



DPS “La Raza Report” - Success for All Latinx Students

“La Raza Report” emerged from a research project conducted by The Multicultural Leadership Center, LLC. Personnel at the Center examined the experiences of the Latino community in Denver Public Schools over several decades. In the report, they offer recommendations for improving experiences for DPS Latinx students, families, and employees. Among others systemic changes, they recommended that DPS invest in:

- A “Grow Your Own” initiative to cultivate a diverse teacher workforce that not only mirrors the student population but also possesses a deep understanding of their cultural contexts; and
- Recruitment of Spanish-speaking teachers with expertise in various subject matter areas, with the goal of preparing them to teach culturally diverse Spanish-speaking students.

For many years now, Latinx students have made up the largest portion of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) student body—more than 52% since 2008. To ensure that all students have opportunities to reach their full potential, we all need to work together to:

- Use culturally responsive curricula;
- Enhance school resources;
- Manage cultural dissonance and language differences;
- Promote Latinx leadership; and
- Boost parental engagement



Consequences of the Achievement Gap

A large portion of DPS students face immense challenges, including higher rates of poverty, inadequate support systems, and language differences. All of these factors widen the education achievement gap and have the potential to create a ripple effect beyond the school system.

Working together, we can mitigate the current achievement gaps that result in:

Diminished Opportunity—Latinx students and English learners face disproportionate barriers to academic achievement, hindering their prospects for higher education and future career success.

Economic Strain—A workforce lacking in diversity and cultural competency stifles innovation and limits the economic potential for the community.

Social Discord—Inequitable educational outcomes can cause further division and disillusionment, eroding social cohesion and perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalization.



Partnering with the UNC Center for Urban Education

The [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) (CUE), [Maycomb Capital](#), and [Trendlines Colorado](#) are interested in creating a formal, outcomes-based partnership with DPS to address this urgent challenge head-on. The University of Northern Colorado is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution, and in 2024, CUE received the Increasing Educator Diversity Award from AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education). “We are well prepared to cultivate and graduate exactly the kind of teachers DPS is looking for,” said Dr. Rosanne Fulton, Director of CUE.

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In this outcomes-based model, DPS can make progress toward its goal of recruiting and retaining teachers of color. The CUE teacher candidate pool is 70% BIPOC and 27% bilingual. DPS ensures cultural congruency and linguistic fluency by placing teachers from diverse backgrounds. When the program is implemented, the money earned from placement fees helps ensure CUE’s long-term sustainability.



Dean Jared Stallones and CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton

Dean Jared Stallones Retires

Dr. Jared Stallones, Dean of the UNC College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, has retired after a distinguished 44 year career in education. In his roles as classroom teacher, education consultant, and university administrator, Stallones has had the opportunity to impact countless lives and invest in quality educational environments across the U.S.

“When I arrived at UNC in 2021, many of you expressed concern that our college was fragmented, each working in isolation, and that our reputation as a leader in education was fading,” said Stallones. “We came together and developed collaborative, cross-disciplinary projects. Today, lawmakers and others seek out our input on policy issues and the Governor publicly boasts that UNC is the premier institution for educator preparation in Colorado. I am proud of all we have accomplished in three years,” he said.

“I often tell people that serving as Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at UNC was my dream job, and it was working with so many talented and dedicated people that made it so. I am grateful to each of you for helping me live out this dream and will hold you in my heart,” said Stallones. “All of us at the Center for Urban Education will miss Jared’s kindness and wisdom,” said CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton.

Once a Bear, Always a Bear.

On a lighter note, if you need a few chuckles, watch [this video](#), where kids talk about what retirement really means.

Thinking about Becoming a Teacher?

We are enrolling new students for the fall 2024 semester. Call Dr. Rosanne Fulton, Director, UNC Center for Urban Education, at 303-637-4334 or [email](#) for more information.

Watch our [short video](#) to learn more about the CUE teacher-preparation program.