

2009 AAHHE Concurrent Sessions

Friday, March 6, 2009

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Access Initiatives—A Statewide Effort to Serve and Enroll Arizona Students

Presenters:

Claudia Mendoza, Arizona State University

Angela Huizar, Arizona State University

Arizona State University-Access Initiatives is a statewide effort to serve and enroll Arizona students. Learning from Access ASU, a four-year effort to increase access to the university for targeted under-participating school districts, Access Initiatives is expanding across the state of Arizona to provide schools with resources from the university in order to increase university eligibility and enrollment. This is accomplished through a comprehensive, strategic plan to offer schools admissions, financial aid, and other tools to increase university eligibility of their students. Participants will learn how to build relationships with local school districts in order to provide support for under-participating student populations.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Moving Toward Equity in Student Outcomes

Presenters:

Elsa Macias, University of Southern California

Brianne Dávila, University of California, Santa Barbara

Maria Malagon, University of Southern California

The Equity Scorecard and California Benchmarking Project are evidence-based institutional models of assessment developed to help improve achievement outcomes for Latinos students and other racial and ethnic groups in higher education. Both approaches provide tools and processes that transform assessment and accountability into organizational learning activities.

This session will focus on an organizational learning process to improve institutional effectiveness, and how campus practitioners, faculty, administrators, and staff can use inquiry methods to identify inequities in student outcomes and set benchmarks for improvement. The concept of equity, how equity differs from diversity, and its relation to determining institutional responsibility for student outcomes will be explored. An interactive exercise will allow participants to understand how being equity-minded can lead to an awareness of inequities in educational outcomes, and emphasize the role of institutions in being accountable for addressing those inequities. Presenters will discuss the value of contextualizing institutional

data using the Inquiry Model of assessment. Transfer data for various campuses from the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) will be used to evaluate students transfer to institutions in the California State University and University of California systems. Participants will use these data in an interactive exercise to set benchmarks for improvement.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Proyecto Acceso: Increasing Opportunities to Learn for Latinos in Washington State

Presenters:

Frances Contreras, University of Washington
Irene Sanchez, University of Washington
Kathryn Torres, University of Washington
Karen O'Reilly Diaz, University of Washington
Monica Esqueda, University of Washington
Luis Ortega, University of Washington
Arthur Sepulveda, University of Washington

This session involves an interactive discussion on the policy implications of our findings from a statewide review of the opportunities to learn for Latinos in Washington State (Proyecto Acceso). We will use our research findings as a guidepost for discussion and compare other state contexts with growing Latino populations. This session will also discuss policy approaches that promote greater opportunities to learn as well as common challenges facing Latino students and families from urban, rural, and urban-ring settings who are preparing for college.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Pertenece aquí! Transitioning Latino Students into a Liberal Arts Education

Pecos

Presenters:

Rebecca Hernandez, Goshen College
Suzanne Ehst, Goshen College
Liliana Ballge, Goshen College

This session will detail programmatic efforts at Goshen College to aid Latino students' transitions into higher education. The Center for Intercultural Teaching and Learning (CITL) addresses the educational needs of Latino students in our community. Specific initiatives through CITL include focused recruitment, Academic Success class, mentoring relationships, leadership seminar, and academic exploration of ethnic identity. Emerging research efforts that measure the programs' effectiveness will also be presented. Participants will be asked to engage in a discussion to uncover what has worked and what has not worked in other institutions and how to improve these efforts. New ideas will be generated along with an opportunity to share best practices from other institutions. This session is recommended for student life and academic professionals.

Conference Stream: STEM

Impact of the Introduction of *Amaranthus* Grain into Rural Latin American Diets through Children's Gardening Programs on Concepts of Health and Nutrition and Math, Science, and Literature Skills

Directors

Presenter:

Anais Carrillo, Texas A&M University

Despite its cultural wealth, Oaxaca is the second poorest Mexican state, with malnutrition, illiteracy, and inadequate medical care. Many men have emigrated, placing strain on families left behind. Money sent is insufficient for well balanced diets. Amaranth is suited to address malnutrition and certain health problems. Seeds are 13 to 15 percent protein; high in fiber, calcium, iron, potassium, phosphorus, zinc, and vitamins A and C; and can be combined with corn. Participants will learn new teaching methods and children's programs that adopt new horticultural concepts that can positively impact rural communities. This session will rely on the dynamic involvement of the audience to fully appreciate how to utilize this education model in colonias surrounding the U.S.-Mexico Border to enhance parental involvement; place emphasis on the importance of education within the Hispanic culture; and increase basic math, science, and literature skills of first and second generation Hispanic youth.

Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the Canyonlands Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve, Tyler County, Texas

Directors

Presenter:

Aminda Gallardo, Texas A&M University

A compilation of vascular flora in the Canyonlands Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve will be described. The presentation will compare the plant diversity findings in the Canyonlands Unit to other units within the preserve and determine possible effects of hurricane disturbance on the distribution of invasive species in the Big Thicket. Outcomes from this research will help educate U.S. Hispanics about the importance of plant diversity, recreational practices, and conservation of natural resources.

Ecological and Social Dimensions of Using Extreme Prescribed Fire to Restore Rangeland Ecosystems in Texas

Directors

Presenter:

David Toledo, Texas A&M University

No integrative research has been conducted to simultaneously evaluate the ecological, economic, and social aspects of using prescribed extreme fires as a rangeland management tool. Preliminary findings aimed at determining the socio-economic and ecological effects of using extreme prescribed fire to control woody plant encroachment in three different ecoregions of Texas will be reported. This session will describe and discuss the pros and cons of prescribed fires for the management and conservation of natural resources and the implications that these have on how Hispanic landowners employ these practices.

Management Implications of Urbanization and Demography on Forest Ecosystems

Directors

Presenter:

Reggie Romo, Texas A&M University

This session will discuss the effects of increased urban development around Tyler, Texas. Home to thriving timber and forest products, recent urban expansion has caused lower harvests and higher management costs. Increasing fragmentation and decreasing forest patch size has a direct effect on the amount of timber available, cost of extraction of timber, and degree of conflict related to harvest techniques that will be available. The environmental implications of a dramatic increase in the Hispanic population of this area of Texas will be discussed.

