In Pursuit of Equity, Accountability and Success: Latinx Students in Massachusetts Schools

PROGRAM

October 4th, 2019
Worcester State University
Inaugural Symposium
Welcome

Bienvenidos a In Pursuit of Equity, Accountability, and Success: Latinx Students in Massachusetts Schools (PEAS). Today you join more than 400 participants from across the Commonwealth, including over twenty college presidents, several urban superintendents, Massachusetts Commissioners of Education, national and regional experts, and community leaders to launch a multi-year initiative seeking equity, accountability and racial justice for Latinx students in Massachusetts from early childhood through college and beyond.

PEAS was formed in response to the Department of Higher Education’s Equity Agenda, placing a focus on improving economic and mobility outcomes for students who’ve been historically underserved and underrepresented. Equally compelling is the recognition that Massachusetts will not be able to maintain its economic prosperity or position as the most educated state in the country unless systemic inequities are dismantled for Latinx students. Simply put, it is untenable and unacceptable for only 22% of Latino males to graduate from college in a state where Latinx students are the largest population in most Gateway City school systems. At the same time, we are motivated by the wealth of knowledge, language, culture, relationships and experiences within the Latinx community and seek to build on these assets as part of the solution to addressing disparate educational outcomes.

As a response to this need, the PEAS collaborative was organically formed by a group of educators, researchers, and practitioners who have extensive knowledge, experience and commitment working directly with Latinx students and families. We hope you are inspired to join PEAS as we build a multi-year, multi-sector, statewide collaborative with shared leadership. Our mission is to work toward equitable and accountable education systems, institutions, and leadership to ensure student success. We are committed to centering the Latinx student experience to shape, unite, and guide systemic change.

The insights and perspectives expressed today will help center and guide our agenda. Your active participation today is greatly valued and just the beginning of a sustained effort to work toward equitable and accountable education systems, institutions, and leadership to ensure student success. We are committed to centering the Latinx student experience to shape, unite, and guide systemic change.

The PEAS Organizing Committee:

Melissa Colón, PhD | Sociology Faculty | Bunker Hill Community College;
Nyal Francisco Fuentes | College and Career Readiness Coordinator | Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
Mary Jo Marion | Assistant Vice President for Urban Affairs | Worcester State University;
Cynthia K. Orellana | Director, Office of Community Partnerships | University of Massachusetts Boston;
Elena Quiroz-Livinas | Chief of Staff | Assistant Commissioner for Academic Policy and Student Success | Massachusetts Department of Higher Education;
Carmen N. Veloria, PhD | American Student Assistance | Community Relations Advisor.

Meet Our Emcee

The PEAS initiative is delighted to welcome Marco A. Davis, current President and CEO of The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute to preside over the In Pursuit of Equity, Accountability, and Success symposium on October 4 at Worcester State University.

Davis served in the administration of President Barack Obama as Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and as the Director of Public Engagement for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Previously, he was Director of Global Fellowship and Regional Manager for Latin America at Ashoka’s Youth Venture and led leadership development for UnidosUS (formerly the National Council of La Raza), creating the Líderes Initiative.

Davis has served on the boards of Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC), Education Design Lab, Educators for Excellence, and the Management Assistance Group. He has also been a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow and Hispanics in Philanthropy NGen Líderes Fellow. An alumnus of Yale University, NY native, Davis, now lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and daughter.

Meet Our Dynamic Speakers

Estela Mara Bensimon is Dean’s Professor in Educational Equity at the USC Rossier School of Education and Director of the Center for Urban Education, which she founded in 1999. With a singular focus on increasing racial equity in higher education outcomes for students of color, she developed the Equity Scorecard—a process for using inquiry to drive changes in institutional practice and culture.

Since its founding, CUE has worked with thousands of college professionals—from presidents to faculty to academic counselors, helping them take steps in their daily work to reverse the impact of the historical and structural disadvantages that prevent many students of color from excelling in higher education. The innovative Equity Scorecard process takes a strengths-based approach starting from the premise that faculty and administrators are committed to doing “the good.” CUE builds upon this premise by developing tools and processes that empower these professionals as “researchers” into their own practices, with the ultimate goal of not just marginal changes in policy or practice, but shifts on those campuses towards cultures of inclusion and broad ownership over racial equity.
Professor Bensimon’s critical action research agenda has been supported by grants from the Ford Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Teagle Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and The James Irvine Foundation.

