



INDIANA COMMISSION <sup>for</sup>  
HIGHER EDUCATION

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## **The Indiana Commission for Higher Education Partners with the Indiana Latino Institute on Latino Student Task Force**

*The task force will focus on addressing educational barriers for Hispanic or Latino students*

(INDIANAPOLIS)— Today the [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) (Commission) and the [Indiana Latino Institute](#) (ILI) will host the first convening of *Esperanza* – a task force dedicated to improving higher education access, success, and outcomes for Hispanic or Latino Hoosiers. The task force will focus on sharing ideas and best practices, as well as assist in implementing proven strategies on a statewide level to help improve the lives of Indiana communities through access to higher education.

The most recent data from the [2023 Indiana College Readiness dashboard](#), published this fall, has reported Hispanic or Latino students to be least likely to enroll in college after high school graduation at a rate of 43 percent. This rate is well below the state average of 53 percent. Additionally, the [2023 Indiana College Completion dashboard](#) shows Hispanic or Latino students are less likely to graduate on time than their peers across all campus types at a rate of 37 percent compared to the statewide average of 47 percent.

“The Commission recognizes there are gaps in college attainment among specific student groups, including Hispanic or Latino students,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. “There are barriers we need to address, and government cannot do this work alone. I admire the great work the Indiana Latino Institute has done in strengthening the education-to-workforce pipeline for Hispanic or Latino students, and I look forward to the outcomes and solutions brought forth by this partnership.”

“The Indiana Latino Institute is ready to lead the charge in advancing Latino student success alongside the Indiana Commission for Higher Education through the *Esperanza* task force. Our commitment is unwavering, focusing on tangible advancements in improving access, success, and outcomes for our Latino community,” said Marlene Dotson, president and CEO of the Indiana Latino Institute. “We approach this responsibility with enthusiasm, prepared to work towards ensuring a bright future for Latino students in our state.”

After the conclusion of the task force in March 2024, members will recommend best practices and solutions to the Commission leadership at the May Commission Meeting and will present at the 2024 ILI Higher Education Consortium. Additional resources will be published to aid higher education institutions in their endeavors to improve support for Hispanic or Latino students in enrollment, completion, and graduate retention.

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**About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates, and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrates 30 years in 2020.