Conference Stream: STEM

Science and Mathematics Faculty Development: Implementing Culturally Relevant Curriculum

Presenters:

Cherie McCollough, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

Olga Ramirez, University of Texas Pan American

JoAnn McDonald, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

The curriculum and nature of instruction in traditional schools usually has not reflected the interests of marginalized people in society. An NSF funded initiative provided HSI faculty development in Family Learning Events (FLEs). Faculty and pre-service science and math educators implemented culturally connected math and science activities with students and their families in after-school settings. Participants of this session will receive documentation for conception and implementation of FLEs, project ideas, relevant Web sites, illustrative student work, and other pertinent materials. Participants will also engage in discussions around FLE implementation issues and challenges.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Identifying, Developing and Retaining Talent

Presenters

Ricardo Coronado, Tarrant County College District

Lily Tercero, Tarrant County College District

Leonardo de la Garza, Tarrant County College District

This session is perfect for college leaders or department heads looking for ways to identify, develop, and retain talent. Participants will learn about action strategies that capture talent; reasons talented individuals remain with an employer; key drivers to talent retention and engagement; action steps college administrators can undertake to retain talent; and strategies for attracting Latino and other diverse talent. Participants will also learn best practices that have been implemented by others seeking to identify, develop, and retain talent.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

What We Need to Know About Returning Hispanic Veterans and Higher Education

Presenter

Jose Coll, University of Southern California

At least 30 percent of all returning veterans will meet the DSM IV-R criteria for mental health disorders. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are particularly severe. A substantial proportion of returning veterans are Hispanic and "citizen soldiers" who will be discharged with the full expectation of resuming their regular employment and educational goals. This presentation will focus on the role of educators and administrators in assessing the problems faced by returning veterans as they transition into higher education.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Faculty Issues in Higher Education

AAHHE Commissioned Scholarly Paper

Financial Aid and Latina/o Retention

Presenter:

Jose Luis Santos, UCLA Education

This engaging session will discuss how the policy regarding higher education access, affordability, retention, and success has changed dramatically over the last twenty years. Specifically, the federal government and state governments across this country have largely shifted the burden of financing higher education to students and their families. Using the National Center for Education Statistics databases, Santos explores the effects of financial aid on Latino/o student retention—policy outcomes of this shift from government. The data sets in Santos' study provide an exceptional opportunity to explore the nature of the relationship between financial aid and Latina/o persistence/retention in college over time. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in dialog to discuss these issues and share best practices.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Sentido de Pertenencia: Strategies for Promoting Belonging Among Hispanics at White Institutions

Presenter:

Terrell Strayhorn, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

National statistics suggest that Latino collegians (LCs) earned less than five percent of the 1.4 million bachelor's degrees awarded in 2004. Further, only 23 percent of LCs earn their degree within 10 years of leaving high school; many drop out before degree completion. Research suggests that some students leave due to lack of a sense of belonging (SOB), especially at predominantly white institutions. This session will



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present findings from a study of SOB and use that information to recommend promising practices for promoting SOB among LCs. This session will particularly benefit professionals in academic and student affairs who are responsible for facilitating students' transition, adjustment, and retention in college life.

Friday, March 6, 2009

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Faculty Issues in Higher Education

Student Retention, Persistence and Success: An Interdisciplinary Family Involvement Model

Presenter:

Rene Prupes, Mountain View College
Cristina Medina, Mountain View College

Join project faculty and staff for an energizing presentation of a unique, data-supported family involvement model for retention, persistence, and success that engages students' families in course content. Lively and informative, this presentation shares the stories, data, and extensive resources of an interdisciplinary instructional approach through video and dialogue. Participants will receive access to extensive resources and engage in a candid discussion with the facilitators.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Mariachi Camp: Connecting and Recruiting

Presenter

Gilda Garcia, University of North Texas

As an innovative pilot program, the launch of a summer mariachi camp for middle school and high school students offers multiple benefits to the university and the community including building relationships between the University and schools with high percentages of Hispanic students, providing teaching and leadership opportunities for UNT undergraduates currently in the mariachi program, and as a recruitment tool to increase Hispanic enrollment. Participants will have the opportunity to view a video presentation of the actual program that took place this summer at the University of North Texas.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Avoiding Land Mines in Route to a Higher Education

Presenter:

Victor Castillo, University of Texas San Antonio

There has been a tremendous amount of literature and data that has touched on the disparities of Latino student achievement. However, there have been minimal studies on those learners who have negotiated through the obstacles that impede Latin@s within the American educational institute. This session examines the personal narratives of five Texas Mexican-American Doctoral level students who have succeeded within the American classroom, while at the same time analyzing and synthesizing current literature on academically successful Latin@ students in higher education.

Conference Stream: STEM

Helping College Students Succeed in Math and Science

Presenters:

Jose Giraldo, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

Cherie McCollough, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

Do we understand the difficulties our science students have in mathematics? The presenters in this session will share the approach being taken in their college institution under the STEP (Science Talent Expansion Plan) NSF initiative to help science students succeed in their classes. After all math is not only about formulas, and there is a lot of math in science. Participants will also work in small groups to discuss and find possible solutions.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Hispanic Student Success in the 21st Century: A New Approach to Transitioning Into College

Presenters:

Hector Hernandez, University of Texas El Paso

Josefina Tinajero, University of Texas El Paso

Judith Munter, University of Texas El Paso

This study will help educators to develop a deeper understanding of primary barriers that have impeded Hispanic high school students on the U.S.-Mexico border from successfully transitioning through the K-16 pipeline. Qualitative methods are used to examine these issues from the insider's perspective. The presentation will present new approaches for working collaboratively to design new initiatives that will support Hispanic student success in U.S. public education for the 21st century. Participants will also engage in group discussions to discuss key issues.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Latino Students First Year Experience at Goshen College

Presenters:

Getnet Bitew, Goshen College

Robert Reyes, Goshen College

This research is aimed at investigating Latino students' first-year experience at Goshen College, a small liberal arts College in the Midwest. It assesses their curricular/pedagogical and co-curricular experiences, and how cultural experiences helped or hindered their transition. This presentation will benefit Latino students, professors, and other college staff in identifying factors that contribute and/or negatively affect Latino students' educational experience. Recommendations will be proposed on how to improve the students overall educational experience.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

The Impact of Using Metaevaluation in a Hispanic Community: A Case Study in Higher Education

Presenters:

Liliana Rodriguez-Campos, University of South Florida
Connie Walker-Egea, University of South Florida

Metaevaluations, the evaluation of an evaluation, are necessary to improve ongoing evaluation activities, to assess the merits of completed evaluation efforts, and to ensure the advancement of evaluation practices. This session will benefit any person interested in evaluation and metaevaluation and how these can be used to help reach program goals and objectives. Participants will learn the procedures inside a metaevaluation; easy-to-follow suggestions; and how to use the metaevaluation checklist for making judgments.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

AAHHE Outstanding Dissertation Competition – 3rd Place Co-Winner

Markov Models for Longitudinal Course of Youth Bipolar Disorder

Presenter:

