Identifying Barriers to Higher Education for Latinx Students

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METHODS

Participants
- 24 participants
  - 10 community leaders
  - 4 college graduates
  - 6 current students
  - 3 attended some school

Methods of Data Collection
- Conduct interviews
- Thematic analysis

SAMPLE EXCERPTS TO ILLUSTRATE OUR FINDINGS

“...and to this day, they can’t afford it still, even for my, um, younger brothers, once they graduate high school, that’s going to be up to them if they want to pay for college or not. It’s always been valid in our household yet, to pursue higher education…” -Fernando

“...I just feel that they actually don’t really see us, especially my hispanic culture. They don’t really see us, that we can achieve. They see us a little, like because we are a population that doesn’t really graduate or go to school, go to college... (in reference to white students) I feel they have more advantages. They get more, more opportunities, more than what I had.” -Maya

“So, um, for like education, my parents always told us to go to college, but I think, um, there’s a difference between somebody telling you then like showing you, so even though my parents always told us, they never like showed us, but of course like they didn’t know. Right. Um, how to do all of the files so they didn’t know anything about college. How to pick first like classes, books, parking, like some, so many of those things. Admission. Um, but like I think throughout like our culture as well. Hispanic, I think our parents do support us, but I think mostly verbally, but I think we need more than that. I think we need our parents need to learn about it and then kind of like teach us about it. I think that would help us be a little bit more success, a successful like learning, our parents learning the vocabulary of college. So then we are more familiar with it when we get to that point.” -Mariama

THEMATICAL ANALYSIS

Overall Theme 1: What’s being done well
Moral and emotional support from family (but limited)
Programmatically benefits to aid recruitment and retention
Latinos in Action
Great resource, central role in recruitment

Overall Theme 2: Challenges
Lack of financial support
Limited Resources
Experiential resources in family (cultural gap)
Emotional support for coping with minority stress and cultural gap
Program restrictiveness
Recruitment biases
Burden on the individual for seeking out resources
Lack of equity and inclusiveness
Lack of representation
Internalized inferiority
Negative prejudices and inequitable treatment

REFERENCES

LITERATURE REVIEW

- DACA recipients suffer due to the lack of federal and state structure in their search for higher education (Sahay, Thatcher & Lightfoot 2010).
- Discrimination can lead to poor mental health and poor school performance (Ayon & Philbin).
- Students’ high school and college enrollment rates are strongly influenced by their parents’ highest level of education (Ward 2006).
- Programs offered by nonprofit organizations and schools play a key role in higher education (Yasuike 2019).