) Program**  
Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas

**The Clave Latino Male Empowerment Program**  
Union County College, Cranford, New Jersey

**College Academy for Parents (CAP) Expansion Model**  
University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

**Pre-Medical and Health Scholars Program**  
University of California San Francisco, Fresno, California

**Seamless Transfer (SET @ UNT) Program**  
University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

**Upward Bound Parent-to-Parent Program**  
University of Texas-Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, Brownsville, Texas

**Learning Communities ePortfolios**  
West Los Angeles College, Culver City, California

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## **\$1 Million Awarded to Colleges Committed to Latino Student Success**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Twenty colleges and universities from across the nation each will receive \$50,000 grants to replicate promising and innovative programs that help Latino students succeed and graduate, the non-profit organization *Excelencia* in Education announced today.

The SEMILLAS grants, supported by the Walmart Foundation, are part of *Excelencia* in Education's "Growing What Works" national initiative. The initiative aims to accelerate Latino student success by refining and replicating model educational programs that are proven to advance Latino achievement in two-year and four-year colleges. The long-term goal of the project is to increase the use of these effective programs for the country's fast-growing Latino college age population.

*Semillas* is the Spanish word for seeds. It also stands for *Seeding Educational Models that Impact and Leverage Latino Academic Success*.

According to the US Census Bureau, Latino young adults are less likely to have earned an associate degree or higher than other young adults. In 2008, eight percent of Latinos 18 to 24 years-of-age had earned a degree, compared to 14 percent of all young adults. Latino adults, 25 years and over, were also less likely to have earned an associate degree or higher than other adults, with 19 percent of Latinos earning a degree, compared with 29 percent of blacks, 39 percent of whites, and 59 percent of Asians. Meanwhile, census projections estimate that Latinos will be 22 percent of the nation's college-age population by 2020.

"Today's undergraduate population looks very different than it did a generation ago," said Sarita Brown, president of *Excelencia* in Education, a non-profit organization that advocates for higher education programs and policies that serve Latino students and families. "All of the institutions selected to receive these grants understand this reality and have actively worked to create a climate on their campuses where Latino students are welcomed as an asset, regardless of their needs. This kind of supportive environment is critical to promoting Latino student success."

Colleges and universities received grants for work in one of four areas: 1) Helping first-generation, low-income Latino students gain college entrance, 2) Improving retention rates for students enrolled in college, 3) Helping Latino students transfer from two-year to four-year colleges, and 4) Increasing college graduation rates for Latinos.

*Excelencia* staff and members of the “Growing What Works” initiative will work with the selected institutions throughout the 2009-2010 academic year, and then share their findings.

"The Walmart Foundation is pleased to support the 'Growing What Works' initiative in its efforts to promote Latino student success," said Michelle Gilliard, Senior Director of Workforce Development and Education for the Walmart Foundation. "We are hopeful that with help from the SEMILLAS grants this impressive group of colleges will be able to build the foundation for successful educational programs that will serve as models for universities across the nation."

A full list of SEMILLAS grant winners may be found at [www.edexcelencia.org](http://www.edexcelencia.org).

*Excelencia in Education, is a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization whose mission is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education.*

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