

**WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE
ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS
POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION
WEBINAR
JANUARY 21, 2015**



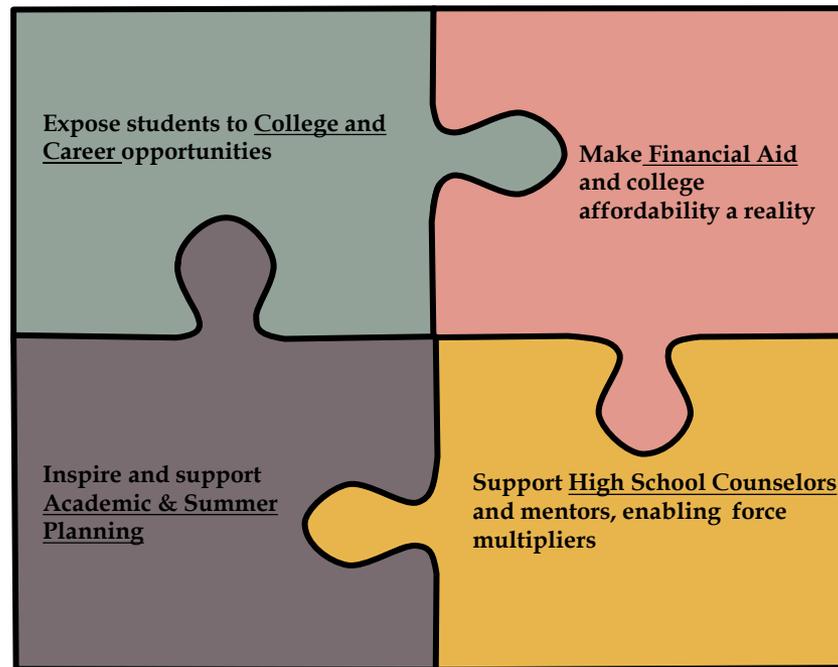


REACH HIGHER

Complete your education. Own your future.

Key Focus Areas & Metrics

President Obama's North Star Goal: BY 2020, U.S WILL ONCE AGAIN LEAD THE WORLD IN TERMS OF COLLEGE GRADUATES.



