



Con Mi MADRE recognized among most effective in nation at increasing Latino student success in college

National initiative adds to America's largest inventory of proven practices for accelerating degree completion among Latinos

September 30, 2014, Austin, TX – Elected officials and higher education leaders from across America came together at the St. Regis Washington, D.C. hotel today to honor Con Mi MADRE as a Finalist among America's top programs that increase academic opportunities and increase achievement for Latino students. Con Mi MADRE was selected from among 217 competitors from 26 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico as one of 14 Finalists for the 2014 Examples of *Excelencia* award. Conceived and run by *Excelencia* in Education, this is the only national initiative to systematically identify, recognize, and catalogue evidence-based programs that improve Latino college success.

Con Mi MADRE empowers young Latinas and their mothers through educational and support services that increase preparedness, participation, and success in post-secondary education. Starting in 6th grade, CMM programming is designed to: 1) keep young Latinas in school and take rigorous coursework, 2) develop healthy self-esteem, avoid risky behavior, and establish healthy relationships with adults and peers, 3) assist students through the post-secondary education application, enrollment, and matriculation process, and 4) ensure students receive a post-secondary degree. Con Mi MADRE is unique in the fact that they require participation from a parent or guardian, typically the mother, provide bilingual services, and developmentally holistic programming.

"It is such an honor to be receiving national recognition for the work that we do at Con Mi MADRE," said Dr. Teresa Granillo, Executive Director of Con Mi MADRE. "As a Latina who struggled to get her education, I know first-hand the importance of assisting our young Latina/o students to not only pursue, but succeed in higher education. There are so many wonderful programs out there that do just this; we are incredibly excited and humbled to be named as a finalist."

Today's announcement event, *Celebraciòn de Excelencia*, coincided with the release of the 2014 edition of "What Works for Latino Student Success in Higher Education," a compendium of all 29 recognized programs along with the evidence of their success. Through this annual process, *Excelencia* in Education continues to grow America's largest inventory of programs and strategies that education leaders, policymakers, and others tap into to accelerate degree completion among Latinos.

This is the ninth annual release of Examples of *Excelencia*. *Excelencia* in Education has systematically reviewed more than 700 programs to identify and recognize 125 programs and departments – including, for the first time this year, community-based organizations – that demonstrate with evidence that they effectively boost Latino enrollment, performance and graduation.



“As one of this year’s Finalists, Con Mi MADRE is at the forefront of meeting the challenge of improving higher educational achievement for Latino students,” said **Sarita Brown, president of Excelencia in Education**. “No longer should policymakers and institutional leaders ask how to improve college success for Latinos – we have the largest accumulation of proven examples and tested strategies that show them how. Today’s question is do leaders have the will to put these practices into action.”

To download “What Works for Latino Student Success in Higher Education,” which includes detailed information about all of the programs recognized today, visit www.EdExcelencia.org.

“By sharing what works we hope to support educators, community leaders, funders, and policymakers to take an asset-based approach to serving Latino students,” said **Deborah Santiago, COO and vice president of Excelencia in Education and author of the publication**. “Ultimately, we strive to inspire and support replicating and bringing to scale evidence-based practices that serve Latino students and thus serve the country.”

Examples of *Excelencia* is the only national initiative to systematically identify and promote evidence-based programs and departments effectively boosting Latino enrollment, performance and graduation. It is presented in collaboration with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). The 2014 sponsors are ACT, Univision, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, DeVry University, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014, Excelencia in Education is a Washington, D.C.-based national non-profit organization whose mission is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education.

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Contact:

Cynthia De La Cruz,
cynthia@conmimadre.org
(512) 270-0266

About Con Mi MADRE:

Con Mi MADRE is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower young Latinas and their mothers through educational and support services that increase preparedness, participation, and success in post-secondary education. Having been created and incubated under The Junior League of Austin starting in 1992, Con Mi MADRE is the only nonprofit in Central Texas that specifically supports and encourages young Latinas in their pursuit of post-secondary education and requires that mothers be a part of this process, which is a key factor in the success of the program.

Since 1992, the organization has assisted 2,848 Latina mother-daughter teams on their journey to and through post-secondary education. Con Mi MADRE provides an array of services to approximately 700 Latina mother/daughter teams (1,400 individuals) annually. All programming is bilingual and culturally relevant in order to offer an inclusive learning environment.

For more information, visit: www.conmimadre.org