

PROJECT ISLAS

INSTITUTIONALIZING STUDENT LEARNING, ACCESS, AND SUCCESS

PROPOSAL ABSTRACT

California State University Channel Islands (CSU Channel Islands) is a new (opened 2002) public 4-year university located in Ventura County, which has a regional population that is 38% Hispanic. The region has a very low *university-going rate* among its Hispanic population. Hispanic students have a high dropout rate in high school, and of those who do graduate a very low percentage are eligible to enter *directly* into a four-year university. Ventura County has the *highest* community-college going rate in the state of California; the transfer rate from community colleges to 4-year universities is also very low. When Hispanic students do enter CSU Channel Islands as first-time freshmen or as transfers they tend to be academically underprepared, which increases their time to graduation and increases their risk of dropping out of the university. The creation of a *University Endowment* will serve to strengthen the University's long-term capacity to offer student scholarships and sustain effective and promising practices resulting from the Project.

Project ISLAS will increase the access, persistence, and graduation rates of Hispanic and other underrepresented students by *improving the university readiness* of Ventura County's future university students ("Getting Ready") and *increasing the academic success of CI students* ("Getting Through").

- ❖ **Component One: "Getting Ready"** will improve the university readiness of Ventura County's future university students by developing targeted outreach programs for Hispanic students in Ventura County public high schools and community colleges.
- ❖ **Component Two: "Getting Through"** will increase the academic success of CSU Channel Islands' Hispanic students by developing a University Experience Program to increase retention. This Program will include first-year and transfer-year seminars and learning communities integrating student-learning outcomes and training for faculty and staff to enable them to best serve Hispanic students.