



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Latino College Completion Town Hall Forum

### Assembly Higher Education Chairman Das Williams to Host Policy Discussion

VENTURA — Assemblyman Das Williams will join community and education leaders for an exciting, thought-provoking discussion on improving Latino college completion rates, **from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Dec. 11 at Ventura College Guthrie Hall.**

Latinos represent the fastest-growing population in California and are expected to be the majority by 2040. The passage of Proposition 30 was the lifeline the state needed to begin the first steps toward restoring university and college funding and improving access to higher education.

“It is imperative that California improve its access to community colleges and universities so that our next generation is fully prepared to succeed in the workforce,” said Assemblyman Das Williams. “We need to work together to find ways to increase the number of Californians who obtain associate’s and bachelor’s degrees and certificates. The success of our economy rests on the shoulders of education.”

Speakers will discuss the current opportunity gaps for Latinos in California and brainstorm ways to improve success rates for Latinos and all students. Panelists will also examine how Long Beach City College has partnered with local and state organizations to improve Latino college completion.

Panelists include: Michelle Camacho Liu, Education Program, National Conference of State Legislatures; Dr. Frank Wen, Manager, Research and Analysis, Southern California Association of Governments; Dr. Joseph Aguerrebere, Board Member, Excelencia in Education; Dr. Estela Mara Bensimon, Co-Director and Professor, USC Center on Urban Education; Chancellor Brice Harris, California Community Colleges; Dr. Bruce Vandal, Vice President, Complete College America; Dr. Katie Hern, Director, California Acceleration Project; Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Superintendent-President, Long Beach Community College; and Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez, President, California Latino School Board Association.

“As Californians, and citizens of this country, we all win by investing in education and ensuring that everybody has the skills to position ourselves as global leaders,” Williams said.

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