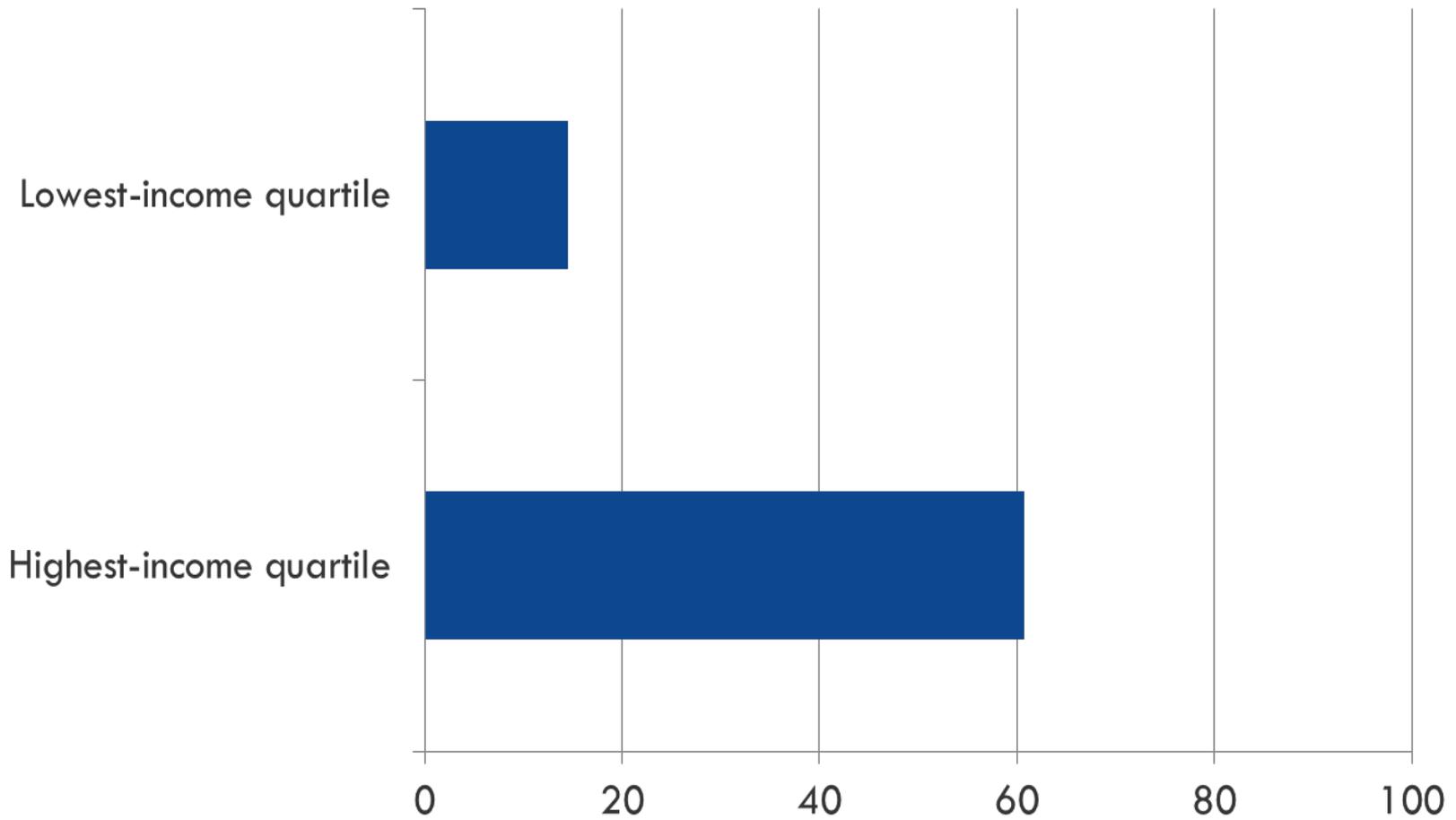
Expose Students to College

Near-Peer Mentoring Commencement Challenge: Encourage colleges to host first generation students on campus for immersion experiences. Participating schools will have the chance for the First Lady to speak at their commencement ceremony. **(36 Days left until February 27, 2015!)**



First Lady Michelle Obama with student's at Howard University during the Escape to Mecca College Tour

Only 14 percent of low-income students complete college.



Financial Aid Accessibility

- **\$150 Billion** in Federal Student Aid (www.studentaid.gov)
- **FAFSA Completion Commencement Challenge:** Increase the rate of FAFSA completion in schools, districts, and cities. The high school with the best video will have the opportunity for the First Lady to speak at their commencement ceremony. **(58 Days left until March 16, 2015!)**