Dr. Bensimon has published extensively about equity, organizational learning, practitioner inquiry and change; and her articles have appeared in journals such as the Review of Higher Education, Journal of Higher Education, Liberal Education, and Harvard Educational Review. Her most recent books include Critical Approaches to the Study of Higher Education (co-edited with Ana Martinez-Aleman and Brian Pusser) which was selected as the 2016 Outstanding Publication by the American Education Research Association, Division of Postsecondary Education; Engaging the Race Question: Accountability and Equity in US Higher Education (with Alicia C. Dowd), Confronting Equity Issues on Campus: Implementing the Equity Scorecard in Theory and Practice (co-edited with Lindsey Malcom).

Pedro Noguera is the Distinguished Professor of Education at the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA. Dr. Noguera is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions, as well as by demographic trends in local, regional and global contexts. He serves on the boards of numerous national and local organizations and appears as a regular commentator on educational issues on CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio, and other national news outlets. Prior to joining the faculty at UCLA he served as the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University and the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools (2003 – 2015), the Judith K. Dimon Professor of Communities and Schools at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (2000 – 2003), and the University of California, Berkeley where he was also the Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change (1990 – 2000). From 2009 - 2012 he served as a Trustee for the State University of New York (SUNY) as an appointee of the Governor. In 2014 he was elected to the National Academy of Education. Noguera recently received awards from the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences, from the National Association of Secondary

Principals, and from the McSilver Institute at NYU for his research and advocacy efforts aimed at fighting poverty.

Dr. Noguera received his bachelors’ degree in Sociology and History and a teaching credential from Brown University in 1981 and earned his masters’ degree in Sociology from Brown in 1982. Dr. Noguera earned his doctorate in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989. He was a classroom teacher in public schools in Providence, RI and Oakland, CA and continues to work with schools nationally and internationally as a researcher and advisor.

Dr. Noguera has published over 200 research articles, monographs and research reports on topics such as urban school reform, conditions that promote student achievement, the role of education in community development, youth violence, and race and ethnic relations in American society. His work has appeared in multiple major research journals. Dr. Noguera is the author of several books including: City Schools and the American Dream (Teachers College Press, 2003), Unfinished Business: Closing the Achievement Gap in Our Nation’s Schools (Josey Bass, 2006), The Trouble With Black Boys…and Other Reflections on Race, Equity and the Future of Public Education (Wiley and Sons, 2008), and Creating the Opportunity to Learn: Moving from Research to Practice to Close the Achievement Gap with A. Wade Boykin (ASCD, 2011). His most recent books are Excellence Through Equity” (Corwin 2015) with Alan Blankstein.

Dr. Noguera appears as a regular commentator on educational issues on CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio and other national news outlets.
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<td>VIP Breakfast for College Presidents and Superintendents: Leadership as an Equity-Minded Practice</td>
<td>Multi-Purpose Room 204 - Wellness Center</td>
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<td>9:00am – 9:30am</td>
<td>Cafecito y Registración</td>
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<td>Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>Equity, Accountability, and Success</td>
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<td>100 Males to College: Supporting the Success of Latinx and Other Males of Color.</td>
<td>ST 102 - Ghosh Science and Technology Building</td>
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<td>11:00am – 11:45am</td>
<td>Implementing Dual Language Education, A Moral Imperative for English Learners</td>
<td>Sheehan Multipurpose Room - Sheehan Hall</td>
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<td>11:00am – 11:45am</td>
<td>How a Predominantly White Public University Located in the Second Largest City in New England is Pursuing a More Inclusive Campus Climate.</td>
<td>Multipurpose Gym - Wellness Center</td>
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<td>11:00am – 11:45am</td>
<td>Strategies for Bridging STEM Research, Education and Career Development to Improve Achievement</td>
<td>North and South - Student Center</td>
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<td>11:00am – 11:45am</td>
<td>The Latinx Student Success Initiative: A Model for Institutional Partnerships that Advance Latinx Cultural Wealth and Address Inequities</td>
<td>Blue Lounge - Student Center</td>
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<td>12:00 – 1:10pm</td>
<td>Lunch: How is Massachusetts Meeting the Call for Equity?</td>
<td>Competition Gym - Wellness Center</td>
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<td>Exploring the Intersections of School Achievement and Mental Health: Culturally-Meaningful and Equity-informed Practices Fostering Resilience in Schools</td>
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<td>Growing Our Own Bilingual Teachers</td>
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<td>Success Boston Impact on LatinX graduates from Boston Public Schools</td>
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<td>The Importance of Interdisciplinary Research and Community Input in Public Education: Massachusetts Latinos as a Case Study</td>
<td>May Street Auditorium</td>
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<td>2:10pm – 3:10pm</td>
<td>A Call to Action: The Role of Leadership in Promoting Equity and Countering Racial Inequality in Education</td>
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<td>3:15pm to 3:30pm</td>
<td>Planeando Para el Futuro/Next Steps</td>
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Implementing Dual Language Education, A Moral Imperative for English Learners

