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Title/ Título: The road to college: Creating Latino academic consciousness in Latino youth and parents in the U.S. / Panel: International Issues & Perspectives on Families, Schools, and Communities: Asia, Europe, and the U.S.

El camino hacia la universidad: Creando conciencia académica latina en jóvenes latinos y en sus padres en USA / Panel: Temáticas y perspectivas internacionales sobre Familias, Centros docentes y Comunidad: Asia, Europa y U.S.A.

Topic: Cultural, technological and multicultural aspects of school, family and community partnerships

Aspectos culturales y multiculturales de las relaciones que se establecen entre las familias, los centros docentes y las entidades y servicios sociales comunitarios

Presentation time/Día de presentación: Session in English. Thursday 15, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Conference Room, Ground Floor

Sesión en Inglés. Jueves 15, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Sala de Cámara, Planta Baja

Abstract

The education of Latino youth in the United States continues to be an area of critical concern for educators. Demographically, the rise in the Latino school-age population and the simultaneous high drop-out rates and under-education of Latino youth warrant more creative pedagogies and research. The success of outreach programs is one key venue for potential success in the retention and matriculation of Latino students. This paper focuses on the collaborative work of four Latino educators—two classroom teachers, school counselor, and a professor—to develop a Latino Academic Consciousness among Latino youth and their parents through a year-long culturally embedded school-base program. What is unique about this program is the weaving together of the “social capital” of Latino families and that of the school to create a culturally-responsive educational program that links home and school cultures, fosters intergenerational dialogue, and (re) conceptualizes the way being “Latino” can be seen as proactively academic. The research documents the powerful ways in which families can, and do, support their children as schools more fully embrace the cultural identity of the Latino community.