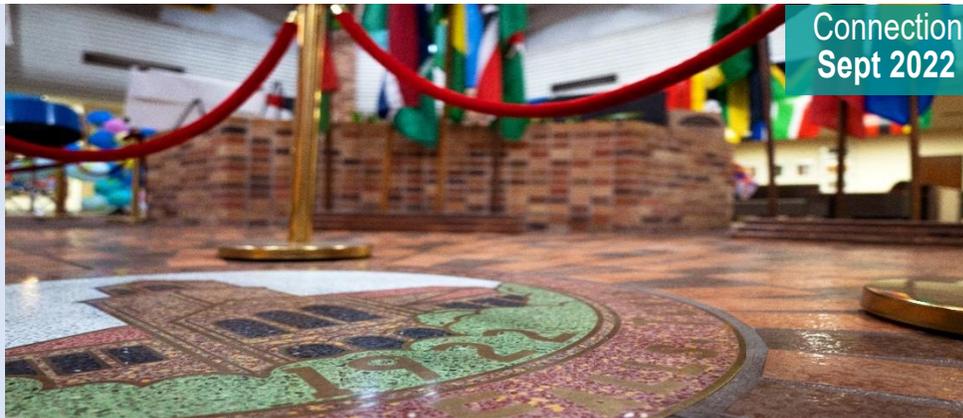


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A Monthly Insight of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion @MSU Texas



Connection



current topics >>>

MOSAIC Poll

The MOSAIC office focuses on valuing diversity and building community by focusing on diversity, equity, & inclusion.

We strive to provide resources for our MSU Texas faculty and staff.

To better serve the community, we want to ask if there are any resources that our community needs. These resources will be located on the MOSAIC website.

Click [here](#) so we can start creating these resources.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu

Latinx Students in College

Challenges and strategies for helping Latinx students in College.

Challenges

Being a first-generation college student/lack of college-going culture

One of the contributors to the lack of a college-going culture among Latino youth

is that half of parents of Latino undergrads have never enrolled in or graduated from college (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2011). The result is that first-generation Latino college students often cannot rely on their parents or other family members to assist with the selection/admission process or provide adequate support during college. Although the vast majority of Latino families value a college education parents may be hesitant to aggressively advocate for their children and are unaware of the necessity for rigor and college preparatory coursework in high school. Many families also lack knowledge of the availability of financial aid and may feel college is impossible to afford—only 44% of Latino parents know about the Pell Grant, for instance (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2012). Culturally, Latinos could be quite hesitant about utilizing loans—even for college.

It is crucial to take into account the many deep cultural and emotional factors at play in the process.

Speaking English as a second language

In some parts of the country with the fastest-growing Latino populations, almost 35% of families have limited English proficiency (Gaitan, 2013).

English as a second language can be quite an obstacle for students. These challenges related to language extend to parents, as they translate to a lack of knowledge & understanding of the education system & importance of their child attending & graduating from college.

Being perceived as academically inferior

Racial and ethnic stereotypes as well as lower academic expectations are significant hurdles for Latinos aspiring for higher education. Latino students may be designated as “non-college bound” from the outset and may not take advantage of college preparatory courses that are available in high school.

Lacking guidance from parents, role models, mentors, counselors

Many Latinx students lack guidance from parents or counselors when they are undertaking the college selection and application process. *...cont. on last page.*

Learn together >>>

Critical Conversations & Upcoming Trainings

Wednesday, October 5

Pronoun Fluency Training (in-person and virtual)

Do you have questions about non-binary pronouns? Are you unsure how to talk to new people without gendering them? This training provides faculty and staff an opportunity to improve their knowledge or usage of pronouns, and to develop familiarity with pronoun usage and strategies of address. We will also share best practices of this information in syllabi and classroom settings. All genders and identities are welcome.

10:30am, CSC Wichita

[Click here to register for the 2pm training](#)

Wednesday, October 12

Critical Conversations: Engaging with Gen Z (virtual) 2pm

Have you noticed the lack of participation in your classrooms or leadership events? This conversation will focus on the challenges and opportunities that higher education is facing with this new generation. This conversation is based on the book, [Generation Z LEADS](#).

[Click here to register for the conversation.](#)



Students gather to watch the Zavala International Dancers at the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, Viva MSU.

Latinx Opportunities

At MSU Texas

Somos Familia: A mentoring program comprised of 25 MSU Texas students (5 student leaders in a mentorship role, 20 economically disadvantaged first-year students), with weekly mentor/mentee meetings. For more information, email ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu.

