

Increase of Latino Presence on UC Campuses

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News Editors

As the percentage of Latino high school graduates increases, as shown by a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, the amount of in-state Latino students accepted into Universities of California (UCs) has also risen for the 2014-2015 school year. With 28.8 percent of Latino applicants being enrolled into UCs, Latinos—for the first time—have been admitted more than Caucasian applicants, making them the second most accepted ethnicity, according to the Huffington Post.

“This does in fact engender my views on Latinos [that instead of being] the individuals who drop out of school, [they] actually strive for an education. [...] Being a Latino, [hearing] this outcome is truly amazing,” senior Antonik Karayan said.

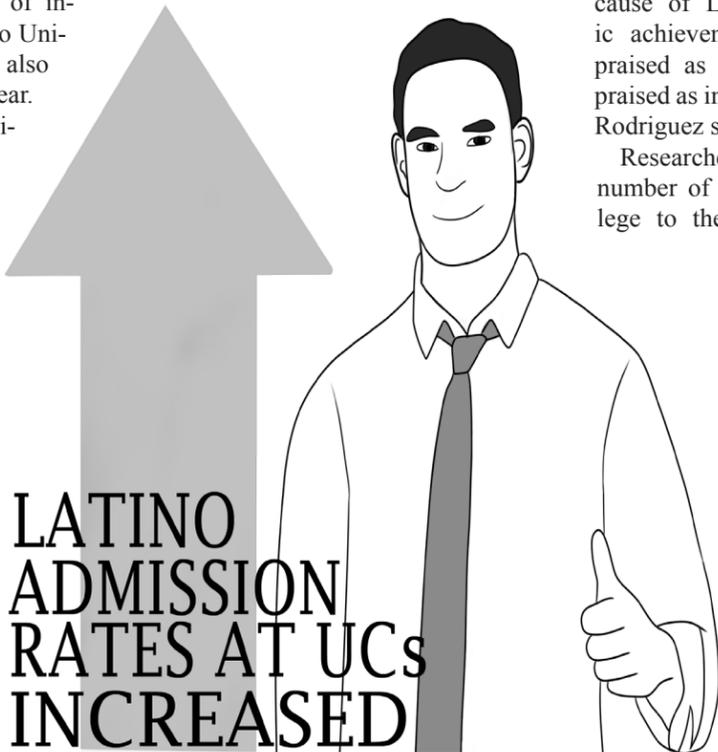
The increasing acceptance rate of Latino students corresponds with the group’s population growth statewide. According to Governor Jerry Brown’s state budget released last January, Latinos were projected to become the largest single ethnic group in the state by last March, surpassing Caucasians, making up 39 percent of the state’s population, compared to 32.3 percent in 2000.

“Knowing that there was an increase in the amount of Latino students being accepted to UCs makes applying to a UC a little less intimidating,” senior Laura

Salazar said.

In 2000, the high school dropout rate of Latinos was 28 percent; by 2011, the percentage went down to 14 percent, according to the National Public Radio (NPR).

“[UCs accepting more Latinos] shows



year or four year college, an increase from 49 percent in 2000. In comparison, 67 percent of Caucasian students headed to college in the same year, a three percent increase from 2000.

“I think stereotypes that say Latinos won’t go anywhere will [diminish] because of Latino students’ academic achievements. Instead of being praised as a certain race, they are praised as individuals,” senior Renata Rodriguez said.

Researchers attribute the rise in number of Latinos enrolling in college to the declining economy or changing familial values. The rate of Latino high school graduates going on to college has increased since 2008.

“Seeing the Latinos and Latinas achieving in their lives definitely inspires me to strive to be one of them,” sophomore Raquel Meza said.

As stated by the Washington Post, since the Great Recession, Latino unemployment rates of individuals between 16 and 24 years old have increased by seven percent. In addition, 88 percent of Latinos, 16 years or older, believe that getting a college degree is important in life.

