

Increasing Hispanic Access, Retention and Completion: Scholarship Support

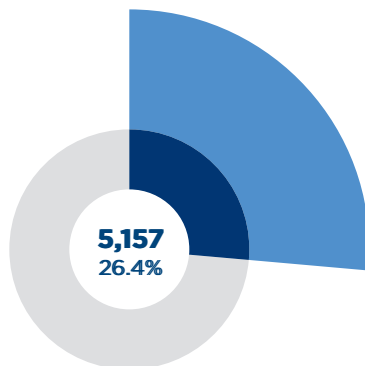


HSI

Hispanic-Serving Institution

MSU Denver's comprehensive efforts to secure federal designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) includes institutional goals to raise sufficient funding for scholarships that will support students from entry to graduation.

Fall 2017
Latino
Undergraduate
Student
Headcount



HSI Milestone Achieved:
In 2017, MSU Denver's
Latino enrollment was
26.4 percent—a key
milestone for designation
as a Hispanic-Serving
Institution (HSI) by the
federal government.

MSU Denver's Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Goal

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) are designated by federal law because of high Hispanic population growth in particular geographic locations near existing colleges and universities.

The goal of the HSI initiative is to unlock access to federal dollars to develop academic and support services that more effectively address the access, recruitment, transfer, retention, and completion needs of the growing Hispanic population.

MSU Denver currently serves more Hispanic students than any other higher education institution in Colorado. In Fall 2017, MSU Denver's Hispanic undergraduate student headcount reached 5,157 students, or 26.4%, exceeding the 25% federal requirement and allowing the university to begin the process to apply for HSI designation. Through increased funding opportunities and targeted efforts, achieving HSI status will provide the means to better support current and future student populations through increasing efforts towards student access, retention and program completion.

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Paving the Road Ahead to Hispanic College Access and Success

At a Hispanic population of 21% in Colorado, MSU Denver's mission to educate the people of Colorado directly aligns with our ambition to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Current HSI efforts are

strategically aimed at identifying roadblocks and targeting strategies that will open up pathways for Hispanic students through providing greater access and increased support for college completion.

Key Challenge: Need for Financial Resources

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 28% of Hispanic children ages 17 and under live in poverty in Colorado. For Hispanic students, college costs and available financial aid are among the most significant factors that influence their decision to enroll in college and persist through completion.

As state funding for higher education continues to diminish, private support that directly impacts students is increasingly vital. Access to scholarship support often makes the critical difference in a student's ability to complete their education.

MSU Denver offers the most affordable tuition of Colorado's largest four-year universities. Affordable tuition and degrees relevant to the state's 21st century workforce and economy make a degree from MSU Denver one of the best higher education investments in the nation.

Funding from private donors, foundations and corporations makes a large impact on the cost of tuition, books and fees and can help Hispanic students reach their college access and degree attainment goals.

Response to the Challenge: Provide Scholarship Support

The scholarship funding you provide for MSU Denver students can be used to contribute to existing scholarship funds or to establish a new annual or endowed scholarship fund. As state funding for higher education continues to diminish, private support is increasingly vital. Access to scholarship support often makes the critical difference in a student's ability to complete his or her education.

For more information about supporting MSU Denver's Hispanic students, please contact Gwen Thompson, Senior Director of Development, at gthomp39@msudenver.edu or 303-615-2051.

For information on MSU Denver's efforts to become a Hispanic Serving Institution please visit msudenver.edu/hsi.

Named annual scholarships may be established with a gift of \$5,000. Endowed scholarship funds are started with a minimum commitment of \$25,000.

