

**CONEXIONES
ABSTRACT**

Adams State University

With over 32% of its undergraduate population of Hispanic ethnicity, Adams State University (ASU) is Colorado's premier four-year Hispanic-Serving Institution. As part of its vision of Inclusive Excellence, ASU embraces its role as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by seeking to provide Hispanic and other high need students with the educational opportunities and services they need to attain a degree and succeed in their chosen careers.

The central goal of this Title V project is to increase students' success at ASU by streamlining their progress through math remediation and increasing access to resources and high-impact learning experiences that deepen their collegiate experience and better prepare them for careers. Focused study of access and achievement gaps for students in math, fragmentation in advising and career services, and gaps in institutional capacity to promote student engagement informed the design of this project.

The Title V project activity builds on the commitment of the institution to embrace change through the innovative and intellectual energy of its dedicated faculty and staff. To increase enrollment, persistence, and timely degree attainment by high-need students (**Absolute Priority**), ASU's *Conexiones* project focuses on three strategic project goals that create new connections for students academically, personally, and professionally to support timely progress through college:

- 1) **Reduce Remediation Rates and Improve Student Success in Math:** Improve student success rates in developmental and gateway math courses to support pathways to graduation and STEM degrees;
- 2) **Integrate Appreciative and Career Advising.** Revamp campus advising approach to incorporate appreciative advising strategies and alignment with career pathways to improve persistence, time to degree completion, and graduation rates;
- 3) **Build Capacity for New Student Engagement Strategies.** Increase the focus of campus and professional development infrastructure and programming on inclusion and equity, learning, and faculty innovations supportive of student success to better serve low-income and Hispanic students.

To attain the overarching goal of improving the 6-year graduation rate for Hispanic and other high-need students to 25.7% over the grant period, faculty and staff across campus will participate in trainings and other initiatives to engage students as well as efforts to reduce remediation, average credit hours accumulated upon graduation, and time to degree completion.

To build its capacity to develop, implement, and sustain these key initiatives within the five-year grant period, ASU requests \$2,584,038 in Title V funding. This investment of support will substantially increase bachelor's degree attainment for ASU's high-need students and prepare them for success in their careers. The project meets both Competitive Preference Priorities.

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