Adriana Lopez, University of Pittsburgh

In this research study, mixture of first order Markov chains and hidden Markov models were used to model variable length sequences in order to find longitudinal patterns. Data from the Course and Outcome of Bipolar Youth study was used to estimate these models. A mixture of four first order Markov chains found patterns of movers and stayers. A hidden Markov model with ten hidden states justifies the use of a scale with syndromal, subsyndromal, and asymptomatic episodes defined by psychiatrists. Gender, age, bipolar diagnosis, and socio-economic status were included in hidden Markov models. Lopez will present this research, which is the first study using these Markov models to analyze the longitudinal course of bipolar disorder in children and adolescents. No previous study has modeled the longitudinal course of bipolar disorder that estimates the transitions among the different episodes of bipolar disorder. Furthermore, no previous study has modeled the effects of covariates consistently with the longitudinal nature of the disease.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Exploring Innovative Means of Stakeholder Collaboration to Improve College Readiness

Presenters:

Victor Saenz, University of Texas at Austin
Erica Yamamura, Texas State University San Marcos
Nolan Cabrera, University of California, Los Angeles
Patricia D. López, University of Texas at Austin
Melissa A. Martinez, University of Texas at Austin
Angélica Aguilar, University of Texas at Austin
Tracy Nájera, University of Texas at Austin

The South Texas Border region has one of the highest concentrations of Latina/os, but one of the lowest college-going rates in the state. In order to improve college access we must examine the interconnected roles of key community stakeholders (i.e., policymakers, K-12 educators, colleges, families, and communities) in promoting the goal of college-readiness. This session will share the findings of a study on college readiness in South Texas, highlighting stakeholders' viewpoints and best practices for innovative collaboration on this critical issue. This session will be of interest to educators and policy makers committed to increasing college readiness efforts among Latina/o students in South Texas and throughout the southwest. We spotlight key findings on the collaborative and interconnected efforts—in particular between school and community partnerships—that are needed in order to promote the goal of college-readiness for Latina/o students, families, and communities.

Conference Stream: STEM

Molecular Characterization and Surveillance of *Campylobacter* during Commercial Broiler Production

Presenter:

Charles Hernandez, Texas A&M University

The goal of the study presented in this session was to determine the presence of *Campylobacter*, an infectious bacterial disease, during the grow-out period and at specific commercial poultry processing stages through the use of culture independent methods. Evaluation of potential trends may lead to identification of target research areas that focus on intervention strategies during commercial poultry production and processing. Explanations about this disease will be given and tied to the diets and food preparation traditions of the U.S. Hispanic community.

Characterization of a Broad Host Range High Molecular Weight Bacteriocin from *Burkholderia cenocepacia*

Presenter:

Iris Duarte, Texas A&M University

Burkholderia cepacia complex are bacterial invaders and colonizers of the lungs of patients with cystic fibrosis, an inherited chronic disease that affects one in 11,500 Hispanics. Isolates from this complex

demonstrate broad-spectrum antibiotic resistance *in vitro*. Many clinical isolates are resistant to most currently available antibiotics. The potential for biofilm formation by complex strains implies the threat of non-genotypic antibiotic resistance *in vivo*. Therefore, there is a substantial need to develop new therapies. The session discusses the *Burkholderia cepacia* complex and its relationship with cystic fibrosis among the U.S. Hispanic population. A discussion following the presentation will highlight alternative therapy to ameliorate infections.

Establishing Physiological and Biochemical Function of Selected Lipoxygenase Genes

Presenter:

Eli Borrego, Texas A&M University

Corn is a staple among the U.S. Hispanic population. Because of the demand for biofuels, corn has been directed towards ethanol production, raising the cost of food. Lipoxygenases (LOX) are enzymes that oxidize unsaturated fatty acids to yield oxylipins, which are metabolized to yield bioactive molecules for disease and stress responses. Corn has a large number of LOX genes. Investigating mutants will make it possible to establish their function in plant defense and development. In this informative session, participants will learn the facts about corn and its importance to the U.S. Hispanic community, as well as how this research will benefit Hispanics by providing a stable food supply and prices.

Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi and Glomalin-Related Soil Proteins Role in Carbon and Nitrogen Storage in Grassland-to-Woodland Succession

Presenter:

Martha Ariza, Texas A&M University

Glomalin is a hyphal glycoprotein produced by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi that is found to significantly contribute to soil organic matter and to play a key role in soil aggregation. However, little is known regarding the effects of land cover changes on glomalin storage in soil. To evaluate this, glomalin was quantified in soils along a grassland-to-woodland mesquite savanna in south Texas. Results show that woody plant cover significantly affects Glomalin-related soil protein concentrations. This session will highlight the role arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and its products play on ecosystem carbon and nitrogen dynamics. Land use change and climate change represent the most important ecological factors affecting the future of natural systems in south Texas where the Hispanic community is greatly represented. The change from grassland to woodland seems to be irreversible on time scales that are relevant to ecosystem management and as such this phenomenon is affecting the entire human population of south Texas. This session will stress the importance of this research to understand the dynamics that will determine the future of rangeland areas in Texas and how the Hispanic community will be affected.

Friday, March 6, 2009

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

The Path to Higher Education Begins in Elementary School: Lessons Learned

Presenter:

Maria Banda Roberts, University of Texas, Pan American

Strategies that work with Hispanic students in elementary school continue to work in higher education settings. This presentation highlights strategies used by classroom teachers of a predominantly Hispanic and low SES elementary school to help their students produce high academic achievement, and how these strategies were used in higher education classes to ensure student success. Appropriate for all educational levels, it emphasizes meeting the educational needs and styles of Hispanic low SES students in general.

Conference Stream: STEM

Teaching and Mentoring for Understanding in Math and Science: An HSI Model Program

Presenters:

Cherie McCollough, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Jose Giraldo, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
David Grise, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

The session will describe an NSF funded initiative in a Science Talent Expansion Program (STEP) that involves a mentoring/supplemental instruction program in math and science with trained undergraduate peer mentors. Participants will learn how to teach with deep understanding using the paradigm espoused by the National Research Council and results from scientific evidence in the neurophysiology of learning. Presenters will also describe a successful peer-mentoring program being used in a Hispanic Serving Institution in South Texas. Participants will leave with a workable lesson/professional development idea that is relevant and useful.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Emerging HSIs: An Opportunity to Increase Latina/o College Access and Equity

Presenters:

Erica Yamamura, Texas State University, San Marcos
Miguel Guajardo, Texas State University, San Marcos

