



Governor's Office of Diversity & Inclusion/Affirmative Action

Diversity & Inclusion News, Resources, Job Opportunities

December 20, 2013

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NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 20, 2013

Governor Kitzhaber Announces New Senior Staff

(Salem, OR) — Governor Kitzhaber today announced several key appointments to senior positions in his office. Nkenge Harmon Johnson has been appointed Communications Director, Daniel Ledezma will serve as Education Policy Advisor with a focus on equity, and Sean Kolmer will return to the Governor's Office as the interim Health Care Policy Advisor.

"We have made a commitment to improve education, health care, and overall prosperity for all Oregonians, in every corner of the state," said Governor Kitzhaber. "I am pleased to bring on experienced, knowledgeable team members who offer the kind of leadership and rich expertise we need to meet our goals to improve the lives of Oregonians. I look forward to their contributions."

A native Oregonian raised in Salem and Portland, Ms. Harmon Johnson received her juris doctorate from Howard University and her bachelor of science degree in business administration from Florida A & M University. Her professional background includes serving as a Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative for the Obama Administration, Communications Director for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Director of Outreach Communications for Senator Harry Reid and the Senate Democratic Steering & Outreach Committee. She is a small business owner, and most recently has been practicing law for Harmon Johnson LLC and as a staff attorney for Stoll Berne. She will start her new position on January 9.

Ms. Ledezma comes to the Governor's Office from the Portland Housing Bureau, where she was Director of Equity, Policy, and Communications. Prior to that, she served as Policy Director for City of Portland Commissioner Nick Fish, held numerous positions at the Bureau of Housing Community Development, and was Director of the Up On Top After School Program and a high school teacher. Raised in Colorado, her education background includes a bachelor of arts in government from the University of Notre Dame and coursework at Portland State University in the urban and regional planning graduate program. She will begin her new position on January 13.

Mr. Kolmer previously advised the Governor on health care and returns to the role after serving as Deputy Chief of Policy and Programs for the Oregon Health Authority. He also serves as the Chair of the Public Employees' Benefit Board and was formerly deputy administrator of the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research. Kolmer received his bachelor's in exercise science from Linfield College and his master's in public health from Portland State University. He will start his new position on January 2.

Photos: [Ms. Harmon Johnson](#) -- [Ms. Ledezma](#) -- [Mr. Kolmer](#)

###

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., dedicated his life to ending the injustice of racism, and graced the world with his vision of a land guided by love instead of hatred; and

WHEREAS: The struggle for justice and freedom continues, its goal less distant, its triumph more sure because of Dr. King's crusade to win full civil rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS: Oregon has embraced Dr. King's ideals by honoring and respecting the diversity of its citizens; and

WHEREAS: In tribute to this great American teacher and leader – and to be faithful to his vision – all Oregonians must persist in individual acts of decency, justice, and human kindness.

**NOW,
THEREFORE:** I, John Kitzhaber, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim January 20, 2014 to be

DR. REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. REMEMBRANCE DAY

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: The Vietnamese New Year known as Tet is a time for family and friends to come together to reflect on the past and to celebrate new beginnings; and

WHEREAS: 2014 marks the Year of the Horse, a symbol that represents the values of courage and success; and

WHEREAS: Oregon's Vietnamese-American communities have made many contributions to our state's growth, development, and vitality; and

WHEREAS: During the twentieth century, the first Vietnamese immigrants came to Oregon in search of opportunity. In doing so, they introduced Oregon to the Vietnamese customs and traditions that have been passed down through generations; and

WHEREAS: This celebration is an opportunity to educate the public about the rich cultural heritage of Oregon's Vietnamese-American community; and

WHEREAS: Oregon takes great pride in the unique diversity of its residents, who constitute the strength of the state;

**NOW,
THEREFORE:** I, John Kitzhaber, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim January 30, 2014 to be

VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR/TET FESTIVAL

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

Proclamation Guidelines

Proclamations are issued by the Office of the Governor. They may recognize a day, week or month. The goal of a proclamation is to honor, celebrate, or create awareness of an event or significant issue. For more information visit http://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/proclamation_guidelines.aspx

Guidelines

1. All proclamations must be submitted with at least a 30-day notice to allow for the approval process and the production of the document itself.
2. Proclamations are not automatically renewed. Requests must be made on an annual basis. If the request is for a repeat of a previous proclamation, a copy of that document should be included with the request form.
3. The Governor's Office reserves the right to approve or decline the production of a proclamation request and to edit any drafted material for final wording.
4. Each proclamation request MUST come from an Oregon resident. This includes requests from national, international, or out-of-state organizations.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. [State of Oregon Jobs](#)

Employment with Oregon state government represents more than just a job. A career in public service is an opportunity to serve fellow citizens across our beautiful state. Professions in state government help to support many aspects of life in Oregon including quality education, healthcare and jobs, just to name a few. Considering a career in public service is an honorable choice!

