

Creative Lessons from Undergraduate Latinx Fellows: Championing a Pathway to a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)

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National Louis University – Pathway to an HSI

- **63% Predominantly white institution (PWI)**
- **75 Harrison Fellows**
- **44% undergraduate Latinx representation**

National Louis University HSI Development

Programs

Timeline

Proyecto Comunidad

2009 - 2010

The Harrison Fellows

2010 - 2016

The Harrison Professional Pathway Program (HP3)

2015 - 2018

The Undergraduate College

2017 - now

**Hispanic Serving Institution STEM
(HSI designation)**

2016 - 2025

The Centro de Excelencia

2019 - 2025



Students Profile

- First- generation college students
- Latinx and African-American
- Under-resourced communities





Program Structure and More

- Developed under a new role
- Proyecto Comunidad Advisory Board
- Padrinos y Madrinas
- Chicago Teachers Partnership Program (CTPP) & IME Beca
- Community & Family Connection
- Student Success Coach



The study

This central question guided this study:

In what ways did the Harrison Fellows pave the way for the institution to become an HSI?

- Phenomenology
- Latinx Critical Theory
- Qualitative design

Research Design

- Snowball sampling.
- 27 graduates from the Harrison Fellow Program (2010-2015).
- Semi-structured online focus groups (60-90 minutes) over two months.

Data Analysis

- Transcripts
- Coding
- Themes
- Researcher notes



Opportunities for HSI's, Better Practices

A genuinely supportive and welcoming place

Integral supports for immigrants, DACA, and undocumented students

Create, foster, and promote a safe environment

Cross-departmental staff support

Flip the narrative on impostor syndrome

Latinx presence

Student Success Coach

Trauma-informed practices

Intergenerational experiences

Community engagement and community partnerships



Recognize and Rectify Adverse Practices

- Only half-truths
- Take me beyond the window
- Transcend the rhetoric
- No faculty of Color in the hallways
- Unwelcoming atmosphere
- Beware of the revolving door

Discussion and Conclusion

- Resilience from a place of resistance
- Reclaiming spaces
- Construction of a new story.
- Be attentive to institutional restrictions.
- Recognize the assets of Latino communities
- Validate the pathfinders in your institutions





Questions and Answers

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Thank you!

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