At present, over fifty colleges are emerging HSIs, a few percentage points away from HSI status. To advance Latina/o college access and equity, we must examine this important and understudied context. This session will share research on emerging HSIs, including the national context and engage participants in an interactive discussion to examine and critique an emerging framework for building capacity around diversity and institutional change in higher education. Educators and policymakers that aim to increase access and equity for Latinas/os in a time of demographic shifts and institutional change will find this session useful.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Facilitating Hispanic Student Success in the Community College

Presenter:

Brent Cejda, University of Nebraska Lincoln

The community college has served as a pipeline for Hispanics in higher education. Yet Hispanic community college students have the lowest retention and transfer rates. A number of research studies have found that faculty-student engagement positively influences Hispanic students' academic success. This session presents findings from interviews with 41 community college faculty members, focusing on the techniques and strategies they incorporate to engage Hispanic students in the classroom, thus facilitating their academic success. Participants will receive a copy of the published report based on this project at the end of the session.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Overcoming Cultural Barriers in Hispanic Families: Developing Successful University/Family Partnerships to Promote College Access

Presenters:

Diana Melendez, University of Florida

Jacqueline Basallo, University of Florida

Hispanic cultural aspects inadvertently conflict with traditional school models as Hispanic parents place family above all else and may sacrifice their children's education for the perceived benefit to the family, (Noeth & Wimberly, 2004). A University/Family Partnership changes the language of deficiencies and distrust into a language of available assets and potential recognizing parental empowerment as a catalyst to student empowerment, success, and access to higher education. Participants will be able to use the information from this presentation to enhance their outreach/access strategies, enhance their parent engagement strategies, gain ideas for teacher/principal college-going culture support and gain information about activities that enhance college access for Hispanics.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Apples and Oranges or Apples and Apples?: Transformative Leadership Characteristics in HSIs

Presenters:

Yvonne Quintanilla, Northern Kentucky University

Paul Sale, University of Texas Pan American

The purpose of this pilot study was to examine transformation of higher education institutions to respond to 21st century context and to identify and describe characteristics unique to HSIs. CEO and chief academic officers in randomly selected HSI institutions classified by Carnegie as comprehensive or doctoral universities participated as respondents in this qualitative methodology. The content analysis will be presented in the context of respondent and institutional characteristics. The researchers will conduct an interactive discussion with conference participants on contemporary transformative leadership within today's HSIs of higher education.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Fostering Cross-Cultural Student Interactions in HSIs: A Leaders 21st Century Imperative

Presenters:

Eduardo Arellano, New Mexico State University

Kathryn Valentine, New Mexico State University

Monica Torres, New Mexico State University

A number of studies have shown that cross-cultural student interactions create a positive environment for students' academic and social development. However, until very recently no known studies have been exclusively focused on Hispanic-Serving Institutions. We will share results from our study, conducted at several HSIs, in order to offer new perspectives in this area and impart ways in which higher education leaders and faculty can foster cross-cultural student interactions.

Conference Stream: Immigration in Higher Education: Access and Equity

Transnationalism and Education Decision-Making Among Latino Immigrant Families: Building Theory in Northeastern Indiana

Presenters:

Lynda Nyce, Goshen College

Robert Reyes, Goshen College

Analysis of data collected in two semi-rural communities in Northeastern Indiana will be presented. The focus of the study is to explore how transnationalism impacts Latino immigrant families, their view of education, and the process of educational decision-making. Participants will learn about how migration and social dislocation informs the process of decision-making regarding educational outcomes. The session will benefit researchers and professionals interested in the intersection of macro social forces, educational decision-making, and identity development.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

AAHHE Outstanding Dissertation Competition 2nd Place Winner

Using the Social Ecological Model to Understand the Contestual Factors Associated with HIV Risk in Commercial Sex Workers at High Risk for Contracting HIV

Presenter: Sandra Larios, University of California San Francisco

In this session, Larios will present her study that examined the applicability of the Social Ecological model to understand HIV risk behavior in a sample of female sex workers (FSWs) participating in a safe sex counseling intervention in Tijuana, Mexico. This model proposes a framework incorporating individual, interpersonal, community, and policy factors to help understand influences on human behavior. Within this

framework we explored differential predictors of condom use by comparing women who work in bars to those who work on the street. Since FSWs work in different locations, understanding how these settings influence HIV risk is vital to develop HIV prevention interventions that will work for all women in the sex work industry. In bar FSWs, individual level factors (self-efficacy, condom use beliefs, alcohol use before sex) and institutional level factors (condom access) were directly and indirectly (via self-efficacy) related to condom use, whereas in street FSWs interpersonal level factors (social support, previous abuse, client power and drug use) were associated with condom use. These findings support the need for the tailoring of interventions for women based on location of their sex work. Having a theoretical framework that examines multi-level factors related to condom use strengthens our ability to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions.

Conference Stream: STEM

Seminal Plasma Proteins and mRNA as Markers for Fertility in Dairy and Meat Goats

Presenter:

Azure Faucette, Texas A&M University

Fertility of sires is a major factor limiting productivity and rate of genetic improvement in goats. This study provides tests that could be used as predictors of male fertility and measures of testis function. Tests could facilitate informed management decisions for individual sires. The goal of the study is to assess sires for in vivo fertility and sperm health. This will allow limited-resource Hispanic farmers and ranchers to predict the utility of their dairy and meat goat sires.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage through a question and answer period.

Efficacy of Acidic Calcium Sulfate + Clay or Diatomaceous Earth Litter Formulations against *Salmonella* in Broilers

Presenter:

Eryn Larrison, Texas A&M University

Salmonella, a bacterial food poison, can be prevalent in poultry litter, a source of contamination for newly arrived chicks at the poultry house. Two types of litter amendments were tested to determine effects on broiler growth, litter moisture, and efficacy against *Salmonella*. This research is important because the U.S. Hispanic community is a large poultry consumer and because of the large number of Hispanics that are employed in this industry across the country.

Following the presentation, discussions and clarifications about the relationship between this disease and the U.S. Hispanic community will be held.

Spatial Spread of a Cattle Herd as a Function of Period of Day, Season, and Activity in a Semi-Arid Rangeland in South Texas

Presenter:

Christopher Cheleuitte-Nieves, Texas A&M University

Livestock grazing exhibits uneven grazing distribution patterns, tending to select palatable forages close to water, causing soil erosion and degradation of vegetation, reduced economic returns, and increased feed

costs. This research evaluates the seasonal pattern of herd spread during daily activities. In cold days the herd stays closer together; in warm days it is more dispersed. We hypothesize that herds form subgroups during warm periods. Livestock management in south Texas intimately involves the Hispanic community. This session will explain and illustrate the details of this study and its relevance to the Hispanic ranching community, particularly of south Texas.