Today's Featured Recruitments:

Organization: Department of Consumer & Business Services

Positions: [Principal Executive/Manager G \(Employee Services Administrator\)](#) (closes 12/30/13)

Organization: Department of Human Services

Positions: [Human Resource Analyst 3 \(Employee Management Coach\)](#) (open until filled)

Organization: Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

Position: [Principal Executive/Manager H \(Director, Parks & Recreation\)](#) (closes 01/10/14)

2. **Organization: Department of Education**

Positions:

- [EDUC13-1003 Child Nutrition Specialist](#), closes 1/10/14
- [EDUC13-1202 Office Specialist 1 \(Intake Specialist\)](#), closes 1/6/14
- [EDUC13-1205 Office Specialist 1 \(School Secretary\)](#), closes 1/6/14
- [EDUC13-1209 Audit and Finance Specialist](#), closes 1/10/14
- [EDUC13-1107 Education Program Specialist 2](#), closes 1/6/14
- [EDUC13-1204 Office Specialist 2](#), closes 12/30/13

Oregon Department of Education provides statewide leadership for all elementary and secondary students in Oregon's public school districts and education service districts. Responsibility also

extends to public preschool programs, the state School for the Deaf, regional programs for children with disabilities, and education programs in Oregon youth corrections facilities.

3. **Organization: Oregon Health Authority**

Positions:

- [Information Systems Specialist 6 - Systems Analyst](#) (closes 01/09/14)
- [Principal Executive/Manager E \(Manager, Laboratory Operations Section\)](#) (closes 01/15/14)
- [Information Systems Specialist 8 \(Application Database Administrator\)](#) (closes 01/16/14)
- [Information Systems Specialist 8 \(Systems Architect\)](#) (closes 01/16/14)
- [Operations and Policy Analyst 4 \(OHA Workforce Lead\)](#) (closes 01/16/14)

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is a state agency dedicated to helping people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention and access to quality, affordable health care. We are absolutely committed to ongoing innovation in the delivery of services, and to recruiting, developing and retaining dedicated employees.

4. **Organization: Oregon Military Department**

Position: [Accounting Technician 3 \(Payroll Technician\)](#) (closes 12/30/13)

OMD employees work in a wide range of occupations including armed security, fire fighters, repair/refurbish Department of Defense equipment, support youth activities, operate and maintain over 50 facilities throughout the state, manage major construction projects, and provide expertise in environmental compliance as well as managing the agency's budget and fiscal resources, providing human resource management and payroll activities for State employees, and soldiers and airmen called for State Active Duty.

5. **Organization: Oregon State Bar**

Positions:

- [Assistant General Counsel and Client Assistance Office Attorney](#) (open until filled)
- [Discipline Paralegal/Trial Assistant](#) (open until filled)
- [Referral & Information Services Manager](#) (open until filled)

The Oregon State Bar (OSB) regulates the practice of law in Oregon and provides a variety of services to its members and the public. We are looking for people to join our dedicated team.

6. **Organization: Oregon State Police**

Position: [Compliance Specialist 2 \(Emergency Planning & Response\)](#) (closes 12/26/13)

We are the provider of Premier Public Safety Services for Oregon each and every day. Our mission is to enhance the livability and safety for the State of Oregon by protecting the people, property, and natural resources of the State.

7. **Organization: Oregon State University**

Positions:

- [Equity Associate/Senior Equity Associate](#) (closes 1/17/14)

- [Office Coordinator](#) (closes 1/17/14)

The Oregon State University Office of Equity and Inclusion is committed to success for the entire campus community through equity, fairness, and understanding. The office manages the university's affirmative action, equal opportunity, and diversity efforts by engaging in community development, partnering with a range of individuals and groups to develop and deliver programs, establishing policies and procedures, evaluating hiring and recruitment practices, handling complaints of discrimination through investigation and resolution, and providing consultation, education, and training.

