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# **Excelencia HSI Institute University of La Verne**



**September 15, 2017  
Cal State Los Angeles, Parent Academy/  
Academia de Padres  
Alfredo Gonzalez**

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*“My parents don’t believe that I’m staying at the library until 9:30 at night working on a project with other students from one of my classes.”*

*“My dad says, now that I’m in college taking only four classes, and in school only three days a week, I should work more hours at my part time job. He thinks that college has to be easier than high school when I was taking five classes, going from 9:00 in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon, five days a week.”*

*“When I told my parents, I was majoring in Latin American Studies, they told me they would no longer pay for my schooling.”*

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# A DISCONNECT

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- These statements come from parents who love their children, are proud of the fact they are in college, and want them to succeed in college, and
- They are at odds with what we know about how much Latinos value education. The parents of Latino students care about, and are as interested in supporting their children in school as much as any other group of parents, perhaps more.

**(A 2009 Pew Research Center survey found that 88% of all Latinos agreed that going to college was necessary for getting ahead as compared to 74% of the general population. (**

***Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project 2009.*)**

# **A Lack of Experience, Information and Understanding About:**

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- The long-term benefits of a college degree,
- What college is like,
- How different college is from high school,
- What it takes to succeed in college, and
- Resources Available to pay for college...

*Are factors that contribute to this disconnect*

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## **CSULA Responded by Developing a Program to:**

- Provide parents the above information about college , and
- Provide them a campus experience to help demystify the university and increase their comfort levels regarding their student's experience on campus and
- Develop an understanding of what their student must do in and out of class, in order to be successful

# How is the Program Structured?

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- Three half day programs over the course of the year, *offered in both English and Spanish*
  - Short presentation with table discussion facilitated by academic advisors
  - Initially, \$20.00 per person was the cost to attend, all attendees received a \$20.00 bookstore gift card at the end of each program
  - Breakfast or lunch is provided with several raffles during the program
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# Fall Curriculum

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- The long term benefits of a college degree
- How college differs from high school
- What it takes to succeed in College
- The syllabus: A roadmap for every class
- Effective communication for staying informed about how your child is doing in school in the context of adolescence and FERPA
- Introduction to Financial Aid
- Making college success a family goal

# Winter and Spring Curriculum

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## Winter

- FAFSA
- AB 540
- Loans and Grants
- Scholarships and work study

## Spring

- Making the connections between school and career
- How co and extracurricular involvement contributes to college, career and life success
- The long-term benefits of a college degree and the importance of a mentor in college and career success

(The Fall/ Winter Programs Close with a “Resource Fair,” Spring with a luncheon with the President handing out certificates)



# Overall Goals of the Content

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- Help parents gain a better *understanding* about what college is like, and what the college experience will be like for their son/daughter, and what it takes to be a successful college student,
- Provide suggestions and techniques for more *effectively* supporting their son/daughter while in college,
- Make it possible for parents to engage with their son/daughter on school matters *with a greater degree* of understanding and empathy than without the knowledge gained from Parent Academy.



# **California State University L.A. Parent Academy/Academia de Padres 2013-17**

- **How has it been received?**
- **How has it evolved?**
- **What some hope it will become?**