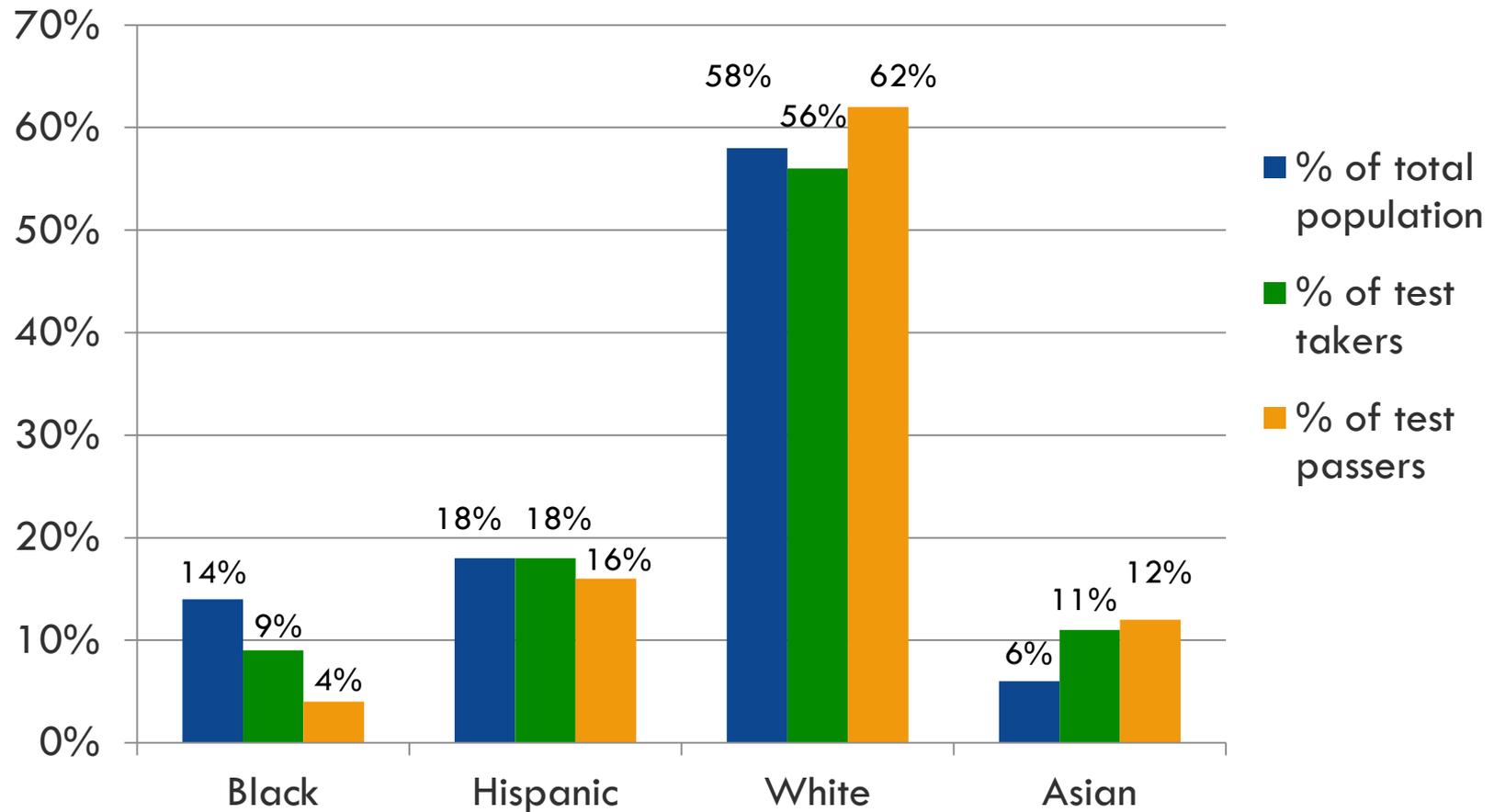
Inspire and Support Academic & Summer Planning

Preparing students for the SAT/ACT and increasing AP class enrollment



First Lady Michelle Obama at the National Summer Learning Day on June 20, 2015 held at the U.S. Department of Education

Advanced Placement Enrollment by Ethnicity



Support High School Counselors

- The current average ratio in U.S. (1 counselor for every 471 students)
- Better train and equip counselors with help navigate students through the college-access and completion process (college and career readiness)
- Encourage adults to serve as higher education mentors to students

First Lady addresses
American School
Counselor Association
Annual Conference in
July

First Lady speaks to
Harvard Graduate
School of Education on
ways to close the gap in
school college-career
counseling

At the College
Opportunity Day of
Action in December,
630 new commitments
were announced (80+
for Counseling)

For updates and more information:

www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher

Twitter: @ReachHigher

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****THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR THE COMMENCEMENT CHALLENGES ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING!****



Campus Climate, Campus Commitment and the Completion Agenda at UC Riverside

*Webinar for the White House Initiative
on Educational Excellence for Hispanics
January 21, 2015*

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for Student Affairs, UC Riverside**

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Outline of Themes

- Why this matters: diversity, the completion agenda and America's future
- Campus climate for Hispanics and African Americans
- Closing racial/ethnic gaps in graduation rates
- Institutional Commitment
 - Exemplary Programs at UC Riverside
- Financial support for low-income students



The Benefits of Diversity: An Opportunity that Must be Realized and Leveraged

Racial diversity in the undergraduate student body has many well-documented benefits, including:

- *Improves cognitive skills and critical thinking (AERA 2012, Bowman '10)
- *Reduces prejudice and enhances empathy and cross-racial understanding (Pettigrew & Tropp '06, Denson '09, Davies '11)
- *Better democratic participation and civic engagement (Engberg & Hurtado '11; Bowman '11; Gurin '04) and workforce leadership skills (Jayakumar '08; Bowman et al. '11)