8. **Organization: Oregon Youth Authority**

Position: [Principal Executive/Manager D \(Camp Director\)](#) (closes 01/06/14)

OYA's core values are integrity, professionalism, accountability, and respect which provide the foundation for the decisions, actions, and practices that make up the agency's daily work. These core values guide and inform all that agency staff do to protect public safety, reduce crime, hold youth offenders accountable, aid in their reformation, and keep them safe.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Black Parent Initiative Holiday Parent Fair**

Date: Sat. Dec. 21st

It's an all day event where parent education workshops will be showcased. It's a great opportunity for parents who've been unable to join us to enjoy more of our weekly scheduled classes and get resources from our community partners. Event will be hosted from 11am-2pm at the McCoy Village Community Room, 4430 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Portland, OR. Childcare will be provided ages 3-12. For more information visit: www.thebpi.org

2. **Business Personnel Property Training**

Dates: Wed. Jan. 8th, Thur. Jan. 9th, Thur. Jan. 16th (Spanish)

The Washington County Department of Assessment & Taxation would like to invite you to attend an informative presentation on Business Personal Property Tax. Staff from the Washington County Dept. of Assessment & Taxation will provide some very useful information on a variety of Business Personal Property topics as well as some frequently asked questions that we encounter from taxpayers and small business owners like you.

- January 8th – 9am-noon (session 1) and 1pm-4pm (session 2) in the auditorium of the Public Services Bldg, 155 N 1st Ave, Hillsboro.
 - Please register by Friday, January 3, 2014 with Melissa Williams, Personal Property Auditor at 503-846-6263 or via email at Melissa_williams@co.washington.or.us
- January 9th - 6:00-9:00pm in the Sherwood Police Department Community Room (20495 SW Borchers Dr, Sherwood, OR). There is limited onsite parking but additional parking is available next door at the Sherwood Ice Arena.
 - Please register by Friday, January 3, 2014 with Melissa Williams, Personal Property

Auditor at 503-846-6263 or via email at Melissa_williams@co.washington.or.us

- January 16th – 9pm-9pm. Lugar: Oficinas del Condado de Washington, 155 N. 1st Ave – Auditorio Shirley Huffman, Hillsboro, OR 97124
 - Para registrarse, llame a Rebeca Halsen: 503.846.3919 o envíe un correo electrónico a: rebeca_halsen@co.washington.or.us

3. Beaverton 2014 State of the City Address

Date: Wed. Jan. 15th

Beaverton's Committee for Citizen Involvement invites you to the 2014 State of the City Address presented by Mayor Denny Doyle & Friends. During the event, the City of Beaverton will collect food donations to benefit Beaverton-area families in need. For more information visit:

<http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/index.aspx?NID=246>

4. 8th Annual Drum Major Ecumenical Scholarship Program: Salute to Greatness 'Living the Dream' Luncheon

Date: Sat. Jan. 18th

- Host: Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church
- Time: 12noon – 2:00pm
- Location: Dr. & Mrs. O.B. Williams Fellowship Hall, 3138 North Vancouver Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97227
- Ticket donation: \$25.00

The Luncheon program will honor the lives and legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks and Ms. Yolanda King. Community leaders and organizations whose lives mirror these "Drum Majors" will also be recognized. Four local high school students will be honored with a Drum Major Humanitarian award.

"Redeeming the Dream" Ecumenical Service

Sunday, January 19, 2014 • 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Main Sanctuary – Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church

The program will include a speaker's panel with faith and community leaders, interfaith prayers, and music for the soul. Nelson Mandela "Medal of Freedom and Peace" will be awarded. This event is free to the public.

Reception to follow immediately after program in the Dr. & Mrs. O.B. Williams Fellowship Hall

5. Stride Toward Freedom MLK 5K Run/1 Mile Walk - 7th Annual

Date: Sat. Jan. 18th

Consider how the legacy and teachings of Martin Luther King help you in your daily life, and join us for fresh air in the lungs and make the weekend exercise schedule complete by entering the 7th Annual Stride Toward Freedom 5k Run/1 Mile Walk. Part of the proceeds benefit the Festival, so don't be shy! Sign up today, then share with all your friends! For more information visit:

www.GetMeRegistered.com/StrideTowardFreedom

6. 2014 Empowering Women of Color in Business Conference: Leadership, Cultural Identity & Professional Empowerment

