



## THE LATINO EDUCATION CRISIS: THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILED SOCIAL POLICIES

12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Friday, February 27, 2009

- Nearly 50% of Latino students do not graduate from high school.
- Most alarmingly, Latinos are the only group that has not made significant progress in college degree attainment in over thirty years.
- In 2008, Latinos made up 48% of public school students in California, 46% in Texas, and about 20% in New York.
- By mid-century, Latinos are projected to represent one-third of all students in the U.S. schools and a substantial majority of all students in our two largest states.

*The Latino Education Crisis: The Consequences of Failed Social Policies*, a new book co-authored by **Patricia Gándara**, argues that the education of Latino youth constitutes a critical policy imperative bearing economic and social implications. Latino youth face unique challenges throughout their school experience, as they are more likely to have parents with lower levels of education and speak English as a second language. Compared with other major groups, they are less likely to attend preschool or to participate in extracurricular activities, and are more likely to go to high-poverty, highly segregated schools and to attend community colleges on a part-time basis, all of which are indicators of lower rates of degree attainment.

In her book, Dr. Gándara presents an integrated set of interventions, providing a continuum of support from early childhood through college, aimed to improve the future of this large population. These include expanded access to social services, focused teacher recruitment and preparation, support for dual language instruction, dropout prevention, and college access programs that include parental outreach. In addition, the authors advocate for immigration reform to make higher education more accessible and affordable for foreign-born students.

Respondents will discuss the policy implications of the key findings from the book.

### **Respondents will include:**

- **Sarita Brown**, President, Excelencia in Education
- **Michael Casserly**, Executive Director, Council of the Great City Schools
- **Alejandra Ceja**, Senior Budget/ Appropriations Analyst, House Education and Labor Committee

*A forum brief with this and more information will be posted shortly at [www.aypf.org](http://www.aypf.org).*