A Revision of the Genus *Sicydium*: Evolution, Conservation, and Education

Presenter:

Ryan Chabarria, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Amphidromous gobies in the genus *Sicydium* are distributed throughout Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa. Taxonomic confusion surrounding the species of *Sicydium* has been noted. Morphological and molecular data to determine the number and relationships of species within this genus were used in the study. The unique lifestyle of the species will offer insights into conservation in marine and freshwater environments. This research offers opportunities to Hispanic undergraduate students to learn research techniques in phylogenetics.

Friday, March 6, 2009

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Faculty Issues in Higher Education

Mentoring Matters: Making the Hidden Curriculum of Higher Ed Explicit

Presenters:

JoAnn Canales, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Jaime Chahin, Texas State University, San Marcos

Noe Ortega, University of Michigan

Michelle Espino, University of Georgia

At the core of successful academic development and professional career experiences is an understanding of the socialization process. Needed to make this implicit process explicit are two key elements: mentors and networks, i.e., mentors who care to share and networks that support one's values and interests. Presenters will share stories, practices, and resources proven to help students transitioning into and through their doctorate, junior faculty working towards promotion/tenure, and senior faculty serving as mentors. Participants will be invited to share similar stories and experiences as a way to highlight the themes of the session.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Bridging the Institutional Divide: Collaborative Instructional and Student Services Solutions for Retaining At Risk Students

Presenters:

Ricardo Diaz, Chaffey College
Monica Molina-Padilla, Chaffey College
Tim Arner, Chaffey College

Tackling an institution's toughest retention issues require its key elements to develop innovative solutions that all can embrace. The presenters will share how student services, instruction, administration, and institutional research collaborated to create retention programs for students on probation, under-prepared new students, and a computerized early alert program. A study completed on one of the programs and published by MDRC, a national educational research group, will be discussed. Attendees will each receive a copy of the MDRC study and samples of relevant documents and information.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Supporting Latino Undergraduates: From Community to College

Presenters:

Gabriela Rivera, University of Iowa
Carolyn Colvin, University of Iowa
Yewande Lewis, University of Iowa

Our purpose is to briefly describe a university-rural community (Iowa) partnership (consisting of campus programming and developing relationships with parents and high school teachers) as we address academic success/retention of Latino/a undergraduates. Participants working to prepare Latino students for higher education or those currently working with Latino undergraduates will benefit. We engage participants in discussions of best practices using handouts, visual aids addressing recruitment/retention of Latino/a undergraduate students in higher education particularly from rural communities.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Orientación Familiar: Planning a Successful Parent Orientation for Spanish Speaking Families

Presenters:

Ryan Alcantara, California State University Fullerton
Esiquio Uballe, California State University Fullerton

New Student and Parent Orientation programs are a very important tool in the transition and retention of all college students. In order to meet the needs of our Spanish speaking population, California State University, Fullerton conducts Orientación Familiar each summer, a parent orientation program conducted entirely in Spanish and focused on the needs of Latino parents. This presentation will review the elements of CSUF Orientación Familiar, describe the path to creating a successful program, and provide evaluation results from three implementation years. This session will be valuable to college administrators and faculty who are interested in starting a similar program on their own campus.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Exploring Latina/o Resiliency within the Higher Education Pipeline of South Texas

Presenters:

Fernando Valle, Texas Tech University

Emily Calderon Galdeano, University of Texas Pan American

Javier Cavazos, University of Texas Pan American

This panel focuses on the high school to doctoral experiences of South Texas Latina/o students. Emphasis will be given to student pathways as they navigate the higher education pipeline. Presenters will examine current reform issues of South Texas high schools, factors of resiliency experienced by high achieving undergraduate Latina/o students, and practices that have hindered and/or facilitated the success of Latina/o graduate students in Texas. This session engages scholars, students and administrators in a discussion to reflect on the findings and to add to the dialogue of resilience and ultimately closing the gaps in higher education.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Latinos and Academic Leadership: Is the Tide Starting to Turn?

Presenters:

Cristina Gonzalez, University of California, Davis

Kevin Johnson, University of California, Davis

Although there is still a dearth of Latinos in top academic leadership positions, there are some indications that the tide might be starting to turn. For example, within the last few months, the University of California system has hired half a dozen high-level administrators of Hispanic background. Latinos are taking notice and hoping that this is the beginning of a trend towards greater inclusiveness at the top. Drawing on our personal experiences, as well as on our research on diversity, we will discuss different paths to academic administration, making suggestions both for institutions of higher learning wishing to recruit Latino executives and for Hispanic individuals who seek to improve their chances of success in securing leadership positions.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Hispanics: America's Best Kept Secret

Presenter:

Stephen Balkaran, Central Connecticut State University

Hispanics have played and will continue to play a crucial role in defining America. Hispanics have contributed in every avenue of American life since the inception of this great country to present day. This paper looks at the ever important presence of Hispanics in America, whether economically, politically, and

socially. Now the nation's largest majority, Hispanics are now redefining America and carving their legacy into the American society. This session will look at the economic, social, and political contributions of Hispanics—as Hispanics define the 21st century in America.

Conference Stream: STEM

Evaluating a Research and Educational Opportunity in Antarctica for Minorities

Presenter:

Claudia Garcia, University of Texas El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso developed an innovative experience where minorities performed original research in Antarctica during the winter break. This presentation describes how this experience has helped the Hispanic subgroup pursue their professional and academic goals and how they have reached out or represented minorities in their field. Information presented can help faculty design research programs that are tailored to the interest of Hispanic university students.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

AAHHE Commissioned Scholarly Paper

Best Practices & Outcomes in Transfers to Universities

Presenters:

Patricia Pérez, California State University, Fullerton

Miguel Ceja, California State University, Northridge

The vast majority of research on Latina/o students in higher education focuses on the four-year college or university. However, approximately three-quarters of Latina/o students begin their postsecondary careers at a community college while only a select handful will transfer to a four-year institution and obtain their degree. While the scholarship is growing, less is known about Latina/o students and the critical transition from the community college to a four-year institution. Furthermore, it is critical to highlight the experiences of students as well as program practices that successfully facilitate students from the community college to a four-year institution in order to increase the number of Latina/o students that ultimately graduate with postsecondary degrees. Presenters will provide an overview of transfer rate issues, share best practices and outstanding models that facilitate student transfers, and identify directions for future research and policy to aid in transfer rate success.

Conference Stream: STEM

Spatial and Ecological Response of Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) to Prescribed Fire in South Texas

Presenter:

Jennifer Korn, Texas A&M University, Kingsville

Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are a key predator in South Texas. Changing land practices have removed fire from the natural cycle, while urbanization and agricultural lands have increased. Research will measure the spatial and ecological response of bobcats to prescribed fire in the predominantly Hispanic region of South Texas. Live trapping and radio collaring of bobcats and the calculation of population indices of key prey items (rodents and lagomorphs) pre- and post-burn will be used.