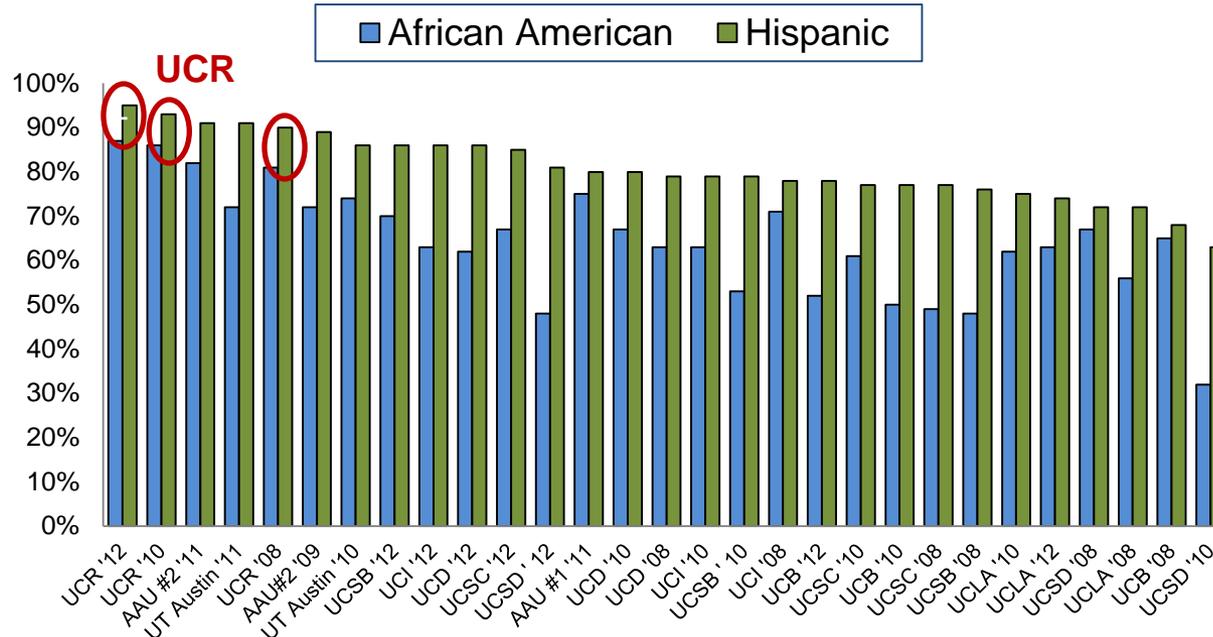
... But greater diversity (“critical mass”) on campus is only an opportunity. Too many college campuses have large Hispanic or African American student populations yet have profoundly large achievement gaps in graduation rates and/or an unsupportive climate.



Campus Climate: It's Real, It Matters

“Students of my race/ethnicity are respected on this campus”

Recent surveys from over 21,000 Black and Hispanic Undergraduates
(Percent strongly agree, agree or somewhat agree)

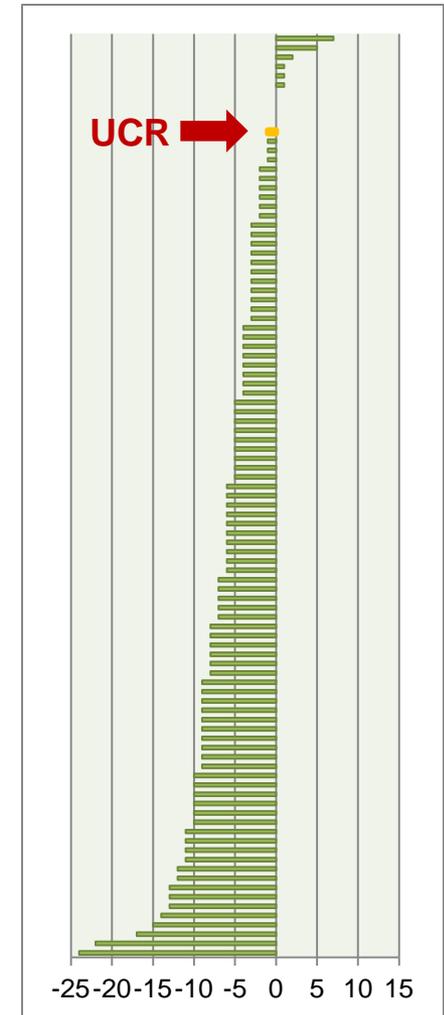
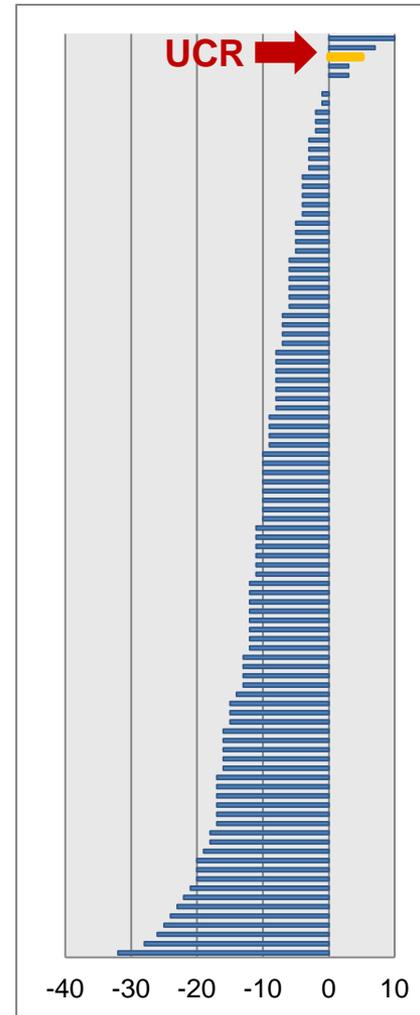


