



Chancellor Mark Rosenberg

Panel Discussion: College Readiness

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials

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Why this matters: our future depends on it

- 1) Higher education is key to global competitiveness in the 21st century
 - a. According to a study by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, by 2025 US colleges and universities will need to graduate 94 million students, or about 16 million more than currently expected in order for this country to remain among the top-performing nations.
 - b. The proportion of US residents with associate or higher degrees will need to increase from 40% to 55%.
- 2) The Hispanic proportion of Florida's population is growing. In the 18-24 age group (traditional undergrads), will grow from 22% today to 29% by 2030.
- 3) Therefore: the state's future depends largely on how well we prepare these students
 - a. Potential to have a great asset in a well-educated, largely bilingual population
 - b. In some ways, Florida is ideally positioned for success

Where we stand: gaps persist, though Florida is ahead of many states

- 1) Gaps in college readiness: 49% of Hispanic high school grads entering college needed remediation, compared to 41% of all students.
- 2) Hispanics under-represented in the SUS
- 3) Slightly less likely to graduate
- 4) Gaps are smaller than in other states, but still a problem

What we need to do: make a clear bargain with students, and keep it:

The promise: "If you meet the state's standards for high school graduation and entry into college, you will be able to afford a high quality college education in Florida."

- 1) Need to communicate more clearly about standards: more math, science, and foreign languages in particular. Must ensure that bilingual students are able to write clearly and correctly in both languages if they are to benefit from that asset.
- 2) Provide the access that we promise.
 - a. More than other groups, Hispanic students depend on a growing system of higher education.
 - b. Students who fulfill their side of the bargain should have access to a wide range of high quality colleges and universities that make good on our promise of both quality and access.
 - c. Can't let inflation and lack of resources devalue the promised "prize."
- 3) Create a coherent financial aid policy that ensures access – and choices – to all students who fulfill their part of the bargain. We cannot afford full scholarships for everyone, so must target those who cannot afford college on their own.