

# Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs): 2009-10 Factsheet



The mission of *Excelencia* in Education is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. A critical group of institutions enrolling and graduating Latino students are Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

## Definition

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) are defined in federal law as accredited and degree-granting public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education with 25 percent or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent student enrollment.<sup>1</sup>

## History

The identification of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) was created in the 1980s. Leaders at the federal, state, and institutional levels recognized that a small set of institutions enrolled a large percentage of Latino students but had low levels of resources to educate these students. The classification of HSIs formally recognized these institutions for capacity-building and other support.

## Overview

- In 2009-10, there were 293 HSIs located in 17 states and Puerto Rico, representing just under 10% of all institutions of higher education.<sup>2</sup>
- Overall, over half (54%) of Latino undergraduates were enrolled at HSIs in 2009-10.
- The number of HSIs is growing. In 6 years, the number of HSIs grew from 236 to 293.

## Location

- HSIs are very concentrated geographically. Almost 75% of HSIs are located in 3 states and Puerto Rico. California has the most HSIs (89), followed by Puerto Rico (56), Texas (49), and New Mexico (24).
- HSIs are also growing in states not generally known for having large Latino populations, such as Kansas, Massachusetts, and Washington.

## Governance

- The majority of HSIs are community colleges. Almost half (47%) of all HSIs (137) were community colleges. In comparison, just over 21% of HSIs (62) were public colleges or universities.
- Only 28% of HSIs (81) were private, not-for-profit 4-year institutions and 4% (13) are private not-for-profit 2-year institutions.

## Admissions

- HSIs provided more access to Latinos and other students than other degree-granting institutions of higher education. In 2009-10, 60% of HSIs (175) had an open admissions policy<sup>3</sup>, compared to 38% of all degree-granting institutions.

## Emerging HSIs

- In 2009-10, there were 204 emerging HSIs with 15-24% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment.
- Emerging HSIs were located in 18 states and Puerto Rico and over 40% were public 2-year institutions.

## HSIs with Graduate Programs

- Of the 293 HSIs, 112 offer graduate degrees (43 offer doctoral and first professional degrees).

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institutional Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2009-10, institutional characteristics and fall enrollment surveys

<sup>1</sup> Summary of Title V of the Higher Education Act, as amended in 2008. To be eligible for the "DevelopingSI Program", the law further requires that an HSI have a high enrollment of needy students and low educational and general expenditures.

<sup>2</sup> Institutions of higher education are defined as public or private not-for-profit degree-granting institutions.

<sup>3</sup> IPEDS defines an open admissions policy as one where the institution will admit anyone who applies.