Date: Thur. Jan. 23rd

Focus:

- Personal development for leadership and core leadership presence practices
- Discover true core qualities from males' perspective
- Cultural impact of women of color in business world
- Building negotiation skill and identifying potential talents
- Gaining insight on government and corporate contracting
- Blending leadership presence and cultural richness
- Intergenerational issues among women of color

For more information visit: www.apacc-or.org

7. Brownfield Site Restoration and Remediation: Understanding the Risks and Rewards

Date: Wed. Jan. 29th

In this 1-day course, attendees will learn what characterizes a "Brownfield" project, how it differs from a conventional "Greenfield" real estate transaction, and why it would be desirable for a public entity or private investor to pursue a Brownfield. For more information visit:

<https://nwetc.org/course-catalog/rem-404-jan-29-2014>

8. Legacy of MLK, by Dr. Bernice King

Date: Wed. Feb. 12th

Dr. Bernice King will be speaking at Portland State University on the legacy of her father, Martin Luther King, Jr. The evening celebration will include a music ensemble by the legendary music hall of fame inductees Linda Hornbuckle and Janice Scroggins. For more information visit:

<http://www.pdx.edu/events/legacy-mlk-dr-bernice-king?delta=0>

9. Driving Change for Results Diversity & Inclusion Showcase

Date: Thur. Feb. 13th (Palo Alto, CA)

The Driving Change for Results Diversity & Inclusion Showcase will feature:

- Powerful and dynamic learning process that engages your employees in dialogue, exercises and skill practice
- Engaging and interactive resources designed to provide managers and supervisors with the skill sets to effectively lead today's diverse workforce
- Group facilitated, interactive diversity discussion

For more information visit:

http://www.prismdiversity.com/products/diversity_inclusion_training_programs.html?Nav=DiversityBtn

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, RESOURCES, & INFORMATION

1. Serve on the Traditional Health Worker Commission

The Oregon Health Authority's [Traditional Health Worker \(THW\) Commission](#) will promote the role, engagement and utilization of the traditional health workforce, which includes Community Health Workers, Peer Support and Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas, in Oregon's Integrated and Coordinated Health Care Delivery System. The Commission will advise and make recommendations to the Oregon Health Authority on the development, implementation, and sustainability of this program and ensure the program remains responsive to consumer and community health needs. The Commission will support and foster the utilization of the traditional health workforce as a strategy to assure the delivery of high-quality, culturally competent care and to achieve Oregon's Triple Aim of better health, better care and lower costs.

If you would like to be considered for an appointment on the Commission, please complete and [submit this application](#) no later than **Friday, January 13, 2014**. Priority consideration to the THW Commission and Subcommittees will be given to applications received by **January 3, 2014**.

if you have questions, concerns, or to submit your application, please contact April R. Johnson:
Oregon Health Authority
Office of Equity and Inclusion
421 SW Oak Street, Suite 750
Portland, OR 97204
April.R.Johnson@state.or.us

2. Strategic Initiative Grant RFP and WebEx Information: STEM and Minority Ed. Pipeline / Retention

We are pleased to announce the next grant connected to Oregon's [Strategic Initiatives](#). As part of House Bill 3232, Strategic Initiatives for Student Success, there are several grants aimed at addressing the needs of underserved students in our schools and communities as we work toward our 40-40-20 goal. Key to this work are investments to increase student proficiency in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in addition to connecting to the world of work.

The **STEM, STEAM and/or CTE Program & Activity Grant** is designed to fund public schools, school districts, postsecondary institutions, or student-focused nonprofits that provide learning opportunities in both formal and informal educational settings. These STEM, STEAM and/or CTE programs and activities will foster 21st century career skills, in addition to providing on-going access and opportunities to student populations that have historically been underserved and underrepresented throughout the state.

To access the RFP for the STEM, STEAM and/or CTE Program & Activity Grant, go to:
http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/opportunities/grants/steam_or_cte_prog_and_activity_rfp.doc.
The RFP is due January 29, 2014.

A technical assistance and application webinar will be held on December 30, 2013 at 3:15 pm. To join the online meetings please [click here](#). The password is: STEM

If you have questions or concerns about the STEM, STEAM and/or CTE Program & Activity Grant please contact Jamie Ramage at jamie.ramage@ode.state.or.us or 503-947-6504.

