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*Excelencia* in Education  
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Dear Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to warmly welcome you to the first virtual *Celebración de Excelencia*. *Excelencia* in Education convenes this annual *Celebración* to recognize programs in institutions of colleges, universities and community based organizations that accelerate Latino student success in higher education. The CHC values programs that uplift the importance of Latino college educated talent, especially during these unprecedented times.

At a moment when the Latino community is being impacted disproportionately by both the health and economic insecurity brought on by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we must ensure that our Latino college students are able to successfully complete their degrees. *Excelencia* in Education's research on Latino college completion, Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and other important issues helps us policy decision makers forge informed choices during these times. *Excelencia* in Education's network brings together institutions making a difference to learn from each other on how to best support Latino students, while also ensuring that the wider community is aware of these amazing efforts. Institutions of higher education and communities are playing a vital role in ensuring the educational success of Latino students that will, in turn, lead to a stronger recovery from this pandemic and a stronger nation.

The CHC recognizes the importance of the 2020 **Examples of *Excelencia*** finalists who leverage data, implement effective practices, and exercise leadership to further the educational attainment of our Latino students. We look forward to continuing to work together to advance our community.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Castro  
Chairman  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus