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## **MEDIA ALERT**

**FLORIDA C.A.N.!**  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, BEH 236  
Tampa, FL 33620

**Media Contact: Lalita Llerena**

(813)974-8606-main

[lalita@usf.edu](mailto:lalita@usf.edu)

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### **Florida Scores High in Graduating Hispanics**

*~New report highlights Florida higher education institutions ranked in the top 25 nationally for graduating Latinos.~*

**Tampa, FL**– Florida makes the grade in a [report](#) recently released by one of [Florida College Access Network's](#) national partners. [Excelencia in Education's](#) "[Finding Your Workforce](#)" provides an analysis of the top 25 institutions graduating Hispanics nationally. The project's goal is to help employers recruit recent Latino degree recipients in key sectors.

In the opening report of the "Finding Your Workforce" series, several Florida institutions come out on top of their national peers in the total number of degrees or certificates awarded to Latinos during the 2009 to 2010 school year. Top Florida institutions include Florida International University, Miami Dade College, the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida.

Florida International University ranks #1 in the nation for the amount of bachelor and master degrees it awards Hispanics. FIU also ranks 10th for professional degrees and 19<sup>th</sup> in doctoral degrees awarded to Latinos during the 2009-10 school year.

The report also shows Miami Dade College awards more associate degrees to Latinos than any other institution in the country. During the 2009-10 school year, 65% of all Miami Dade College graduates were Latino.

The University of Florida scores high in the report as well, placing 6<sup>th</sup> for professional degrees, 9<sup>th</sup> for doctoral degrees, 11<sup>th</sup> for bachelor degrees and 21<sup>st</sup> for master degrees awarded to Hispanics.

The University of Central Florida is in at #14 of U.S. institutions awarding the most bachelor degrees to Latinos.

Private universities round out the top 25 as well, including the University of Miami, which is 9<sup>th</sup> on the list of national institutions that award professional degrees to Latinos.

Other Florida institutions in the top 25 of all academic levels are Broward College, Valencia Community College, Palm Beach State College, Nova Southeastern University, Saint Thomas University, Everest Institute-Hialeah, Everest University-South Orlando, Florida Career College-Miami, Florida National College, Fortis College-Miami and Keiser University-Ft. Lauderdale.

The findings are crucial to Florida C.A.N.!’s mission to help increase the number of working-age adults in Florida with a high-quality degree or credential to 60% by the year 2025. “Latinos represent the largest minority population in the state. We can’t reach Goal 2025 without the Hispanic community being fully aware of the opportunities that exist in higher education and without more Hispanics earning postsecondary degrees or certificates,” said Braulio Colón, Executive Director for Florida C.A.N.!. “I applaud FIU, MDC and the other state institutions on the list for their successful retention and completion strategies,” said Colón.

“*Finding Your Workforce*” is a project of Excelencia in Education’s national initiative “*Ensuring America’s Future*.” The “*Finding Your Workforce*” series will include future reports revealing and analyzing the top 25 institutions enrolling and graduating Latinos in key sectors, such as health, science, technology, engineering, math, business, education and liberal arts.

For a complete look at the top 25 U.S. institutions graduating Latinos, [click here](#). To download the full report [click here](#).

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#### **About Florida College Access Network**

Florida College Access Network’s mission is to create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college & career preparation, access, and completion for all students. Our Big Goal is to increase the proportion of working-age adults in Florida who hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by the year 2025. For more information, visit [www.floridacollegeaccess.org](http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org)