

Commentary to Education Plenary

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Facts

- 15% of population is Latino/a
- Among Latino/as 25 yrs and older...
 - 57% graduate from high school
 - 11.1% graduate from college
- Educational disparities affect occupational opportunities and income (annually and lifetime)

State of Research with Latino/as

- Analysis of Racial/Ethnic Minority Career Related Publications (Flores, Berkel, Nilsson et al., 2006)
 - 4.2% of all articles published across 6 counseling and career journals focused on CD of REM's
 - Among the REM articles, 9% (n=29) addressed Latino/a career concerns
- Strong need for additional research on Latino/as career and educational development

What Do We Know from Research?

- Latino students have high educational aspirations
- Latino parents want their children to succeed academically
- Latino students' expectations are lower than their aspirations
- Latino students face a number of barriers that prevent them from achieving their educational goals
- Anglo acculturation is positively related to higher educational goals (Mexican acculturation had no effect)

Barriers

- Financial resources
- Lack of role models/mentors
- Self-doubt, low self-efficacy
- Academic capital
- Cultural conflicts
- Educational climate
- Experiences with discrimination (racial, gender)

Strengths of OSU Extension Program Practices

- Critical developmental stage
- Involve families and parents in efforts
- Makes community accountable for Latino youths' success: it takes a village
- Focus on college/workforce preparation
- Contextualized interventions
- Requires teachers to demonstrate cultural competence
- Makes programs accessible to Latino students & families

Considerations for Next Steps

- Need more **collaboration** among practitioners and researchers
 - Practitioners: are interventions effective?
 - Researchers: are models/theories applicable?
- In addition to empowering students, we need to focus on **changing inequitable systems** that contribute to the educational, economic disparities
 - K-12 school system
 - Higher education
 - Educational policies

thank you!

