University Outreach to Latino Parents with Children

Abstract

2014 Capstone project

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The demographic makeup of Utah is changing and one indication of that transformation is the increase in the Latino population. From 2000 to 2010, the number of Latinos in Utah increased by 78%, with the majority of Latinos living along the Wasatch Front (Davidson, 2011). One aspect of this change is the number of Latino households who do not speak or struggle with the English language (Benway, 2013). In part because of this language barrier, many Latino parents are not aware of high school course requirements their children need to meet to be admitted to a college or a university (Tornatzky, Cutler, and Lee, 2002 and Torrez, 2004).

Consequently, this program proposal recommends an outreach program to be initiated by the Office of Admissions at the University of Utah to help educate Latino parents with middle school and high school students about higher education preparedness. The program would focus on providing the tools necessary for these parents to advise their children about high school course selection, general higher education admission requirements, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Testing (ACT) preparatory courses, and financial aid qualifications. This proposed program would also encompass workshops, print and electronic communication in Spanish for those who are not fluent in English. In addition, part of this program proposal includes the creation of an Outreach Coordinator position in the Office of Admissions at the University of Utah.

Guiding this program proposal are the University of Utah’s mission statement and the University’s Student Affairs Strategic Plan, as well as standards from the Council for the
Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS). In addition to utilizing scholarly research, this proposal is guided by Joyce Epstein’s (2006) theory of “overlapping sphere of influence” that helps provide a blueprint for program implementation.

This proposal also includes recommendations for what University of Utah staff, private citizens, business and local leaders, etc. tasked with implementing and advising the program.

Finally, this program proposal contains detailed parent and staff goals, outcomes, and assessments.