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ABSTRACT

Higher education continues to be the most viable avenue for improvement in the lives of racial minorities. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has called for an increase in the number of Hispanics in higher education institutions in the state of Texas. Although there is a substantial amount of literature in higher education, only a limited amount pertains to special populations. This is even more pronounced for literature that investigates persistence.

This study will contribute to the analysis of such factors that can be targeted to improve the college persistence and completion rate of Hispanics. The institution where this study will be conducted has several factors that the higher education literature alludes. However, one intriguing aspect of this study is what happens when many of these factors are present at the same time and at the same institution. The higher education literature alludes to the following key factors affecting retention: whether universities are characterized as commuter or residential, financial aid, student role models, student degree aspirations, pre-college attributes of college students, academic and social integration, parents' education, and voluntary versus involuntary withdrawal.