



**Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program/Title V Grant**  
***Proyecto Éxito***

Mesa College is proud to be formally designated as an “Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)” for the past two years. One of the primary criteria to be designated as such is that a college must have a Latino student enrollment of at least 25%. As of Fall 2013, Mesa had a Latino student enrollment of 33%, which is more than double of what it was about a decade ago in Fall 2002, when the Latino student population was at 14.8%. Based on demographic trends, this percentage is expected to rise.

In the Fall 2014, Mesa College was awarded a “Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions-Title V” five-year grant in the amount of \$2.62 million. This represents only one of approximately 25 such grants that were awarded nationwide. The purpose of the grant is to improve the retention and graduation rates of Mesa’s diverse population, particularly its Latino students, through systemic, institutional changes and improvements. Mesa’s HSI/Title V program is entitled ***Proyecto Éxito***, a name that combines the idea of successfully exiting with a degree, certificate, or transfer-readiness with the Spanish word for “success.” Mesa will use grant funds to help a higher proportion of its low-income and Latino students experience academic success, allowing them to “exit” Mesa with their goals met.

**Critical Grant Imperatives:**

- Redesigning Basic Skills and Gateway Courses
  - Examples include: acceleration and learning communities
- Initiating New Academic Support & Student Support Systems
  - Examples include: peer mentoring and Structured Learning Assistance (a form of Supplemental Instruction)
- Providing Essential Faculty and Staff Development
  - Examples include: professional development to introduce new classroom pedagogies and to support student engagement from a cultural perspective
- Creating Supportive Spaces for Students, Staff and Faculty
  - Examples include: Development of Teaching & Learning Center for Staff and Faculty and the development of a Student Engagement Center with a cultural focus

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Improvements in Basic Skills/ESOL progression to College Level courses
- Reduction in the “D/F/W” rates in key gateway courses
- Improvements in retention and completion rates