

CSN Develops ‘Math Map’ Guide for Struggling Students

A Hispanic Serving Institutions grant from the U.S. Department of Education funds the program

September 8, 2020 — The College of Southern Nevada is launching a new program designed to help students overcome one of the biggest hurdles in college: Math.

The *El Mapa Matemático*/Math Map program guides students through college-level math by integrating the college’s efforts at four milestones on the student’s journey: placement, support, instruction, and pre-graduation. A new grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program will help fund Math Map.

“At CSN, we want to ensure that every student who wants to graduate does,” said CSN President Dr. Federico Zaragoza. “Many students struggle with college level math. We have offered free tutorial assistance to our students for years, and now we’re thrilled that we can add yet another tool to our Students First approach.”

The college developed the Math Map program after mining Department of Education resources on developmental math reforms and best practices at other Hispanic Serving Institutions to synthesize a Math Map for every aspect of a student’s experience before and during math courses. The program’s activities incorporate nationally recognized strategies for Latino students in STEM courses. Those include:

- **Placement:** Developing a holistic tool to accurately place a student in a math course;
- **Support:** Coordinating academic counseling and non-academic referrals such as immigration services, access to basic needs and food pantries from day one to graduation day;
- **Instruction:** Implementing teaching techniques based on ongoing professional development; and
- **Pre-Graduation:** Program students present at *La Cumbre Matemático*/a Math Summit, sharing their research and collaborative workforce skills with industry and community leaders.

The \$2.9 million grant is expected to last for five years. With roughly one-third of CSN’s students identifying as Hispanic, CSN was the state’s first Hispanic Serving Institution and is the most diverse higher education institution in the state.

About CSN: The College of Southern Nevada empowers our students and communities to achieve, succeed, and prosper. Founded in 1971, CSN is a nationally recognized student success leader specializing in two-year degrees and a select number of bachelor’s degrees in specialized fields. Connect with the state’s largest and most diverse higher education institution on our [Newsroom blog](#), via our [press releases](#), or by following us on social media.

