

Dear Community Partners,

We applaud the recent award of the Seal of *Excelencia* to California State University, Sacramento, for their commitment to accelerate Latinx student success in higher education. The Seal was awarded by Excelencia in Education, a national organization launched in 2004, focused to significantly increase the number of Latinx students attaining college degrees by 2030. The group also promotes Latinx student achievement and conducts analysis to inform educational policies and practices.

Sacramento State is consistently one of the top three destination universities in California for students transferring from one of 115 community colleges. Their strategy for serving Latinx transfer students involves providing intentional support prior to transferring. It encompasses a collaborative approach with feeder community colleges to ensure that students planning to transfer receive early exposure to Sacramento State, are supported through the transfer process, and have access to individualized support throughout the transition.

Additionally, Sacramento State's strategy to intentionally increase Latinx student retention and persistence goes beyond academic support. Their goal is to address the holistic self through a multidimensional approach to address the social, emotional, physical, and academic needs of our students. Over the past five years, Sacramento State's increase in Latinx enrollment is the result of the institution's recruitment philosophy, intentional family-oriented approach, and personalized practices. Embedded within the recruitment strategy is a strong understanding of the importance family plays in Latinx student lives and decision-making. They work closely with families by offering Spanish-speaking and culturally relevant presentations in schools, and in the community, as well as offering family oriented on-campus programming.

Sacramento State's programming includes partnerships in our community to provide opportunities to Latinx students and address issues related to Latinx communities. Their commitment to students is deserving of this prestigious award. We look forward to partnering with Sacramento State to continue to build and provide resources for the successes of Latinx students. Join me in congratulating Sacramento State for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Sacramento City Councilman Eric Guerra

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