

**ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
BOARD**

Press Release

Contact: Matt Berry
Phone: 217/785-7411
Email: matt.berry@illinois.gov

401 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701-1711

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Enrollment and Completion of Latino Students in Illinois Community College System Surges to Record Levels

SPRINGFIELD – Enrollment and completion of Latino students in the Illinois community college system has reached historic highs. Data released by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) highlights achievement of Latino students throughout the community college system.

The community college Latino student population has grown by more than 11 percent since 2005 with 2016 marking the highest Latino student enrollment ever recorded. Today, Latinos account for over 20 percent of all students enrolled in the community college system and represent the largest minority group in the system. These students benefit from a full range of community college programs designed to prepare them for workforce and career opportunities or transfer to baccalaureate programs.

Not only are Latino students enrolling in community colleges at historic levels, these students are also completing. Between 2005 and 2016, the number of Latino community college graduates increased over 150 percent. In 2016, a record 11,209 students graduated from one of Illinois's 48 community colleges. Latino community college graduates are helping meet state and national workforce needs and advancing the State's goal of 60 percent of all adults with a college certificate or degree by 2025.

"Latinos are a driving force in Illinois having an educated workforce," said Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. "These students are benefiting in record numbers from the low-cost, high-quality education provided by community colleges and Illinois is benefiting from the supply of educated, highly trained workers."

The Illinois Community College Board is the state coordinating board for community colleges. Illinois is home to 48 community colleges in 39 districts and has the third largest community college system in the nation serving nearly 850,000 residents each year in credit and non-credit courses.

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