There will also be a second webinar to answer questions and clarify RFP requirements for the Oregon Minority Educator Pipeline Models Grant and the Oregon Minority Educator Retention Grant on January 8, 2014 at 10:00 am. To join the online meetings please [click here](#). To join the audio conference only, dial: 1-877-668-4493 or 1-650-479-3208. Use access code: 928-766-220.

If you have questions or concerns about the Oregon Minority Educator Pipeline Models Grant or the Oregon Minority Educator Retention Grant please contact Markisha Smith at markisha.smith@state.or.us or 503-947-5669.

3. From the Desk of the Chief Education Officer

Last week I had the opportunity to visit southern Oregon to connect with education leaders in Medford and Ashland.

I began my visit by participating in the Southern Oregon Education Summit where K-12 and college leaders presented their vision for education in Klamath County. Modeled after a successful initiative in Texas where high school graduation rates went up from 62% to 88% in five years, leaders demonstrated the alignment with the 40-40-20 goal in Oregon. What is remarkable is that the project in Texas included more than 90% of students who qualified for free and reduced lunch and 66% who were ELL. Strategies used in Texas are aligned with those I believe we need move towards here in Oregon including: better defined pathways for students from high school into college (in the Texas project, these started as early as middle school) and credit equivalency alignment between Community Colleges and Universities.

I had the opportunity to visit Southern Oregon University and learned, among other things, about an integrated learning model called “Houses” that is designed to be a student-centered interdisciplinary approach to connecting active learning and career preparation. It is a four year cohort model and focuses on project-based learning around a significant problem or issue. I was struck with this pilot project, the beauty of the campus and the commitment staff had to preparing their students for the future.

I met with the South Oregon Success Regional Achievement Collaborative and learned about the impressive array of integrated partnerships designed to support students from early learning to age 24 in Josephine and Jackson counties.

I ended my trip with a conversation with superintendents about reaching the 40-40-20 goal and a briefing on the *Say Yes to Yes* campaign designed to raise money for music, technology and other interactive learning tools for students in the region.

I am deeply appreciative of all of the tremendous efforts happening in Southern Oregon to deliberately prepare students for their future, and I look forward to following these efforts and their progression towards 40-40-20.

Written by Nancy Golden

Oregon Live, Opinion: [Rebuilding School Budgets on the Backs of our Children](#)
University of Oregon [Professor Named to State Board of Education](#)

4. State Board of Education Announces New Member

(Salem, Ore.) – Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton and State Board Chair Samuel Henry are pleased to announce Charles Martinez as the latest member of the State Board of Education. Martinez was confirmed by the Oregon Senate in November and will fill the term vacated by Artemio Paz Jr. His first meeting with the Board was in December.

“Charles brings a wealth of experience in education, policy, and public service to the State Board,” said Deputy Superintendent Rob Saxton. “I look forward to having his involvement and insights as we move forward with the important issues facing education in our state. I know that he will be a true asset to this Board.”

Charles Martinez currently serves as an associate professor and department head in the Department of Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership at the University of Oregon, where he also directs the Center for Equity Promotion. He teaches courses in diversity and multicultural education, health and education equity, and methodology, among other duties.

“Throughout my professional career, I have been an active participant in state and local leadership activities designed to promote success for children and families, particularly those from underserved populations who frequently experienced a disproportionate burden in terms of education and behavioral health disparities, said Charles Martinez. “I see my service on the Oregon State Board of Education as a natural continuation of my interest in bringing research and scholarship in best practice interventions for children and families to real world applied settings. I am committed to efforts designed to apply research about ‘what works’ for schools but in a manner that carefully respects the challenges and strengths that are already present in our communities.”

Prior to his current role at U of O, Dr. Martinez served as the University of Oregon Vice President for Instructional Equity and Diversity from 2005 to 2011 and served as a senior scientist at the non-profit Oregon Social Learning Center where he founded and directed the center’s Latino Research Team. In addition, Dr. Martinez has served on the local Eugene School Board and has served on a number of other education and civic boards including: Chair of the Latino Student Access and Success Taskforce for the Oregon Board of Higher Education, Chair of the Annual International Scientific Conference for the National Hispanic Science Network, Chair of the Eugene School District Equity Committee, Member of the Oregon Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, Chair of Cultural Competency Constitution Committee, Member of the Oregon Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Health, and Youth Mentor for the Latino Youth Project.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Charles Martinez who joins us on the State Board of Education,” said State Board Chair Samuel Henry. “His distinguished record as an educator, university faculty member and senior administrator and community leader offers us fresh perspectives and additional insight to the policy work of the Board and to the reform efforts underway in Oregon. The Board always has need of leadership that directs policy to better serve children, youth, families and communities across our state, and the challenges, as the work of the OEIB has illustrated, are profound. He joins a group already distinguished, and he will bring much.”