Sources: Kidder & Onwuachi-Willig, *Texas Law Review* (2014),
UC President's Accountability Report (2014)



We Can Close Racial Gaps in Graduation Rates

- There are large racial achievement gaps in graduation rates at most U.S. colleges & universities
- UCR bucks the trend in Black-White and Hispanic-White gaps in six-year freshmen graduation rates, compared to the hundred institutions in our Carnegie classification of “very high research” universities





Identity, Community, Integration

- › Early Academic Outreach
 - › Academic Preparation Programs that focus on economically disadvantaged communities in Southern California.
 - › Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)
 - › 2 TRiO Upward Bound Programs (Upward Bound Classic and Upward Bound Oasis)
 - › TRiO Educational Talent Search (Federal name is TRiO Talent Search)
 - › University Eastside Community Collaborative (UECC)/AmeriCorps
 - › TRiO Support Services Grant
- › Inland Empire Scholarship Fund/Inland Empire Scholars Program
 - › Develops and coordinates programming regarding academic success, financial aid/literacy, career development, and graduate school preparation.
 - › Strong alumni and community involvement has led to large gift to the university.
- › Common Ground
 - › Unique leadership retreat experience provides participants an opportunity to define points of connection to one another and develop collective responses to issues affecting them at UCR.
 - › Emphasis is placed on building community and establishing positive working relationships while creating joint projects and promoting continued collective work.
- › MUNDO - Special interest residence hall
 - › Offers specific programs and activities that relate to Mexican/ Mexican-American/ Chicano/ Spanish-American/ Latino culture
 - › Primary goal is to promote academic success.



Identity, Community, Integration (continued)

- › Student Life and Organizations
 - › Encourages students to participate in existing organizations or start their own groups and share their passions with other like-minded people to fulfill their personal goals.
 - › Unique leadership retreat experience provides participants an opportunity to define points of connection to one another and develop collective responses to issues affecting them at UCR.
 - › Emphasis is placed on building community and establishing positive working relationships while creating joint projects and promoting continued collective work.
- › Chicano Student Programs
 - › Social, cultural, and academic programs and resources
 - › Cultural, educational, and social events
 - › Highlight and celebrate the importance of heritage, culture, and language
 - › Chicano Link Peer Mentor Program
 - › Pairs new students (freshman/transfer) with a current student
 - › Focuses on the academic, cultural, and social integration of students.
 - › Supports a positive transition to UCR and promote new students' academic, cultural and social success.
- › P.O.D.E.R.
 - › Provides assistance to undocumented students through mentorship, financial assistance, community building and empowerment
 - › Since its establishment, PODER has outreached and presented to high school students and educators about the resources available to undocumented students



Support for Low-Income Students... A Deliberate Mission-Driven Investment

- At UCR 56% of all undergraduates are Pell Grant/low-income students. This **ranks 1st in the U.S.** out of 100+ universities in our Carnegie classification of “very high research” institutions (latest IPEDS data)
- These results are not an accident -- reflects a robust commitment by UCR to devote tuition dollars to need-based institutional aid + Pell Grants + Cal Grants
- UCR also maximizes its federal work study funds for community service positions (fostering engagement)
- As a result, at UCR low-income freshmen have the **same graduation rates** as our freshmen who do not receive need-based aid