

## **Introduction: To the Parents**

To help their children pursue post-secondary education opportunities, Latino parents must become familiar with the structure of higher education in the United States, and with the requirements, steps, and processes their children must go through to attend a college or university. They will then be able to help their children enroll, persist, and graduate from college, thus ensuring that their children and grandchildren will have the best opportunities for success.

Preparation for college begins as early as the middle school years (grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>). It is during the middle school grades that students should begin to plan the courses that they will take in high school to prepare them for college. For example, when students take Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, their high school curriculum has room for college preparatory courses such as chemistry, geometry, and other more advanced courses, as well as a foreign language.

The information contained here will help guide you—the parent—through the process of helping your children get ready for college, apply to college, and obtain financial aid in order to pay for college.

For a list of all colleges, universities and professional schools in Virginia please go to <http://www.schev.edu/students/collegeListAlpha.asp>.