

AA Update 9.19.2023 - National Hispanic Heritage Month #1

Allison Pease

Tue 9/19/2023 11:59 AM

To: Allison Pease <apeace@jjay.cuny.edu>;

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

September 19, 2023

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

Happy National Hispanic Heritage month! John Jay aspires to be a premier Hispanic-Serving Institution by following the principles of what a defining article on HSI's calls "[servingness](#)"; we focus on student outcomes, experiences, how we are organized for Hispanic student success, and how external influences benefit or harm how we serve our Latinx students (e.g., creating the Immigrant Student Success Center when DACA was pulled back).

In this update I want to celebrate three programs that serve Hispanic students intentionally alongside all our students, as well as the amazing staff that steer them: CUSP, PRISM, and ACE – stay tuned to learn what those acronyms stand for!

In the October 3 AA Update, I want to feature all faculty and staff who are contributing to our HSI servingness within the last year – [please share with me your Latinx-focused publications, teaching innovations, program updates or anything you do that contributes to Hispanic student outcomes, experiences, our organization, or external influences here](#).

Sumaya Villanueva Shares CUSP Success with Hispanic Congressional Staffers

Assistant Provost Sumaya Villanueva shared John Jay CUSP program's success with Hispanic Congressional staffers last week at the Hispanic Heritage Month Tech Innovation Reception hosted by Google in Washington DC.

The Completion for Upper-Level Students Program (CUSP) was started in 2018 using AI to model which students with 90+ credits were most likely to drop out. CUSP Manager Dana Prieto and advisors Yaritma Cabral, Julissa de la Cruz, and Patience Yeboah focus on, and provide financial and advising support for, those students most at risk of dropping out. The results have been outstanding: where before only 54% of seniors graduated, we have raised those rates to an average of ~81%.

Last year, of 613 Hispanic seniors in the CUSP cohort, 83% graduated.

The non-profit that worked with John Jay to create the AI model for free, DataKind, has recently been granted money from Google.org to expand its work across CUNY. [See their exciting video featuring the John Jay story here.](#)



What is PRISM and Why Is It a Model for Hispanic Student Success?

Created by Dean Anthony Carpi in 2006, and funded by federal grants, John Jay's PRISM program has turned John Jay into a leading Baccalaureate Origins Institution for Hispanic Students moving onto to STEM PhDs and professional careers through mentoring, research experiences, bilingual staff and Hispanic scientist role models.

Thanks to the outstanding work of Associate Program Director Edgardo Sanabria-Valentín and team Rachel Perlman, Alejandra Myerston, and Patricia Samperi there has been an almost ten-fold increase in Hispanic graduates from our STEM programs.

[PRISM is a finalist for the Examples of *Excelencia* in education.](#)

Accelerate, Complete, Engage (ACE) Erases Inequities in Hispanic Outcomes

ACE started in 2015 as a comprehensive student support program that provides intensive academic advising, career development, tuition scholarships, textbooks and transportation assistance. Director DeLandra Hunter and the dedicated team of ACE advisors (at right) have now seen three cohorts through to successful graduation with higher than college-average rates.

What's more, where typically there are disparities between Hispanic student rates and comparison group rates, ACE students see no disparities in four-year graduation rates, suggesting that ACE is effective in supporting Latino students holistically.

[ACE is a finalist for the Examples of *Excelencia* in Education](#)



Allison Pease
Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs



524 West 59th Street
New York, NY 10019
(212) 237-8101