

Making strides toward a critical goal: MSU Denver pursues Hispanic Serving Institution Designation

Recognizing that Latinos are the fastest growing student population in America *and* the state of Colorado, five years ago, Metropolitan State University of Denver set an ambitious goal to become a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) with 25 percent Latino enrollment in 10 years.

What is an HSI?

An Hispanic Serving Institution is an accredited, degree-granting college or university with at least 25 percent Latino enrollment that has been accepted in the federal Hispanic Serving Institutions Program.

Why is it important for MSU Denver to become an HSI?

At MSU Denver the designation will benefit students by making the University eligible for U.S. Department of Education grants in the areas of:

- Student support services, such as student tutoring
- Academic materials
- Increased scholarships and student grants
- Renovation and building campus facilities

MSU Denver is the only four-year university in the metro Denver area designated as an Emerging HSI, making the University an important higher education resource for urban Latino students.

How would MSU Denver's HSI status help Colorado?

By the year 2018¹, 67 percent of Colorado jobs will require some form of post-secondary education.

Because one in five Coloradans and one in three Denverites is Latino, increasing Latino higher education attainment is imperative for the state to remain economically vibrant.

Beyond economics, it's a matter of social justice to improve access to higher education for Latino students as well as for low-income students and other under-represented groups.



“Time and time again, MSU Denver has shown its commitment to the Latino community by providing the role models and cultural support Latinos need to be successful. The HSI initiative is one more example of this dedication.”

Dusti Gurule, ('96, Chicano Studies)
Southwest Regional Representative
for the U.S. Secretary of Labor

***Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* ranks MSU Denver among the top 100 colleges and universities nationwide for graduating Latino students.**

MSU Denver HSI Progress Report

In 2007 MSU Denver's Latino FTEⁱⁱ (full-time equivalent student) enrollment was 12.5 percent. Now it is 18.1 percent, which puts the University ahead of projections for achieving 25 percent Latino enrollment and HSI status.

- The actual number of Latino students at MSU Denver—the largest of any Colorado university—has grown from 13 percent in 2007 to 19.5 percent in 2012.
- MSU Denver received the 2012 Civil Rights Award from NEWSED Community Development Corporation for its efforts to recruit, retain and graduate students of color.
- MSU Denver received the 2012 President's Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Denver in recognition of its Latino student outreach and its support of chamber leadership programs.

Educating Latino students makes economic sense for Colorado

If Colorado could graduate and employ students of color at the same rate as other students, it would generate an additional \$967 million in tax revenue each year. — National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

Beyond Hispanic-enrolling to Hispanic-serving

To promote MSU Denver as the best choice for Colorado's Latino students, the University has initiated several programs focused on improving access and success for high school, undergrad and graduate students.

- The Excel Outreach and Excel Pre-Collegiate Programs at Denver-area high schools help students and parents navigate college admissions, financial aid and enrollment.
- Journey Through Our Heritage is a popular yearlong program in which MSU Denver students help students from 12 local high schools understand and appreciate their Latino cultural history and contributions to society.
- The Center for Urban Education partners with Denver Public Schools to prepare more Latinos and other students of color to become K-12 teachers in high-risk classrooms.
- MSU Denver added master's degree programs to help Latino students pursue their professional aspirations beyond their bachelor's.

In addition, in 2012 MSU Denver became Colorado's only university to offer a non-resident tuition rate to undocumented students. These students don't count toward the University's HSI enrollment goals. But helping them underscores MSU Denver's mission of increasing opportunity and fostering a more diverse and inclusive environment for all students.

To learn more about MSU Denver's HSI initiative, go to **www.msudenver.edu/president/hsi**.

MSU DENVER'S DIVERSITY*

MSU Denver is the most diverse four-year institution in Colorado. We have 7,623 students of color, who make up more than 33 percent of MSU Denver's total 23,000 enrollment. Hispanics and Latinos make up the largest group of students of color.

- 19.5% Hispanic or Latino
- 6.3% Black or African American
- 3.4% Asian
- 0.7% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0.3% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 3.0% Two or more races
- 62% White

**Fall 2012*

ⁱ "Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018," Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Center on Education and the Workforce, 2010.

ⁱⁱ FTE is a metric based on a comparison of students' actual course loads versus standard course loads. Headcount is the actual number of students.