Presenters: Phyllis Hardy, Meg Burns and Mary Cazabon

Description: This workshop will give the audience a clear understanding of the vision and goals of Dual Education programs. Participants will review the fundamental elements and current research of Dual Language Education (DLE) and be able to articulate the benefits of implementing a DLE program in their district. Phyllis Hardy is the Executive Director at the Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education (MABE), a professional non-profit organization of individuals whose goal is to promote bilingualism and multiculturalism as assets that provide cognitive, social, emotional, educational, and employment advantages for all students. Meg Burns is the President of MABE. Mary Cazabon is Assistant Director of Lesley University’s English Language Teacher/Parent Certificate Project.

How a Predominantly White Public University Located in the Second Largest City in New England Is Pursuing a More Inclusive Campus Climate

Presenters: Stacey Luster, Maria Gariepy and Alex Briesacher

Description: Participants will learn the elements of a strategic approach towards an inclusive campus climate by discussing Worcester State University multifaceted approach to increase academic success, improve retention rates for ALANA students, staff and faculty and foster a more inclusive campus climate by focusing on its 5 Point Plan of Action. These will include Presidential vision and leadership, administrative accountability, empowered faculty and students, validated qualitative and quantitative student, faculty and staff climate data. Maria Gariepy is the Director of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity at Worcester State University. Stacey Luster is Assistant Vice President of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, also at Worcester State University. Alex Briesacher is a Sociology Professor at Worcester State University.

Strategies for Bridging STEM Research, Education and Career Development to Improve Achievement

Presenters: Lydia Emmons, V. Scott Solberg, Paul Trunfio, Cecilia Nardi

Description: Presenters will be discussing the NetSci High program at Boston University, which involved Grade 8-11 students (and their teachers) in intensive summer workshops exploring STEM problems in a research-like setting. After the workshop, teams of students embark on year-long mentored research projects aimed at opening pathways to pursue STEM careers. The workshop will focus on the mechanics of partnership building between a large research-based university and a large after-school program for Latino students and the integration of project-based learning in data and network science. Lydia Emmons is Associate Director of Sociedad Latina. Cecilia Nardi is Director of Government Policy at Boston University. V. Scott Solberg is Professor at Wheelock College of Education at Boston University. Paul Trunfio is a Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Physics and Fellow at the Harri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering at Boston University.

The Latinx Student Success Initiative: A Model for Institutional Partnerships that Advance Latinx Cultural Wealth and Address Inequities

Presenters: Lorna Rivera, Liya Escalera, Fabian Torres-Ardila and Amanda Colligan

Description: The Latinx Student Success Initiative (LSII), is a partnership between Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), and the Mauricio Gaston Institute at University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMB) that focuses on achieving equitable outcomes for Latinx students at both institutions. Participants will explore the Framework for Latinx Cultural Wealth and the ways in which the LSSI serves as a model for enacting asset-based approaches to student success through group exercises and discussion. Dr. Lorna Rivera is Associate Professor of Latino Studies and the Director of the Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development & Public Policy. Liya Escalera is Dean and Director of the Center for Equity & Cultural Wealth at Bunker Hill Community College. Dr. Fabian Torres-Ardila is Associate Director of the Gaston Institute. Amanda Colligan is the Director of the BHCC Office of Institutional Research.

Latinos in Early Childhood Education: the Future is Here! Strategies and Practices for Equity!

Presenters: Rosemary Montero Hernandez, Amy O’Leary, Yvette Rodriguez, Francis Wisnewski and Maria Rosa

Description: Early Childhood Education is one of the ways for Latino families to start to address the racial and economic disparities in this country. This presentation will address some of the barriers within this industry. This presentation will discuss ways in which school and community leaders can incorporate equity for Latino families and the educators into their systems. Attendees will be able to identify and address common barriers to Latino students and educators in the early childhood education industry, identify community partners and best practices while starting to address systemic changes and take action and be inspired to fulfill leadership opportunities to voice and create changes for this community. Rosemary Montero Hernandez, MBA; MS, is currently the Regional Director at Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc. a family child care system. Amy O’Leary is director of Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children. Yvette Rodriguez serves as the Vice President of ABCD Head Start and Children’s Services. Francis Wisnewski is a science educator with over two decades of experience in Early Care and Education. Maria Rosa is President of MTR Consulting Services and is an education consultant with over 30 years of experience in early education and care.

