

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL FORUM RECEIVES \$139,188 GRANT AWARD TO STUDY IMPACT OF PRIVATE SUPPORT ON HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LATINO STUDENTS

New one-year study will examine how philanthropy shapes institutional viability, academic programs, student access and degree completion in Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)

Ann Arbor, Michigan – January 12, 2011 – The National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good (National Forum), an affiliate of the *U.S. News and World Report* top-ten ranked Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education (CSHPE) at the University of Michigan School of Education, announced today that it has been awarded a grant from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG) to examine how resource constraints and the ability to garner private support could impact higher education access and promote degree completion at Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs) in the United States.

“TG is pleased to help support efforts to increase student access and persistence in higher education. We believe this research can show how community engagement can assist institutions in helping students complete their college education, particularly those from first-generation families,” said Sue McMillian, President and CEO of TG.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 265 federally-recognized HSIs currently educate more than half (54%) of all Latinos currently enrolled at colleges and universities in the United States, and represent only 8% of all U.S. postsecondary institutions. The majority of these institutions are community colleges (52%) and the remaining 48% are classified as private (26%) and public (22%) colleges and universities, with only a handful of these institutions categorized as research universities, according to the Department of Education’s statistics.

As public investment in higher education has continued to steadily decline over the last two decades, postsecondary institutions must increasingly rely on private giving and voluntary support as a means for ensuring and sustaining

growth. The endowment resources held by HSIs, when spread across the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students they serve are dramatically less than those at nearly all other institutions. Initial research suggests that, on average, there is 91% less support per student than at other comparable post-secondary institutions, making these institutions and their students increasingly vulnerable to even the slightest instability in public support. In 1992, federal subsidies were established to help close the funding gaps that have historically characterized these institutions. However, given the increase in the Latino population experienced by the U.S. over the past several decades, discretionary funding for HSIs at the federal level has failed to keep pace with the growing demand for postsecondary education among the Latino population.

The newly funded study will systematically examine statistical trends and investigate institutional practices that will shape the long-term capacity of HSIs to meet their missions as social, financial and political conditions change over the next twenty years. By documenting the existing patterns of institutional financial resiliency as represented by patterns of private support, non-operating assets, and the presence of endowed funds, the project team seeks to answer the question: *How has the distribution of institutional resources affected patterns of access and degree completion at HSIs over the past five years?*

The study will take one year to complete. Findings will be used to assist college presidents and governing boards of HSIs in exploring and re-examining sustainable funding and investment strategies for their institution, while also setting the stage to develop their roles as leaders in an ever-changing and difficult economic and political climate.

For more information on this and other work completed by the National Forum on issues of Immigration and Higher Education, please visit the National Forum's website at www.thenationalforum.org.

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About the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good

The National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good (National Forum) is affiliated with the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education (CSHPE) at the University of Michigan and is uniquely positioned as both a creator and translator of rigorous empirical research into practice-based outcomes. Our mission statement, adopted in 2000, explicitly states our “commitment to significantly increase awareness, understanding, commitment, and action relative to the public service role of higher education” in the United States.

About TG

TG promotes educational access and success so that students can realize their college and career dreams. As a public, nonprofit corporation, TG offers resources to help students and families plan and prepare for college, learn the basics of money management, and repay their federal student loans. Additional information about TG can be found online at www.tgslc.org.