93-0022
Rancho Santiago

Latina Student Center

Over 90,000 Latinas are enrolled in college credit classes in the state’s community colleges. At Rancho Santiago College there are 3,432 Latinas. While enrolling in great numbers, few complete their goals of transferring, receiving an A.A. degree or receiving a vocational certificate. Researchers have identified barriers to their success which include sex-role stereotypes and expectations for Latinas; lack of parental support for their education; inadequate educational preparation; low expectations by educators; first generation college status; and resultant low self-esteem.

Two Latina faculty at Rancho Santiago propose to use research findings to assist Latinas overcome these barriers. The strategies they develop will help colleges across the state improve the educational success of Latina students. This project will:

1. Establish a Latina Student Center on campus for Latinas to receive orientation information, receive counseling, get referrals to tutoring and other services, and, generally network and meet other students.

2. Develop eight seminars that bring into the open known barriers to success and teach Latinas how to overcome them.

3. Develop follow-up and early intervention strategies to prevent attrition.

4. Sponsor lectures and other activities for parents and students to help parents understand college and its benefits.

5. Produce a resource guide for all community colleges that describes the development and outcomes of this project so that others can duplicate it.

During the first year of the project, 300 students and 50 parents will benefit. The benefits will be measured by improved retention, persistence and grades and by an increase in students’ use of other support services.