Brown Tree Snake Invasion Risk Assessment for the Continental United States

Presenter:

Samantha Wisniewski, Texas A&M University, Kingsville

Brown tree snakes (*Boiga irregularis*) are mildly venomous, rear-fanged constrictors native to Australasia. They have been found in Hawaii, Texas, Alaska, and Oklahoma. It is important to identify and inform the areas in the U.S. that are at risk. This research will point out high-risk areas in communities with high Hispanic populations. The North America Brown Tree Snake Control Team (NABTSCT) will place these locations on their Web site for public awareness, education, and training. Audience participation will be encouraged through discussions about identification of the snakes and how to reach the Hispanic community with information about this situation.

Wild About Turkeys: Workshops Educating Landowners in Texas

Presenter:

Megan Dominguez-Brazil, Texas A&M University, Kingsville

Wild turkeys are a valuable game bird for Texas landowners, but information on management, life history, and behavior of wild turkeys is not readily accessible. This research will report the outcomes and findings from four two-day workshops in Texas where 20 percent of the participants were Hispanic. The research will have implications for future workshops in South Texas and other areas across the state where there is a predominance of Hispanic landowners and hunters.

Dynamics of Bird Migration in South Texas

Presenter:

Suzanne Contreras, Texas A&M University, Kingsville

South Texas provides important stopover habitat for millions of migrating birds each year, a significant ecotourism opportunity for the predominant Hispanic population. Proposed coastal development could significantly affect this opportunity. This research is a three-year study to assess the temporal and spatial patterns of bird migration in South Texas. Using avian radar systems to collect site-specific data on chronology, magnitude, and dispersion, baseline data will provide needed information to monitor, manage, and conserve migratory birds. Audience participation will be elicited through open-ended questions intended to heighten awareness and appreciate the potential positive impact that can be derived from this research.

Saturday, March 7, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Faculty Issues in Higher Education

Future Teachers' Perceptions of Barriers that Prevent Hispanic Students from Enrolling in Higher Education

Presenters:

Javier Cavazos, Jr., University of Texas, Pan American

Maria Hinojosa, University of Texas, Pan American

John Robert Iruegas, University of Texas, Pan American

A total of 27 future teachers responded to the following question: "What are some of the barriers that prevent Hispanic students from enrolling in post-secondary education (i.e., going to college)?" Findings indicate two possible factors contributing to this: the school system and the student and his or her parents. A discussion regarding the importance of these findings will be presented, and recommendations for Teacher Education programs will be offered.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Strategies for Managing Diverse Classrooms

Presenter:

Criselda Garcia, University of Texas, Pan American

Participants will learn strategies for preparing Latino/a pre-service teachers to manage classrooms in complex learning environments characterized by predominately minority, low-income schools. Too often these learning environments by definition alone perpetrate problems that require teachers to have a deeper understanding of successfully promoting positive learning environments and effective means of managing student behavior. A description of the design of a series of culturally-relevant mini-case studies using Blackboard will be presented. The session will benefit those in teacher education programs serving high minority regions.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Entre Colegas: Navigating the Latina/o Graduate Student Pipeline

Presenter:

Ofelia Huidor, University of California, Los Angeles;

Irene Vega, University of California, Irvine

Luis Ramirez, University of California, Davis



American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, Inc.

This interactive session highlights experiences regarding the graduate pipeline for Latina/os students. The panelists will share the most salient aspects of their experiences and lessons learned with the intent of supporting the development of Latina/o faculty and senior administrators. The session will cover topics such as academic and family issues affecting grad students, navigating grad school, and preparing for life after grad school. Practitioners, students, and researches will benefit from this workshop.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Importance of Noncognitive Factors in Higher Education: Lessons Learned from Project 1000

Presenters:

Patrick Kyllonen, Educational Testing Service
Michael Sullivan, Arizona State University

Success in graduate school is not entirely determined by test scores and grades. Important qualities such as resilience, teamwork, professionalism, planning and organization abilities, and others are critical. This presentation will review findings on the importance of these qualities in predicting success in graduate school based on a three-year Project 1000 pilot study. Next year the system will be launched as part of the GRE.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

The University's Latina First Lady: The Power Behind the University President

Presenter:

Juanita Gamez Vargas, University of Oklahoma

This session will discuss what you need to know before you apply for a university president's position especially when it comes to family. The contents of this session is based on research results about a under-reported population, Latina First Ladies, and their experiences in performing the university's role expectations, maintaining a professional career, taking care of family and older relatives, and living in a fishbowl. The session will cover what you need to negotiate for the First Lady or First Gent. Case studies based on issues of discrimination that Latina First Ladies have experienced will be discussed.

Conference Stream: STEM

Solutions for Increasing Latina/o Participation and Success in STEM Programs: Before and During College

Presenters:

Philip Vasquez, Iowa State University
Ana Torres-Ayala, University of South Florida
David Romero, Iowa State University

The need for increased participation and degree attainment in STEM fields of study among Latinas/os remains. In this highly interactive session, the presenters will discuss the findings of their study and focus on successful solutions to include family and college administrators in the persistence of Latinas/os enrolled in STEM programs. Pre-college and college factors (academic and social) that can impact success of Latinas/os in STEM fields of study will be discussed. An interactive group discussion will engage participants to explore the problems they face at their institutions and contemplate ideas that can lead to positive action directed toward success among Latinas/os in STEM.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Identifying Dispositions Among Teachers Working with Hispanic Students

Presenters:

Alfredo Benavides, Texas Tech University

Eva Midobuche, Texas Tech University

William de Rasez de Guyenne, Texas Tech University

There is limited literature on dispositions, attitudes, and perceptions of teachers and their role in determining success for Hispanic students. Many colleges of education admit candidates that are many times academically sound but are often lacking in the dispositions that are acceptable as they concern Hispanic students. This session will discuss the results of the first phase of a three-year study directly targeting the dispositions needed by teachers of Hispanic students—particularly English language learners. In this interactive session, presenters will provide examples of linguistic and cultural scenarios directly involving dispositions in educational environments. Session participants will have the chance to participate by discussing their reactions to the scenarios presented.

Conference Stream: Immigration in Higher Education: Access and Equity

AAHHE Commissioned Scholarly Paper

Citizenship, College Degrees, and Occupational Outcomes: A Comparison of Immigrant and Non-immigrant Latinos

Presenter:

Stella Flores, Vanderbilt University

The relationship between educational attainment and occupational outcomes has been well documented in the United States. Recent research documents inequities in earnings of individuals with similar levels of educational attainment by gender and to a certain extent, by race and ethnicity. To date, however, less research has been conducted on occupational outcomes, via choice, wages, and prestige level, by citizenship status of degreed foreign-born non-citizen Latinos in comparison to their U.S. born Latino counterparts with similar levels of educational attainment.