The seven-member board sets educational policies and standards for Oregon's 197 public school districts, 17 community college districts, and 19 educational service districts. The State Board is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Five members represent Oregon’s five congressional districts, and two members represent the state at large. Members serve a four-year term and are limited to two consecutive terms. Current Board members include Samuel Henry

(Chair), Serilda Summers-McGee (Vice Chair), Angela Bowen, Anthony Veliz, Miranda Summer, and Charles Martinez. Charles Martinez's term runs from November 22, 2013 through June 30, 2017.

###

5. UCLA study funded by Eva Longoria IDs factors that improve educational outcomes for Latinas

Young Latinas who have Latina and Latino teachers and counselors as role models and who are involved in extracurricular activities in high school have a much better chance of educational success, according to a new research report from the Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles at [UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies](#).

The report, "[Making Education Work for Latinas in the U.S.](#)," and a companion video were commissioned by actress and philanthropist Eva Longoria, founder of the [Eva Longoria Foundation](#). Longoria's foundation works to empower Latinas to reach their full potential through education and entrepreneurship.

"We were frustrated to primarily find analysis of what does *not* work for Latinas, and we wanted to find out what does," Longoria said. "The findings from this study will help us fine-tune our education work, and we hope others will use this research to support Latina achievement."

For the study, researchers examined the existing knowledge base about promoting Latina educational success, defined as completing high school and going on to secure a college degree. Among other findings, their report shows that involvement in extracurricular activities contributes to a sense of "belonging" at school, something researchers found missing for many Latinas.

The study also found that a strong belief by parents that their daughters will complete high school was associated with increased high school graduation and college attendance rates among Latinas. Additionally, having good math scores in elementary school and being bilingual were positive indicators of Latina college-going success.

The nation's largest minority group, Latinos make up the majority of all students in California, Texas and New Mexico. And while they graduate high school at somewhat higher rates than Native Americans and African-Americans, their college completion rates remain significantly lower. The study also reveals that despite an increase in college enrollment numbers for Latinos nationally, there has actually been a decline in the overall percentage of these students who enroll in college as a proportion of their population.

Boosting educational attainment among this population is dependent on a number of factors, but the role of Latinas in engendering such success cannot be underestimated, said the study's principal investigator, [Patricia Gándara](#), a UCLA professor of education and co-director of the [Civil Rights Project](#), one of the nation's most highly regarded research institutions on civil rights.

"Latinas are the linchpin of the next generation — how a child fares in school is highly correlated with their mother's education," Gándara said. "If the cycle of under-education is to be broken for the Latino population, it will depend to a large extent on changing the fortunes of young women."

The study examined two large data-sets, one national and one California-based, to determine predictors of successful educational outcomes for representative samples of Latina youth who have recently been in high school and college. The report also incorporated case studies of seven

young Latinas from very challenging circumstances who found their pathway to educational success through high school, community college and four-year universities.

Link to article: <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/ucla-study-funded-by-actress-and-249564.aspx>

Link to the report: <http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/college-access/underrepresented-students/making-education-work-for-latinas-in-the-u.s>

Link to companion video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WACy2H04ps&feature=share&list=PL6762C0943CDD2C1D>

6. **The Kaiser Permanente Community Fund at Northwest Health Foundation Awards more than \$2.5 Million to Improve Health**

The [Kaiser Permanente Community Fund](#) awarded \$2,513,280 in grant funds to 20 organizations that improve health in Oregon and southwest Washington. Awarded annually, these grants address the "upstream" or underlying factors that impact health through programs in education, economic opportunity or early childhood.

For too many of us, conditions where we're born, learn and live limit our choices and our opportunity to be healthy. The Kaiser Permanente Community Fund supports organizations that are tackling these conditions in innovative ways that are driven by the very communities they seek to impact.

We're honored to support exactly this kind of work. [Read more about the 2013 awards here.](#)

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