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Felician College President Joins New National Effort to Improve Success for Latino Students in Higher Education



Dr. Anne Prisco, President of Felician College joins the **Presidents for Latino Students Success**, a new effort by *Excelencia* in Education to increase degree attainment for Latino students. Felician College is the only independent private institution included on the list of colleges and universities.

RUTHERFORD, NJ – To mark its 10 years of service, *Excelencia* in Education announced the launch of a new effort to engage college and university presidents across America. **Presidents for Latino Student Success** enlists institutional leaders throughout the country to make America stronger by increasing degree attainment for Latino students and all students. Felician College President, Anne M. Prisco, Ph.D. has been named the only college president from an independent private institution.

“Felician's commitment to diversity reflects our mission and Franciscan values, and it goes beyond mere tolerance and respect, important as those are,” said Dr. Prisco. “Because our Latino students are so important to us, we strive to provide an environment that enables them to feel supported and cared for, while also challenged to grow and become their best, to dream large about themselves, their communities, and our global future.”

Excelencia in Education is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating Latino student success in higher education. "*Excelencia* in Education has become an invaluable resource for higher education leaders who understand that the success of America's Latino students is critical to our nation's future," said Eloy Ortiz Oakley, president of Long Beach City College and an inaugural member of **Presidents for Latino Student Success**. "*Excelencia's* analysis makes clear that for the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million more degrees by 2020. Every higher educational institution in America could benefit from *Excelencia's* research, evidence-based practices, and proven ability to bring together key stakeholders to move our nation toward that goal."

The following college and university presidents are members of the Presidents for Latino Student Success:

- Ricardo Fernandez, CUNY-Lehman College
- Mildred Garcia, California State University, Fullerton
- Willie Hagan, California State University, Dominguez Hills
- Ray Keck, Texas A&M International University
- Flavius Killebrew, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
- Felix Matos Rodriguez, CUNY- Hostos Community College
- Gail Mellow, CUNY-LaGuardia Community College
- Tomas Morales, California State University, San Bernardino
- Diana Natalicio, University of Texas at El Paso
- Elsa Nuñez, Eastern Connecticut State University
- Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Long Beach City College
- Antonio Perez, CUNY- Borough of Manhattan Community College
- Anne Prisco, Felician College, The Franciscan College of New Jersey
- William Powers, Jr., The University of Texas at Austin
- Shirley Reed, South Texas College
- Mark Rosenberg, Florida International University
- William Serrata, El Paso Community College

"We are gratified this distinguished group of higher educational leaders have committed to building the national momentum to achieve our collective goal of making this country stronger with the talents, skills and contributions of greater numbers of Latino college graduates," said Sarita Brown, president of *Excelencia* in Education. "These leaders come from a diversity of institutions and locations yet share proven capacities to advance student success with the acumen to reach and serve Latino students."

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Felician College, the Franciscan College of New Jersey, is a liberal arts, coeducational Catholic college founded in 1942 and sponsored by the Felician Sisters. True to its mission, Felician College welcomes a diverse student population and embraces their educational needs. With campuses in Lodi and Rutherford, New Jersey, Felician College currently enrolls more than 2,000 students and offers more than 55 undergraduate and graduate programs in the classroom and online in the arts and sciences, business and management sciences, health sciences and teacher education. In 2012, the School of Nursing added a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) to the College's roster of degrees. Felician College offers 13 varsity interscholastic sports that compete at the NCAA Division II level.