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, this paper investigates the incorporation of highly degreed immigrants into the Texas and California labor market and compares occupational outcomes to their U.S. citizen Latino counterparts. Recommendations regarding the connection

between educational attainment and labor force options for the Latino-origin immigrant and non-immigrant population are provided.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

AAHHE Outstanding Dissertation Competition 3rd Place Co-Winner

"I'm Just a Guy": Mexican American College Students' Constructions of Masculinity and Sexual Health Beliefs

Presenter:

Tiffany Schiffner, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

In this session, Schiffner will share her research project, which was designed to further understand Latino college students' sexual health beliefs about the human papillomavirus (HPV). One study of the sexual health beliefs of Latina college students (Schiffner & Buki, 2006) found that Latinas make sexual health decisions in the context of relationships where male partners play an influential role. The current investigation sought to directly address the context in which Latina women may acquire HPV by examining the sexual health beliefs of Latino (male) college students.

Participants in the study reported that cultural taboos about sexual health hindered their knowledge acquisition about HPV and promoted misconceptions about cervical cancer. They reported the importance of men's advocacy for women's health in the context of a committed relationship. Their narratives demonstrated complexity in the ways issues of racial/ethnic identity, notions of machismo, and gender socialization are related. This study highlights the importance of incorporating cultural considerations when designing research and educational health programs targeting Latina/o college students.

Conference Stream: STEM

Evaluation of Surface Hydrological Connectivity Between a Forested Coastal Wetland and Regulated Waters of the United States

Presenter:

Dex Dean, Texas A&M University

Many Hispanics reside in the Texas gulf coast where flooding is a major concern. Rapid urbanization, industry, and agriculture put enormous developmental pressure on coastal forested wetlands. Some wetlands are protected by federal regulations to maintain water quality and flood control. Federal protection depends on proof of a hydrologic connection to federally protected waters. This study will determine if a hydrologic connection exists in a target area and serve as a model for other areas. The session will highlight the importance of documenting hydrological connections between flood prone areas and federally protected waterways to provide good water quality and food protection to areas in which many Hispanics reside in Texas.

Supplying for the Future: Can We Increase Groundwater Supply through Vegetation Manipulation?

Presenter:

Roberto Bazan, Texas A&M University

Groundwater recharge rates have direct relevance for management of the Edwards Aquifer, the main source of fresh water for the predominantly Hispanic population of San Antonio. Brush management is believed to augment water yields. Many believe removing juniper will increase available water. Decreasing stream flow has coincided with increased juniper density. Preliminary results reveal that the dynamics of recharge are affected initially following removal of juniper; removing juniper decreases recharge but surface runoff is increased. The session will show how the Hispanic community is expected to benefit from this research because of its potential for enabling access to good quality and sustained supplies of water.

Nutrient Removal in Wastewater Using *nirS* and *nirK* Genes Under Aerobic Conditions

Presenter:

John Tagle, Texas A&M University

A major problem affecting water quality is excess nutrients, which pose a risk to the environment and costly to remediate. Sources of contamination include agricultural runoff and effluent from treated wastewater. This research will find ways for reducing nutrients reaching water resources. Molecular genetics tools will be used to increase nutrient uptake from effluent discharged into the Rio Grande River, impacting positively on the Hispanic community that depends on this water source for their livelihood. This informative session will describe the prevailing wastewater situation and outline the research that will be conducted, which holds tremendous potential for positively impacting the quality of life of U.S. Hispanics who reside along the Rio Grande River.

Heavy Metal Adsorption by Activated/Sulfonated Char

Presenter:

Thomas Abia II, Texas A&M University

Only few heavy metals discharged in wastewater are currently under federal regulation. Despite their hazard to human consumption, little progress has been made to develop feasible, sustainable technology that can benefit impacted communities and industrial facilities. This research emphasizes the need to reduce negative health impacts to residential communities while emphasizing economical and environmental sustainability, particularly Hispanic communities that lack the financial and political support to address environmental concerns and are vulnerable to groundwater contamination. Audience participants will be engaged in a conversation to explore ways for moving this agenda forward.

Saturday, March 7, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Conference Stream: STEM

Effect of Feed Rate on Food Consumption by the Sea Urchin, *Lytechinus variegatus*

Presenter:

Adrian Bandolon, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Increased demand for sea urchin roe has led to diminished wild stocks. To alleviate fishing pressure, aquaculture production should be considered. Successful culture of sea urchins requires in-depth understanding of nutritional requirements. This study will determine optimal feed rates for the sea urchin *Lytechinus variegatus*. This determination will contribute in the development of viable sea urchin culture technologies in the Gulf of Mexico, possibly having great economic impact on the predominantly Hispanic community.

Oysters as Nekton Habitat in Estuarine Ecosystems

Presenter:

Isis Dominguez, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Oyster reefs were once features of many coasts and habitat for many estuarine species, providing refuge from predators and reducing mortality of juvenile fish. Few studies have been conducted to assess the potential for oyster reefs as valuable habitats for recreational fishing. Recreational fishing is an important aspect to Hispanics of the Texas gulf coast. This research will characterize the macrofaunal community of intertidal oyster reefs and begin to examine functional habitat relationships in a gulf coast estuary.

Conservation Genetics of *Hexaplex nigritus*, an Important Gastropod Fishery in the Upper Gulf of California

Presenter:

Carlos Santamaria, Texas A&M University

The black murex snail, *Hexaplex nigritus*, is a benthic predator. Intensive fishing in the Upper Gulf has led to a sharp decrease in population and resulted in extinction of intertidal populations. It exhibits reproductive site fidelity, suggesting limited gene flow between geographically isolated populations. Results indicate that the population of an island is different from other populations, which supports community based efforts to reduce fishing of this snail at this island. This session will highlight the impact of mismanaged fishing on the population of this snail and the long term potential impact on the economic well-being of fishermen, many of whom are Hispanic.

