Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs): An Overview

MARCELA CUELLAR, PH.D.
UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
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What are Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)?

**HSIs**
- 25% Latina/o enrollment and 50% low-income per Title V of the Higher Education Act (HEA)
- Obtaining the HSI designation allows institutions to compete for federal grants to support initiatives that enhance student success
- Majority not created with a mission to serve Latina/os

**Emerging HSIs**
- Institutions with 15-24% Latina/o enrollment (Santiago & Andrade, 2010)
- Presumably will achieve HSI status in near future
Growing Numbers of HSIs and Emerging HSIs (2014-15)

- HSIs
  - 435 HSIs
  - Represent 13% of all institutions of higher education
  - Located in 18 states and Puerto Rico

- Emerging HSIs
  - 310 emerging HSIs
  - Located in 33 states and District of Columbia

(Excelencia in Education, 2016)
A Typology of HSIs

Urban Enclave Community Colleges

Big Systems Four-Year Institutions

Puerto Rican Institutions

Rural Dispersed Community Colleges

Small Communities Four-Year Institutions

Health Sciences Schools

(Núñez, Crisp, & Elizondo, 2016)
HSIs within the University of California

- Growing representation in the state’s research university
- Several are among the most prestigious universities in the nation and form part of the Association of American Universities (AAU)

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<th>Designated HSIs</th>
<th>Emerging HSIs</th>
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<td>Merced</td>
<td>Davis</td>
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<td>Riverside</td>
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<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
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Beyond Enrollment, What Does “Hispanic Serving” Mean?

- Different definitions by different institutions
- Sample of HSI Title V efforts
  - Faculty development
  - Academic tutoring or counseling programs
- Institutionalization of culturally relevant programs (Garcia & Okhidoi, 2015)
  - Chicana/o Studies
  - Student Support Services
- Impact on Latina/o student empowerment (Cuellar, 2014; 2015)
Realizing the Potential of HSIs

- HSIs can enhance the educational and economic mobility of Latina/o communities (Contreras & Contreras, 2015)

- Becoming “Hispanic serving” requires planning and change
  - Understanding Latina/o students and needs
  - Working towards enhancing Latina/o students versus only enrolling

- Emerging HSIs are especially well-positioned to plan for and enact transformative change to positively impact academic and non-academic outcomes for Latina/o students (Garcia & Cuellar, under review)
Contact Information

Marcela Cuellar
Assistant Professor
School of Education
University of California, Davis
marcuellar@ucdavis.edu