



# A+ for Cultural Assimilation

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# Why Should We Care?

- Rise in the population of Hispanic College Students
  - 42% growth in Hispanic College Students by the year 2021 (Azziz, 2015)
- Rise in withdrawal/incompletion rates for Hispanic College Students



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# History of Hispanic Students in Education

- Mestizo Children
  - 1600s- 1800s
- Mexican Colleges
  - 1800s
- Mendez vs. Westminster
- Chicano Boricua Civil Rights Movement
  - 1970s



# Present Day Assimilation

- Identity Alteration
- Negative Experiences with Peers
- Disconnect from Authority Figures



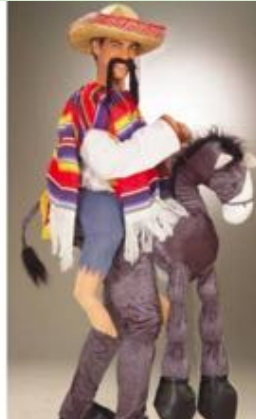
# Identity Alteration

- Language
  - “Spanish isn’t for school.”
- Name choice
  - Spanish name vs. English name
- Dress
  - Preppy, more professional
- Personal Interests



# Negative Experiences with Peers

- Name mispronunciation
- Cultural appropriation
  - Culture is not a costume
- Cultural capital



# Disconnect from Authority Figures

- Name mispronunciation
- Singled out as not able to succeed
- College language (vernacular) barrier



# Recommendations for Successful Integration

- Allow students to be bicultural!
  - View their linguistic skills as assets, not setbacks
- Encourage students to explore cultural identity
  - i.e. Name choice
- Utilize small group or mentorship relationships





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