Excelencia in Education White Paper Provides Latino Approach to Reimaging Financial Aid

Excelencia in Education also released a white paper as part of the Gates Foundation reimaging aid project titled "Using A Latino Lens To Reimagine Aid Design And Delivery." Excelencia states its research demonstrates that Latinos are more likely to be post-traditional students who, for example, enroll at a community college, take courses part-time while working, study online and at multiple institutions, live off-campus with family, and take more than four years to complete a degree. The group makes the case that federal financial aid policy should be reimagined and redesigned based on the following principles:

• Efficiency in serving traditional students today can limit effectiveness in serving a majority of students tomorrow.

• Prioritize access for low-income students with financial aid and compliment with incentives to complete.

• Effective financial aid policy requires more than funding.

• Transparency of information on federal financial aid requires strategic outreach and engagement for maximum effectiveness.