Exploring the Intersections of School Achievement and Mental Health: Culturally-Meaningful and Equity-informed Practices Fostering Resilience in Schools

Presenters: Celeste Atallah-Gutierrez, Gisella Mendizabal and Ginnelle Vasquez

Description: In this workshop, Latina mental health clinicians working at Boston Children’s Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships will explore their shared vision and innovative school-based practices for working with Latina students in school-settings. Participants will engage in dialogue around intersections between mental health, academic achievement, and multi-systemic inequities and identify creative ways that mental health practitioners can work within schools to foster systemic changes as well as provide services to individuals and groups. Gisella Mendizabal provides tailored professional development, consultation services and capacity building to educators and administrators at four Boston Public Schools. Ginnelle Vasquez is a social worker working in a Boston High School. Celeste and Ginnelle provide clinical and consulting in a Boston high school. Ginnelle, Celeste, and Gisella all work for Boston Children’s Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships in different roles/capacities.

Growing Our Own Bilingual Teachers

Presenters: Bertha Elena Rojas, Hilda Ramirez, Carmen J. Melendez-Quintero, and Michelle Huanan

Description: The Presenters will discuss the Latino Education Initiative at Worcester State University’s work creating pathways from
high school to college teacher preparation programs and motivating Latinx students to become bilingual teachers. This is done in part through tools and programs that collaborate with students, parents and districts, such as the Seal of Biliteracy, creating paid internships at local schools and special incentives for acquiring another language. Bertha Elena Rojas is a PhD candidate in Advanced Humanities. Hilda Ramirez is the Executive Director of the Worcester State University Latino Education Institute. Carmen J. Melendez-Quintero is the Director of the Office for English Language Learners, Worcester Public Schools. Michelle Huaman oversees world languages for Worcester Public Schools.

**La Escuela, Un Territorio Nómada - School, a Nomadic Territory**

**Presenter:** Susana Lyons Barrios

**Description:** This workshop will address the complexities of the migrant student experience and those who are classified as ELLs (English Language Learners), FELS (Former English Language Learners and SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education). Attendees will have the option of observing or actively participate in a replica of a workshop shared with students at Milford High School in 2015, most of them from Ecuadorian Indigenous background, in addition to a short survey applied to second grade students in 2016., in order to explore the perspectives on Cultural Awareness in Early Childhood students in an inclusive classroom in Leominster, MA. Susana Lyons Barrios is an ESL teacher and an antiracist educator and researcher.

**Using a Research Practice Partnership to Improve School Practice, Policies, and Outcomes for Newcomer English Learners**

**Presenters:** Parastoo Massoumi, John Perrella, Nancy Hill

**Description:** Presenters will discuss their collaborative work with school practitioners to identify key academic and social areas to improve for Newcomer English Learners. This session will provide participants with a case study on the origins, implementation, and ongoing outcomes of a research-practice partnership (RPP) between Harvard University and a public high school in Massachusetts. Parastoo Massoumi, PhD student at Harvard University, and Nancy Hill, Charles Bigelow Professor of Education at Harvard University, and John Perrella, a high school principal in Massachusetts.

**Success Boston Impact on Latinx graduates from Boston Public Schools**

**Presenters:** Juan Cantu and Joel Mora

**Description:** To date, over 6,000 students have participated in Success Boston coaching, with the goal of doubling college completion rates for Boston Public School students. The presenters will discuss how to engage and support Latinx high school graduates towards college access and success as well as methods for collaborating with high schools, community based organizations and higher education institutions. Juan Cantu is the Social Innovation Fund Program Officer at The Boston Foundation, with five years of experience in urban education. Joel Mora is the Education Programs Manager at Hyde Square Task Force.

**The Importance of Interdisciplinary Research and Community Input in Public Education: Massachusetts Latinos as a Case Study**

**Presenters:** Alex Briesacher, Thomas E. Conroy and Timothy Murphy

**Description:** Presenters will discuss the research they have been conducting, along with other partners, relating to the intersection of school discipline, student achievement, and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on Massachusetts Latinx students. Attendees will learn about the team’s work over the last few years, with a particular focus on Massachusetts’ growing Latino population in the hopes of engaging workshop attendees in a discussion about its approach and ongoing work. Alex Briesacher is a faculty member in the Worcester State University Sociology Department. Thomas E. Conroy is Department Chair and Timothy Murphy is a faculty member for the Urban Studies Department at Worcester State University.