

An aerial photograph of a city at dusk. In the foreground, a large array of solar panels is visible on a rooftop. The city skyline is illuminated with lights, and mountains are visible in the background under a twilight sky.

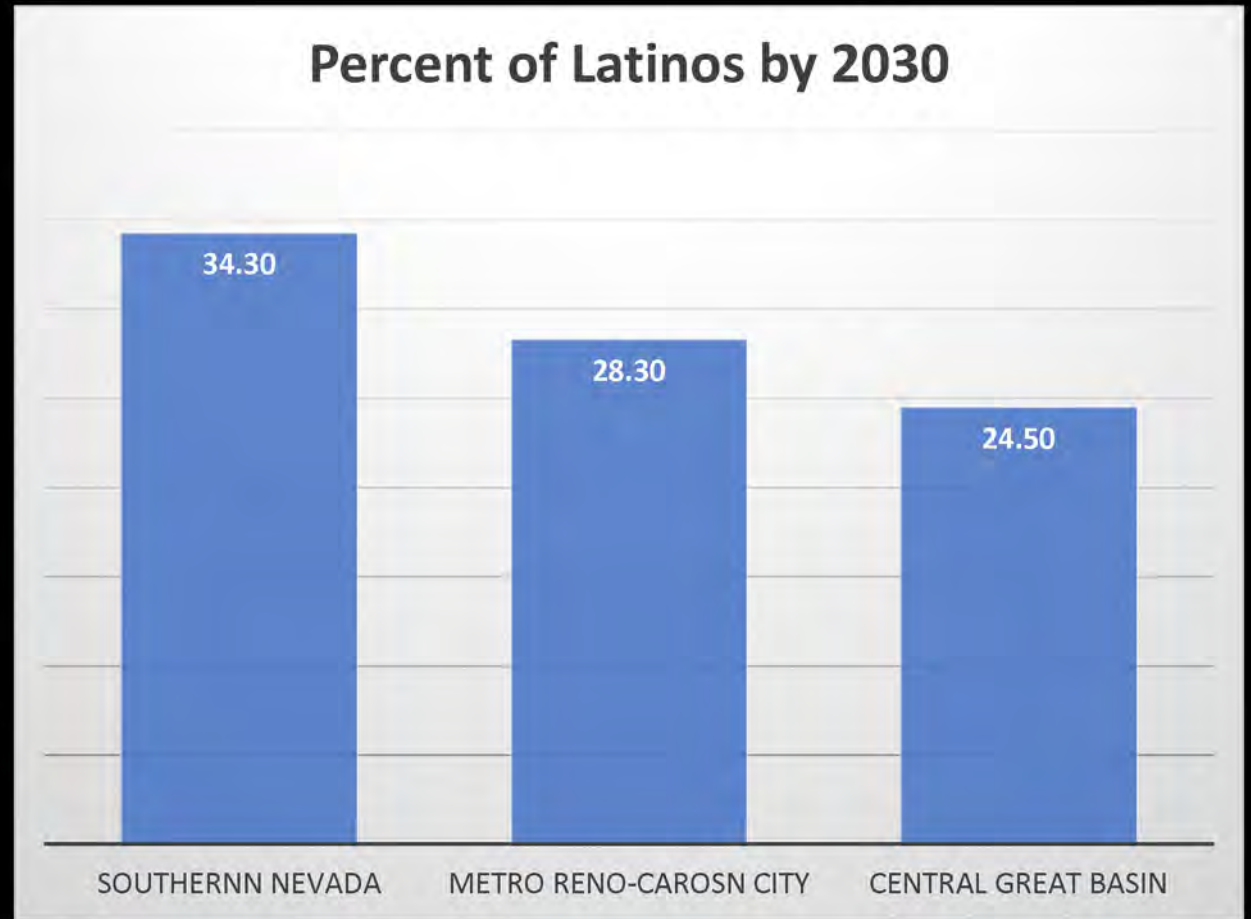
Presentation Concerning K-12 Hispanic Students in Nevada and Key K-12 Policy Issues Related to a People-Based Economic Development Strategy

Magdalena Martinez, Ph.D.
College of Urban Affairs
The Lincy Institute
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Nevada Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education
February 16, 2022

Education and Workforce

- The **social, political, and economic well-being** of regions are contingent on the education outcomes
- Approximately **62%** of Nevada's job opening require **some form of postsecondary**
- By 2030, **Latinos** in Nevada's three regions are predicted to **grow by at least 20 percent**



Education and COVID, 2021

- High school graduation rates **dipped** in at least 20 states, including in **Nevada**.
- *Excelencia in Education* reported **Latino (62%) and Black (56%)** college students had **lower retention rates** than their Asian (80%) and White (70%) peers. Latino (53%) and Black (44%) student had the lowest retention rate at community colleges.
- **Underproduction** of teachers & COVID **closures** intensified inequities
- Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Improving K-12 Education for Hispanic Students in Las Vegas and Beyond, Reeves & Smith (2021)

- Latinos: 47% of CCSD population
- COVID exacerbated education gaps by race and ethnicity
- Brief highlights gaps in standardized test by race and ethnicity

Policy Implications

1. Recruit and retain diverse teachers
2. Improve food security
3. Additional resources to close remote-learning gap
4. Support a family-friendly immigration policy
5. Promote fair scheduling

The Growing Need for **Diverse Teachers** in the Mountain West, Hansen & Quintero (2018)

- Nevada contains the largest percentage disparity in the Mountain West states where 68.1% of the student population is non-white and 22.9% of the teacher population is non-white
- Among Mountain West states, New Mexico and Nevada have experienced the largest percent change in non-white teachers between 1999 and 2018, with an increase of 13.0% and 12.7% respectively
- Among Mountain West states, Nevada experienced the largest percent increase in students of color (27%) between 1999 and 2018

Policy Implications

1. Make teacher diversity a priority
2. Examine how existing policies help or hinder recruitment and retention of teachers of color
3. Create and support professional development for serving a diverse student population (i.e., unconscious bias training, culturally relevant pedagogy)

Lincy Institute: Economic Development & K-12 Education (forthcoming)

- Targeted K-12 education investments
- COVID-19 slide
- Unresolved policy challenges

Policy Implications

1. K-12 Funding & The Nevada Commission on School Funding
2. School Board Governance
3. Latino Educational Opportunities
4. Broadband Access and the Digital Divide

Evaluate & Sustain Promising Programs

K-12 Student support programs

- Teacher recruitment & retention (see [Nevada Teacher Workforce Report](#))
- Counseling & counselors (see [Martinez et al, 2020](#))
- Credit retrieval (see [Credit Recovery Programs' & Nevada's High School Graduation](#))
- Food security
- Culturally relevant communication

College and career knowledge programs

- Summer bridge programs (public/private partnerships, Latino Youth Leadership)
- Early pipeline (see [GEAR UP, Upward Bound](#))

College affordability programs

- Need-based (Nevada Promise Scholarship)

Thank you

Questions

Magdalena.Martinez@unlv.edu