

## **Position Statement on the report, “Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions”**

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The National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) welcomes the report, *“Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions,”* sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The recommendations in the report have been endorsed by more than 85 colleges and universities nationwide, supporting major shifts in the college evaluation process and items traditionally ranked high for college admission. According to the report, it may be time to consider making standardized testing optional, or lessening its importance in the evaluation tools traditionally utilized in the screening process.

NAHN supports the recommendations of the report and endorses the collaborative findings that we need to go beyond test scores and GPAs to achieve “authentic, meaningful experiences with diversity.” The report also examines the issue of the opportunity gap for students who are less privileged than those from affluent families, and focuses on leveling the playing field for all students. Specifically, the following recommendations may reshape the admissions process to consider and value the unique contributions that underrepresented students make to their community:

- Quality over quantity with extracurricular activities and advanced placement classes, with students showing sustained commitment to a community service rather than just listing a bunch of things they have done.
- Factor in family and community responsibilities to level the playing field in admissions by capturing the contributions of low-income and working-class students.
- Include an essay question on college applications for students to write about their contributions to their families and others.
- Broaden criteria to include public service that consistently contributes to the common good as part of the admissions process instead of just “brag sheets” listing two-week community service projects.

Overall the recommendations in the report are well aligned with supporting a more diverse and well-rounded health professions workforce, particularly among nurses, where Hispanic/Latino continue to be critically under-represented. According to a 2013 survey conducted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and The Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers, while nurses from minority backgrounds represent 19% of the registered nurse (RN) workforce (vs. 38% of the general population), only 3% of registered nurses are Hispanic/Latino (vs. 17% of the U.S. population).

**The NAHN Policy Committee is prepared to collaborate with public, private and federal institutions in support of our mission to grow health care professionals that reflect the rich diversity of communities across the United States and ultimately achieve better health for our nation. Please join us in our efforts.**

See <http://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/collegeadmissions> for more information.