[Undocumented/DACA resources](#)

[First-Generation Resources](#)

Student Organizations: Organizations of Hispanic Students, Spanish Club, Catholic Campus Center

In Wichita Falls

Community Organizations:

[Zavala Hispanic Cultural Initiative](#)

[Mexican American Veterans Association \(MAVA\)](#)

[Potencia Projects](#)

Take Action >>>

Upcoming Events

September 12

Sister 2 Sister
Barbershop talks
6pm, Moffett Library

September 14

Portrait Party
6pm, CSC Wichita

September 16

VIVA MSU
6pm, Legacy Courtyard

September 22

International Week of the Deaf Booth
9am, CSC Food Court
Charting a path to graduate school...successfully!
5pm, CSC Kiowa

September 24

Family Networking Mixer
11:30am-2:30pm, CSC Atrium

September 26

Sister 2 Sister
Barbershop talks
6pm, Moffett Library

September 26

Sister 2 Sister
Barbershop talks
6pm, Moffett Library

September 28

FirstGen Faculty Lecture Series:
Dr. Mike Rattanasengchanh
6pm, Legacy MPR

September 30

MOCA/WISE Open Mic Night
6pm, TBA

October 1

Si se puede Conference
10am, Dillard

October 4

Pronoun Fluency Training

October 6

Once Upon a Crime:
Costume Party
7pm, CSC Wichita

For more MSU Texas events & information, visit MustangsLink.

Challenges and strategies for helping Latinx students in College Cont.

It also may be difficult to find inspirational role models and mentors (particularly Latinos) who have attended college because of the college completion gap that persists. Attending overcrowded and under-resourced schools compounds this situation—as overloaded school counselors are unable to meet the needs of their students.

Being constrained by family pressures. Latinx parents tend to be protective parents. They may not be used to giving their children as much independence as their peers and may have strong opinions that could complicate and even hinder college attainment. For example, many Latino parents prefer their children to live at home or not attend college far away from home. Parents may also fear they may “lose” their children to another culture or that they will not come back home after college. In practical terms, parents may not want their children to attend college because they want or need them to work and support the family financially. Deferring college can be a missed opportunity for these students and almost a surety that they will live out their lives in the same socio-economic conditions as their parents. Parent engagement is crucial, and therefore providing this knowledge in Spanish is helpful if language is a barrier for parents. Also, rather than simply imparting this information, it is crucial to take into account the many deep cultural and emotional factors at play in the process.

Strategies

Educating Latino students about the availability and accessibility of financial aid and scholarships as well as the opportunity for paid internships. Many Latinx families are unaware of the availability of financial aid or scholarships. A great starting point is a searchable database (NextOpp) provided by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (www.chcinextopp.net). To address the common necessity of offsetting college expenses, and at times, contributing to the family financially, Latino students living away from home can be connected with paid internship opportunities. The INROADS program (www.inroads.org/students) offers paid corporate multi-year summer internships with the same company. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) National Internship Program also offers paid internships through various corporations and the federal government (www.hacu.net/hacu/HNIP.asp).

Balancing family pressure and living away from home. For many Latino students, college offers the opportunity of geographic and emotional freedom. Quite often, Latino students attending college away from home face resistance from their families. One suggestion to alleviate parental fears is for the student to explain their daily actions in college. These details include the classes they are taking, their friends, hours they study, the time they spend in clubs or volunteer activities and how free time is spent (Dabbah, 2009). In addition, parents can voice their concerns with college administrators to be assured of their child’s safety. The student can also make a plan with their parents regarding specifically when they will come home for visits. This visit plan, along with online and phone communication, will reduce parental stress and provide reassurance that the student is “not drifting away from [the] family” (Dabbah, 2009). Students studying away from home (especially first-generation students) should convey to their parents the notion of being “trailblazers”—they are doing something wonderful, new and different than what the family has experienced—all for a better future. Finally, it is important for students living away from home to develop their support system at college through a faculty or residential advisor or friends that have similar interests. If the student feels quite isolated and cannot seem to fend off their sadness, they need to know that despite the stigma that many Latinos associate with therapy, it is beneficial and necessary to seek help when needed.

Assisting students with finding mentors. Connecting with a mentor or mentors may be instrumental to the successful college graduation of Latino students as they can assist with their educational—and even professional—journey after college. Mentors can be professors, alumni or professionals in a field of interest.

For more information, visit [Independent Educational Consultants Association](#).



Bias Incident Report

Have you or anyone you know experienced bias based on their perceived race, gender and/or sexual identity?

MSU does not want you to experience this bias! If you feel you have experienced a bias incident at MSU, [please report using the online reporting form](#).

Contact MOSAIC

Located in the
Clark Student Center,
CSC 194.
940-397-4500
mosaic@msutexas.edu

Stay in touch!



[@msutx_mosaic](#)

Next Connection

>>> [LGBTQ+ resources](#)

>>> [Upcoming trainings](#)



MOSAIC
Cross Cultural Center

