

# ENLACE FLORIDA

## Summary

**PURPOSE:** Request for funding to be submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Phase III in support of the **ENgaging LA**tino **C**ommunities for **E**ducation **FLORIDA** statewide initiative (for 3 years). **Note:** Kellogg has funded similar initiatives in California and New Mexico. To demonstrate to Kellogg representatives, broad support for this initiative from the FBOE, FBOG, SUS, FLCC, school districts and the wider community.

**MISSION OF ENLACE FLORIDA:** To build a statewide network of universities, community colleges, school districts, community organizations, students, and parents to support state educational initiatives.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** To promote meaningful and sustainable policy change and development to break down all barriers and enhance college **readiness, access, and success** for all Latino students in the State of Florida.

- ENLACE networks are already in place in Hillsborough and Miami-Dade counties, thanks to Kellogg Foundation Phase II support (\$3.0+ m),
- The Kellogg Foundation has invited USF to take the lead in developing a Phase III proposal focusing on statewide policy development, institutional change and sustainability,
- ENLACE FLORIDA is closely aligned with Governor Bush's *Access and Diversity Initiative* which is intended "to improve higher education access and success for students from previously underserved populations",
- ENLACE FLORIDA will strengthen existing networks and build two new regional clusters in high population growth areas of the state: Mid-Atlantic Coast (led by Florida Atlantic University) and East-Central (led by the University of Central Florida). Active partners include universities, community colleges, PreK-12 school districts, as well as public and private-sector community groups,
- USF, UCF, FAU, and FIU account for over 75% of Latino enrollment in the State University System – 5 community colleges in south and central Florida account for 80% of Latino enrollment in the State Community College System – School districts in south & central Florida account for 90% of Latino membership in the K-12 system,
- Florida's Hispanic population is projected to increase from 2.6 million in 2000 to 6.3 million in 2030, when Latinos will account for 25 percent of the state's population,
- Latinos are the largest and fastest growing minority group in Florida. In the 25 year period from 1977 to 2003, Hispanic public K-12 enrollment increased over 462%,
- By 2013-14, the number of Latino public high school graduates in Florida is projected to increase to 43,400, or 32% of the graduating class,
- The leadership team of USF, UCF, FAU, and FIU will coordinate this public policy initiative and will provide guidance for an Executive Director, who will manage day to day operations,
- A State Advisory Council of distinguished Floridians (comprised of public and corporate leaders) will advise the leadership team on policy, advocacy, and sustainability strategies,
- ENLACE FLORIDA outcomes include: Effecting policy and program change resulting in (a) an increase in the number of college-ready Latino high school graduates; (b) an increase in the number of Latino students applying for and receiving financial aid and scholarships; (c) an increase in the number of Latino students enrolling in Florida's community colleges and universities; and (d) an increase in the Latino retention, 4-year and 6-year degree completion rates from Florida's universities. It is acknowledged that many policy and program changes will positively impact similar outcomes among other underrepresented groups,
- The ENLACE FLORIDA proposal has been endorsed by the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the State University System, university presidents and provosts, community college presidents, school district superintendents, the Florida School Board Association, and other key leaders, and
- With sustainable policy change and permanent funding, ENLACE FLORIDA will extend statewide, engaging all member institutions of the State University System and serving as a nationwide model for widening participation and enhancing student academic success for previously underrepresented populations in higher education.