



University of Pittsburgh

# Education in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin America: Students in U.S. Colleges and Universities

**WCCC Workshop on  
International Higher Education**  
October 6, 2015

**Jorge Enrique Delgado**  
University of Pittsburgh





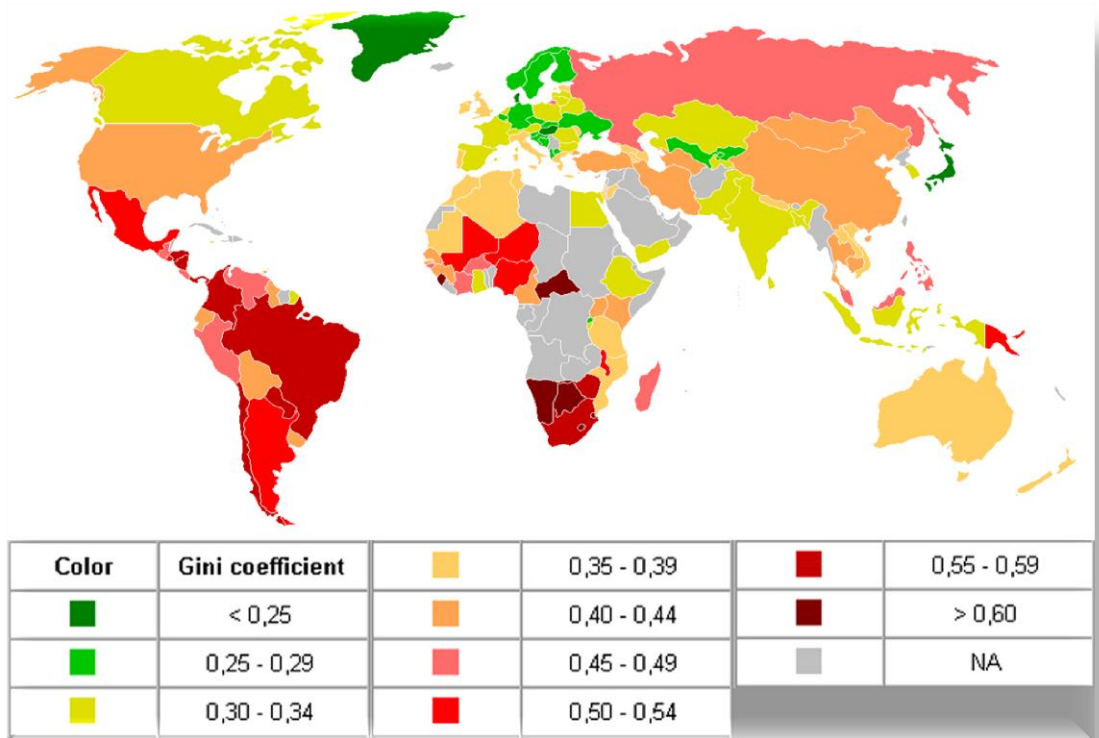
# Outline

- **Latin America: the region**
- **Education in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin America**
- **Latin American students in U. S. higher education institutions**
- **Ideas of how WCCC can better serve Latin American students**

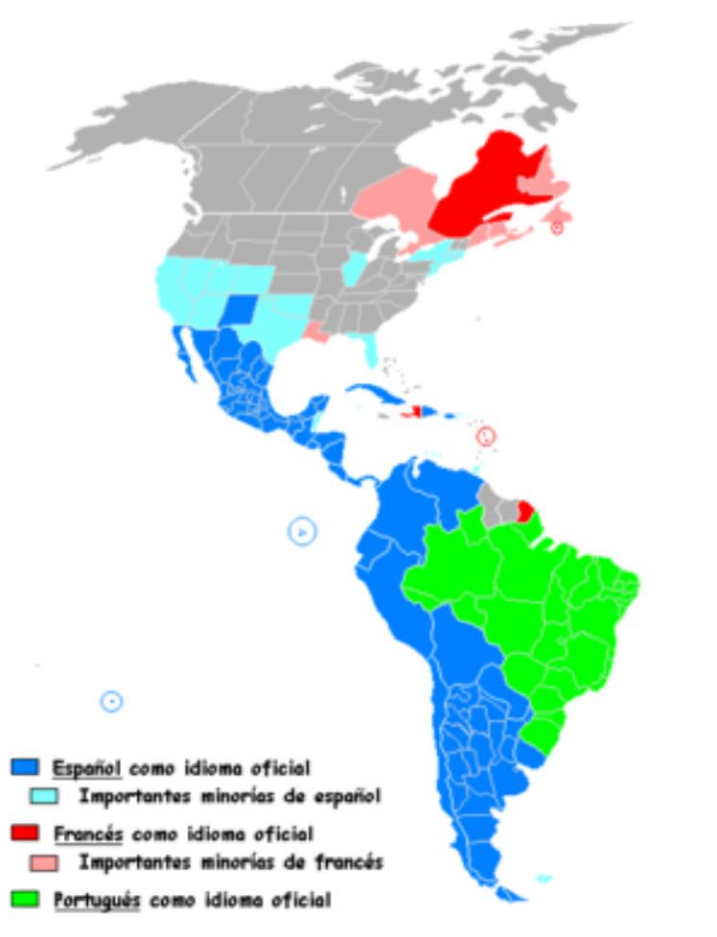
# Latin America: the Region (1)

- **GDP**

- *U.S.:* 17.42 trill.
- *Bra.:* 2.35 trill.
- *Mex.:* 1.28
- *Arg.:* 540.2 bill.
- *Ven.:* 509.9
- *Col.:* 377.7
- *Chi.:* 258.0
- *Per.:* 202.9



