LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: MISSOURI

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 6.2 million degrees by 2030.1

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2030, the U.S. can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in the U.S.

### FAST FACTS

**STATE RANKING:**
Missouri had the 30th largest Latino population in the U.S.

**K-12 POPULATION:**
In Missouri, 7% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

**POPULATION:**
In Missouri, 4% of the population was Latino.³

**MEDIAN AGE:**
The median age of Hispanics in Missouri was 26, compared to 41 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

**ENROLLMENT:**
In Missouri, 21% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to 23% of White non-Hispanics.⁵

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:
In Missouri, 30% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 39% of White non-Hispanic adults.⁶

Hispanic Adults = 3.0 of 10

White Adults = 3.9 of 10

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### ENROLLING: Top 5 Institutions (Hispanic Undergraduates) in Missouri, Fall 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
<th>Hispanic Total</th>
<th>% Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Park University</td>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 4-year</td>
<td>9,569</td>
<td>1,943</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City</td>
<td>Public, 2-year</td>
<td>16,351</td>
<td>1,827</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Columbia College</td>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 4-year</td>
<td>11,416</td>
<td>1,087</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 University of Missouri-Columbia</td>
<td>Public, 4-year</td>
<td>22,484</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 University of Missouri-Kansas City</td>
<td>Public, 4-year</td>
<td>11,319</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Missouri, 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
<th>Hispanic Total</th>
<th>% Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City</td>
<td>Public, 2-year</td>
<td>1,944</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Columbia College</td>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 4-year</td>
<td>1,433</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Ozarks Technical Community College</td>
<td>Public, 2-year</td>
<td>1,707</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Crowder College</td>
<td>Public, 2-year</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Saint Louis Community College</td>
<td>Public, 2-year</td>
<td>1,938</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Missouri, 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
<th>Hispanic Total</th>
<th>% Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Park University</td>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 4-year</td>
<td>1,931</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Columbia College</td>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 4-year</td>
<td>2,211</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 University of Missouri-Columbia</td>
<td>Public, 4-year</td>
<td>6,036</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 University of Missouri-Kansas City</td>
<td>Public, 4-year</td>
<td>1,717</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Missouri State University-Springfield</td>
<td>Public, 4-year</td>
<td>3,339</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: We use the terms Latino and Hispanic interchangeably in this factsheet.

Missouri Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 4 measures shown below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity gap in degree attainment between Hispanic and White non-Hispanic cohorts in a single year.

Graduation Rate — Total percentage of students who graduated within 150% of normal time for first-time, full-time freshmen. This incorporates students that graduated in 3 years at two-year institutions, or in 6 years at four-year institutions.

Transferred to Another Institution — Percentage of students that transferred to another institution. (Only incorporates students who have transferred out from an institution and did not complete a degree.)

Still Enrolled — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of programs across the country with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of Excelencia.

The Waukegan to College (W2C) Program at Waukegan High School (WHS) in Illinois was a 2017 Example of Excelencia. W2C is a community-based organization that creates brighter futures for students, families and the community by preparing students to enroll in and graduate from college. W2C provides many services to help students and families prepare for college including counseling and workshops, tutoring, SAT/ACT prep, math skill building with Khan Academy, Read to Achieve, college visits, Expanding Horizons, and one-on-one help with admissions applications and essays. As of 2017, 92% of W2C students were Latino. All of W2C students matriculated to college compared to 52% of students not in the program. The first-year retention rate for students in W2C was 78%.

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access Excelencia in Education’s Growing What Works database at http://www.edexcelencia.org/growing-what-works

4 Median Age: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.
6 Degree Attainment: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.
Nationally, Latino student enrollment and degree completion continues to increase. However, different patterns emerge within each state. For example, Latinos in Missouri graduate at a higher rate at four-year institutions than Latinos nationally. However, Missouri lags in Latinos’ degree completion and overall degree attainment.

Population overview
Missouri has a young and small Latino population. About four percent of the overall population is Latino, and seven percent of students in K-12 education are Latino. The median age for Latinos is 26, compared to 41 for White non-Hispanics. As more Latino students enter higher education, policymakers at the state and institutional level should keep in mind that they’ll have an increasingly young, Latino, first-generation population.

Where Missouri leads
Significantly more Latinos are enrolling in four-year institutions in Missouri. Four of the top five institutions enrolling Latinos in Missouri are four-year institutions. Additionally, the top five institutions enrolling Latino students in Missouri are also among the top five awarding associate degrees and bachelor’s degrees. At four-year institutions, Latinos are graduating at a higher rate than Latinos nationally—54 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

Where Missouri lags
In Missouri, equity gaps exist in degree attainment overall among adults. Many Latino students in Missouri who begin higher education do not complete. Statewide, only 30 percent of Latino adults have an associate degree or higher, compared to 39 percent of White non-Hispanic adults. Moreover, at two-year institutions, Latino students are graduating at a rate lower than their White peers—26 percent and 32 percent, respectively. At four-year institutions, Latino students graduate at a rate seven percentage points lower than their White peers—54 percent and 61 percent, respectively. Such equity gaps show there is room for growth both for Latino students and for students in the state overall.

What comes next?
State policies to increase Latino student success should keep in mind the profile of Latino students and adjust to meet their needs. Missouri has a young Latino population that is significantly more likely to enroll in four-year institutions. While some four-year institutions are contributing to the success of Latinos in Missouri, degree attainment is not reflective of their enrollment. Opportunities exist for these institutions in Missouri to help more Latino students complete a postsecondary degree.

Examples of institutional efforts to meet students’ needs can be seen within the Seal of Excelencia. The Seal is a national certification for institutions intentionally SERVING Latino students through data, practice, and leadership.