Changes in Diets of Sunfishes and Associated Macroinvertebrates Pre- and Post- introduction of Grass Carp for Hydrilla Control in Lake Conroe, Texas

Presenter:

Matthew Sifuentes, Texas A&M University

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is an invasive plant that grows quickly and spreads across aquatic habitats becoming a problem for recreational users. To help control this species, Grass carp (*Ctenopharynogodon idella*) were introduced as a biological control method, but they can influence other fish populations. This project will evaluate changes in the diets of common sunfishes and their macroinvertebrate prey species in

Lake Conroe, which serves as a recreational spot for an increasing Texas Hispanic population. This session will offer a discussion about the importance of the involvement of non-traditional user involvement within the Hispanic community in fishing and other outdoor recreational activities to highlight the importance of controlling hydrilla. Participants will be encouraged to engage in this discussion that will focus on how better to reach Hispanic audiences.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

Increasing Latina/o Student Success in Community Colleges: Data-Driven Approaches

Presenters:

Kenneth Gonzalez, University of San Diego
Rigo Rincones, MDC, Inc.

The vast majority of Latinas/os in higher education begin their educational careers in community colleges. The success rates of Latinas/os in community colleges, however, remain extremely low. This session will provide a data-driven approach to increase the success of Latinas/os in community colleges. Using case studies from the national initiative Achieving the Dream, session participants will learn of specific strategies to engage all faculty, staff, and students in a student success initiative; plan, implement, and evaluate data-driven interventions; and integrate such efforts into preparations for regional accreditation.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

The Latina del Futuro Is Now

Presenters:

Marcela Muniz, Stanford
Jessica Ranero, Iowa State University
Michelle Espino, University of Georgia
Irene Vega, University of California, Irvine

The goal of this session is to create a space for dialogue among and about Latinas from diverse backgrounds and at various stages of their educational and professional careers. Topics addressed challenge traditional notions of women within the Latina/o culture. The facilitators will share their testimonios, highlighting the most poignant aspects of their academic, professional, and personal experiences, which will then transition to a larger group dialogue. This interactive workshop seeks to empower, affirm, and give guidance to mujeres and provide a forum to share their own experiences.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Improving Collaboration in Higher Education: A Step-by-Step Model for Collaborative Initiatives

Presenter:

Liliana Rodriguez-Campos, University of South Florida

This workshop provides effective tools to help master the mechanics of collaboration. The presenter explains a model for collaborative initiatives and shares her experiences after implementing it in higher education. Participants will learn to review the factors that influence the success of collaboration; capitalize on others' strengths to encourage feedback, clarify interpretations, and resolve misunderstandings; and select appropriate methods and/or tools in order to respond to and minimize resistance to collaborative initiatives. Through a highly interactive discussion, demonstration, and hands-on exercises, this workshop blends theoretical grounding with the application of the Model for Collaborative Initiatives (MCI) to real-life experiences in higher education. Participants will gain a deep understanding of how to develop collaborative relationships (e.g., when there is a lack of compromise).

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

Principals Matter: The Role of Principals in Teacher Retention

Presenters:

Veronica Estrada, University of Texas, Pan American

Velma Menchaca, University of Texas, Pan American

Twenty percent of teachers leave the profession within the first three years of teaching, and approximately one third leave the profession within five years, with higher rates for those who are unprepared. Results of a study of The Texas Beginning Educator Support System adopted in schools across the state of Texas will be presented. This session benefits principal educators as it focuses on the principal's role in Hispanic/Latino schools offering possible teacher attrition solutions.

Conference Stream: STEM

Review of Studies of Hispanics in Engineering

Presenter:

Noemi Mendoza-Diaz, Purdue University

In this session, a panoramic of studies of Hispanics in Engineering will be presented. Hispanics constitute one of the ethnic groups with least representation in the Engineering fields. Few studies have focused their attention in this group, therefore there is a need to understand and assess aspects where more attention and research should be provided. This session will be beneficial for those interested in Hispanics advancing in STEM fields at all levels of education.

Conference Stream: STEM

AAHHE Commissioned Scholarly Paper

Healthcare and Hispanics

Presenter:

Rafael Perez-Escamilla, University of Connecticut

One out of four Hispanics living in the U.S. does not have health insurance. Among those who can access healthcare, there are serious cultural and system constraints that prevent Hispanics from benefiting from primary, secondary, and tertiary care. Perez-Escamilla, the principal investigator and director of the Connecticut NIH Export Center for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos, provides a unique perspective on this important topic. During the session, he will engage participants to identify solutions to address the challenges that lay ahead to improve the system.

Conference Stream: Hispanic Leadership Issues in Higher Education

AAHHE Outstanding Dissertation Competition 1st Place Winner

Yalálag Is No Longer Just Yalálag: Circulating Conflict and Contesting Community in a Zapotec Transnational Circuit

Presenter:

Lourdes Gutierrez Nájera, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

This dissertation examines the ways in which transnational migration between the Zapotec town of Yalálag, Mexico and Los Angeles, California alters the social and political bases of localized conflict. Through a case study of political conflict in Yalálag that erupted in January 1998, Nájera examines the conflict's roots and the turmoil that eventually enveloped the transnational community at large. Contrary to current studies of violence that provide explanations emphasizing localized contests over power, Nájera suggests that this conflict cannot be properly understood without reference to transnational migration. She argue that transnational migration reconfigures the basis of intra-village conflict by relocating it outside systems of local power; that is, away from political bosses and towards competing visions of progress and development. This vision of conflict highlights structural forces including migration and state processes that shape Yalaltecan conflict. As Yalaltecan disputed the future of Yalálag's economic and social development, this conflict ultimately provided a social space where contested notions of community membership and belonging could be negotiated.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

De Colores: Latina Stories of Access and Success

Presenters:

Linda Prieto, University of Texas at Austin

Cindy Cruz, Univeristy of California, Santa Cruz

Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Pennsylvania State University

Linda Guardia Jackson, University of Texas at Austin

Wanda Alarcon, Binghamton University

Sofia Villenas, Cornell University

A circle of six Chicana/Boricua scholars will narrate and perform their *testimonios*. Their experiences navigating borders and challenging norms of family, community, school, and culture are centered to engage the audience in representing their own voices. This session particularly benefits those interested in questioning the social, cultural, economic, and educational constraints experienced by Latina scholars in spite of their academic achievements. Participants will discuss the pedagogical implications of using *testimonio* from *mujeres* who succeed against the odds.

Conference Stream: Transition: Pre-K, Community College to the Doctorate and Beyond

A Successful Dual Language Program Beyond K-12

Presenters:

Ricardo Ortolanza, Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez Florida

Luis Zayas, Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez Florida

Luis Burgos, Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez Florida

This presentation will focus on the implementation of an accelerated discipline-based dual language immersion program at the adult level. All currently known dual language bilingual programs in the United States are at the elementary level and engage students for only four to six years. Key elements of the program will be shared as a means to offer Hispanics the opportunity to reach a professional career as bilingual professionals, including data that supports the success of such program. Participants will also learn strategies necessary to facilitate learning in an adult accelerated learning program in a discipline-based dual language environment.