INVESTIGATING THE HEADWATER: AN EXAMINATION OF THE PK-12 STUDENT EXPERIENCES OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN PK-12 EDUCATORS TO PROMOTE AUTHENTIC EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

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ABSTRACT

A collective case study examined the perceptions of six PK-12 Mexican-American educators regarding their experiences as PK-12 students, and how those perceptions may have positively or adversely impacted their consideration of an educational career. The researcher analyzed data to determine ways in which transformative PK-16 educational leaders can collaboratively fashion authentic strategies to proactively bolster the future recruitment of talented Latino students during the formative years. The implications of this inquiry suggested that leaders in both PK-12 and higher education institutions should further aspire to cultivate an authentic commitment to diversity with educational practices that respect and validate the unique cultural (and socioeconomic) qualities that Latino youth bring to school each day. It is the intent of the researcher that more institutions will infuse the relational and institutional support necessary to address (and someday ameliorate) the inverse growth of PK-12 Latino educators relative to the American population as a whole.