# Latin America: the Region (2)



- **Population:  $\pm 600$  mill.**
- **Countries: 20**
  - *Brazil:  $\pm 200$  mill.*
  - *Mexico:  $\pm 120$*
  - *Colombia:  $\pm 48$*
  - *Argentina:  $\pm 43$*
  - *Venezuela:  $\pm 32$*
  - *Peru:  $\pm 31$*
- **Languages:**
  - *Spanish: 18 (P.R.)*
  - *Portuguese: 1*
  - *French: 1*
  - *Native: 50 minor lang.*

# Latin America: the Region (3)

- **Indigenous languages:**
  - *Quechua*
  - *Guaraní*
  - *Aymara*
  - *Náhuatl*
  - *Mayas dialects*
  - *Mapudungun*
- **Intercultural education**





# Latin America: the Region (4)



- **Ethnic groups:**  
White, Mestizo, Amerindian, Mulatto, Black
- **By country:**
  - *Arg.:* white (68%), mestizo
  - *Bol.:* mestizo (60%), amind
  - *Bra.:* white (48%), mulatto
  - *D.R.:* mestizo (28%), black (27%), mulatto (25%)
  - *Mex.:* mestizo (53%), amind
  - *Col.:* mestizo (43%), white



# Education in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Lat. Am. (1)

- ***U.S. Education***

- **Public education:  
Backbone of society**
- **Locally managed and  
funded system**
- **High quality public  
education – though  
recent questioning**

- ***Lat. Am. Education***

- **Education as privilege:  
Hierarchical society**
- **Centralized  
management and  
funding**
- **Quality issues,  
preference for private  
providers**



# Education in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Lat. Am. (2)

- **Primary education: compulsory, public (95%)**
- **Progress in secondary education (66%)**
- **Still challenges: 23 million 4-to-17 year olds out**
- **Rural, poor, indigenous, afro-descendants**
- **Education issues: teacher quality, desertion-completion, low performance international assessments (SERCE, PISA: math, reading)**
- **Private education: high SES sectors better prepared for college**





# Education in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Lat. Am. (3)

- **Higher education: Napoleonic model of university – professional education**
  - Pre-established curriculum, low flexibility
  - Practitioners: professors experts in the field
  - Research mostly in macro public and traditional prestigious private universities (Catholic)
  - Growth of private institutions – quality, accountability
  - More recently academic career, higher degrees – professors with doctoral degrees



# Education in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Lat. Am. (4)

- **Higher education:**
  - **Universal access to public universities – Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba**
  - **Growth through the private sector: for profit-masked**
  - **Access to public universities: meritocratic – access to best prepared from private schools.**
  - **3,000 higher education institutions, 17 million students (10 mill. In Brazil, Mexico, Argentina)**
  - **Recent diversification: areas of study, graduate education**



# Latin American Students in U.S. Higher Education Institutions (1)

- **Expensive higher education (PA) – public institutions (universities)**
  - Community colleges – unknown, technical institutions
- **Concentration in major universities (PA): UPenn, Pitt, PSU, CMU, Temple (trend)**
- **Enrollment in doctoral programs > master > undergraduate**
  - Devaluated currencies
  - Scholarships from country of origin: government, Fulbright, work-study with professor



# Latin American Students in U.S. Higher Education Institutions in (2)

- **Blurred lines between Latino/a and Latin American students (PA)**
  - Population growth/concentration – Pittsburgh and Philadelphia metro areas, Harrisburg, Lancaster - Erie and other urban areas
  - Related to job opportunities
  - First generation (immigration with parents)
  - Out state tuition (2 years residency) – opportunity for community colleges?



# How can WCCC better serve Latin American Students? (1)

- **WCCC**
  - Very interesting offerings
  - Assoc. degrees, certificates, diplomas, credit transfer
  - Manufacturing and industrial technologies, natural gas and petroleum, management, education, etc.
- **Students from > 40 countries last 2 years**
  - From which countries?
  - In which programs?



# How can WCCC better serve Latin American Students? (2)

- **Goal:**
  - WCCC's interest in attracting international students?  
and/or
  - How to better serve those how are enrolled?
- **WCCC website:**
  - Requirements for admission
  - No financial aid – welcoming message? (Debt issue)
  - Not mention of current international students?





# How can WCCC better serve Latin American Students? (3)

- **Support for international students:**
  - **Commuter institution – how are students integrated or get support? (tend to be full time)**
  - **Diversity – diversity abroad? How is diversity promoted? (Westmoreland Co.)**
  - **Case management for new and at-risk students – does it include international students? How does it work?**
  - **Student clubs and organizations, research projects, community service projects? (Identity-peers-models)**



# How can WCCC better serve Latin American Students? (4)

- **Partnerships (attracting students):**
  - **Areas of expertise – gas, oil, technology, manufacturing, etc.**
  - **Corporations and national industries**
  - **National agencies that grant scholarships and loans for study abroad**
  - **Consortia with other U.S. higher education institutions to visit countries - exhibits**



**vinaka vakalevu**

謝謝大家

감사합니다

*merci*

**gracias**

**asante**

**grazie**

**Thank you**

**terima kasih**

شكرا لك

**cảm ơn bạn**

**obrigado**



# Contact Information

**Jorge Enrique Delgado, PhD**

**Instructor, Department of Administrative & Policy Studies,  
School of Education**

**Affiliated faculty, Center for Latin American Studies  
University of Pittsburgh  
United States of America**

Email: [jed41@pitt.edu](mailto:jed41@pitt.edu)

Website:

<http://www.education.pitt.edu/people/profile.aspx?f=JorgeEnriqueDelgado>