Excelencia in Education announces new Kellogg Foundation grant to improve lives of Latino families by increasing college completion

Funds will support Excelencia in Education and Single Stop USA partnership

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, October 9, 2012 – Excelencia in Education today announced a new $150,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to build out its partnership with Single Stop USA as part of its national initiative Ensuring America’s Future by Increasing Latino College Completion.

“America cannot become the world leader in college completion without focusing on increasing college completion among our growing Latino population,” said Sarita Brown, president of Excelencia in Education. “Community colleges are vital to that effort and are a clear point of intersection between our efforts and Single Stop USA. We are proud to receive this new support from the Kellogg Foundation, which will support that work.”

Excelencia in Education brings together stakeholders across America and empowers them with the information they need to advance Latino student success in higher education – from statistical data to empirical research, and from tactical analysis to promising practices. Single Stop USA helps increase community college completion rates by providing a one-stop solution for low-income community college students and their families to have full access to public benefits for which they are eligible.

The grant will enable Excelencia in Education to integrate Single Stop USA into its Ensuring America’s Future initiative and leverage this new collaboration to put Excelencia’s Roadmap for Ensuring America’s Future and state fact sheets in front of key Community College leaders.

“We know that a college degree is the key pathway out of poverty,” said Elisabeth Mason, CEO of Single Stop USA. “Unfortunately, millions of students cannot overcome the obstacles they face to completing their degree. Our work with Excelencia will help provide real solutions to this crisis.”

Additionally, the grant will enable Excelencia to share with Single Stop’s constituents both tactical information about practical barriers that keep Latino students from existing support and services, as well as the positive impact of specific outreach and program strategies. This will involve Community College leaders and student services professionals from leading institutions in up to seven key states, including Florida, California, New Mexico and Louisiana.
Finally, the grant will support the joint publication of two papers: A practice paper on why America's success in college completion must mean success for Latino students and basic strategies on how to achieve it, and a joint policy white paper on the state of the field and progress metrics be used to guide the evaluation of whether the needle is moving on Latino completion.

“We are deeply grateful for the leadership and support from the Kellogg foundation, and we look forward to an active partnership with Single Stop USA. Together we expect to make a long term impact on Latino college students and their families,” said Brown.


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**Excelencia in Education** is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. Learn more by visiting: [www.EdExcelencia.org](http://www.EdExcelencia.org).

The **W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF)**, founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich., and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).

**Single Stop USA** is an initiative developed by the Robin Hood Foundation in New York City and launched nationally in 2007 to bridge the information gap separating low-income individuals and families from life-changing public benefits, tax credits and other essential services that remain untapped and inaccessible. In 2009, Single Stop launched its Community College Initiative that targets low-income community college students who struggle to complete the education they need to enter, or advance in, the workforce – a struggle that is primarily due to financial insecurity. Learn more by visiting: [www.singlestopusa.org](http://www.singlestopusa.org/).