“Awesome! Things are finally changing,” World Languages Department Chair Alejandra Perez said.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Number of 2015 UC Applicants Breaks Record Despite Tuition Increase

SARA HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

In 2014, the Board of Regents of the UC system voted for a tuition increase over the next five years. Tuition will increase by five percent from the 2013-2014 tuition cost of \$12,804 for California residents and \$36,828 for out-of-state and international students, according to Huffington Post. Students with families that earn over \$175,000 will be affected by the tuition increase, which affects about half of the students currently enrolled.

“[I feel] very bothered because the raise [of tuition] for education at the UC level is uncalled for,” senior Kristy Li said. “It’s just like when a brand is hyped out, you have to pay for it’s brand. You’re basically paying for the name.”

Despite the increase in tuition, the University of California (UC) campuses had a record number of applicants to their nine undergraduate campuses for the 2015 fall school year. According to Huffington Post, this is the eleventh year that the UC system has had an increase in applicants.

The fall applications included 46% of first generation college students. The pool of UC applicants also had the largest freshman amount of Latin ethnic background applicants and a drop in Asian and Caucasian background applications.

“I [intended] on applying to multiple UCs, but the tuition increase and other factors ultimately made me apply to a handful,” senior Calvin Wan said.

President Obama Proposes New Community College Tuition Reform

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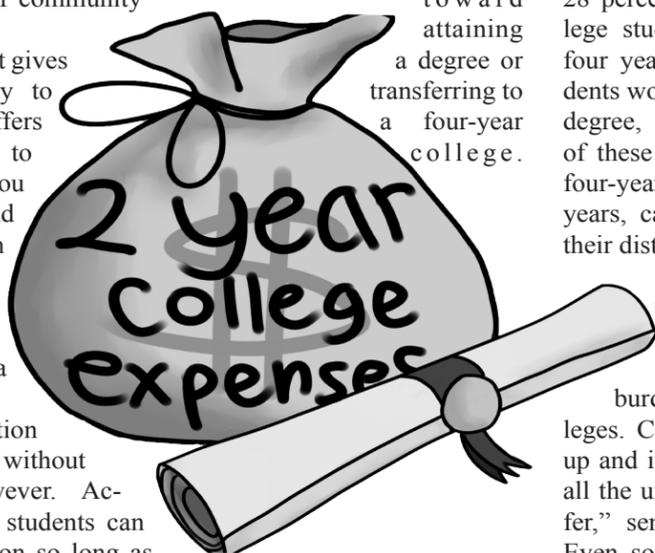
In his 2015 State of the Union address, President Obama addressed an issue that hit very close to home for many Americans—the ongoing matter of student debt. In what he calls “A Better Bargain for the Middle Class,” Obama intends to make the American Dream achievable for everyone. He intends to do so by raising the minimum wage, providing high-quality preschool for every child, working with communities that were most impacted by the recession and much more, according to the White House. One such proposal is his plan to

allocate \$60 billion to ensuring two free years of community college.

“I really think it gives more opportunity to [everyone]. It offers an opportunity to explore what you want to do and older people can also take this chance to go back to school,” junior Justin Ima said.

The free tuition does not come without conditions, however. According to PBS, students can receive free tuition so long as they maintain a GPA of 2.5 or

higher and continue to work toward attaining a degree or transferring to a four-year college.



According to CNN

and Columbia University, only 28 percent of community college students graduate within four years. 80 percent of students work toward a bachelor’s degree, yet only 20 percent of these students transfer to a four-year institution within five years, causing many to voice their distaste for the proposal.

“Personally, I would not [take this opportunity] because it would force a lot of burden on community colleges. Classes would be filled up and it would be hard to get all the units you need to transfer,” senior Patrick Lei said. Even some on a national and worldwide circuit disagreed

with the President’s proposal.

“President Obama is merely kicking the can down the road for future generations to confront,” CNN’s Michael B. Horn said.

Others disagree with Horn. CNN contributor LZ Granderson stated that a college degree is no longer just a luxury, but something that one-third of job openings by 2020 will require. He goes on to explain that Obama’s proposal would help unemployed Americans and part-time workers be trained in new skillsets and consequently close the skills gap and lower unemployment rates.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

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