



THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA (PPIC) AND THE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR FEDERAL POLICY RESEARCH

invite you to attend a

***PPIC LUNCHEON BRIEFING: Educating Immigrants --
California's Mexican American Children Make Strong
Progress, But Still Lag Behind Other Groups***

Friday, September 30, 2005

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Room B-369, Rayburn House Office Building

Despite some research findings and popular impressions to the contrary, Mexican American immigrant children are making large gains over their parents and grandparents in high school and college completion. Nevertheless, Mexican Americans do not get as much education as other immigrant groups, even by the third generation – an important issue given California's large and growing Mexican American population.

Why does this gulf between Mexican Americans and other ethnic groups exist? What are the implications for California policy? You are invited to attend a lunch briefing featuring the report's author, PPIC program director Debbie Reed, on Friday, September 30, 2005, at 12:00 noon, in Room B-369 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC. The report will available at the event and also may be viewed at <http://www.ppic.org> .

To attend this lunch briefing, please reply (acceptances only, thank you) to 202-546-3700, or send email to ransdell@calinst.org . We look forward to seeing you on September 30.

Background: While some prior research has found little or no progress in educational attainment between second- and third-generation immigrants of Mexican ancestry, a PPIC study provides evidence that this group is, in fact, making steady progress. The share earning a high school diploma climbs steeply from 46 percent to 82 percent between second-generation parents and their third-generation children. Moreover, college completion rates more than double from 5 percent to 11 percent.

Despite these advances, Mexican American education attainment remains low. Among young adult Californians in third and subsequent generations, only a fraction of Mexican Americans graduate from college (11%), compared to much larger shares of East and South Asians (46%), and whites (38%). This is particularly unsettling because among the state's 13 to 24 year olds, Latinos are the largest group (41%) – and a vast majority of them are of Mexican ancestry (83%).