EDUCATION AND INEQUALITY IN A CROSS-BORDER MEGALOPOLIS

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24 million people live in urban complex from greater Los Angeles through metro Tijuana, one of world’s largest continuous urbanization.

The majority of children being born in Southern California are Latino, overwhelmingly Mexican origin.

There is intense interaction and interdependence but physical, language, and governmental policies cutting region apart.

The problems confronting students whose education is divided by the border are special cases of problems confronting poorer and less educated families across the region.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S OVER 50 POPULATION IS FAR WHITER THAN THE YOUNG AND GREW UP IN A DIFFERENT SOCIETY—OFTEN IT IS STILL IN CONTROL

CALIFORNIA HAS HAD A HISTORY OF MASSIVE GROWTH THAT HAS GREATLY SLOWED

TIJUANA HAS SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN WORKING AGE POPULATION BUT NOT IN YOUNG CHILDREN

BIRTH RATES HAVE FALLEN ON BOTH SIDES AND LITTLE NET MIGRATION TO U.S. SINCE GREAT RECESSION

POLICY FRAMEWORK IS STILL THAT OF OLDER GENERATION, REACTING TO CONDITIONS THAT NO LONGER EXIST

MORE THAN 90% OF CA LATINO STUDENTS ARE BORN IN U.S. WITH CITIZENSHIP
INEQUALITY IN U.S. AT A HISTORIC HIGH

- There has been growing inequality on both sides with the highest income households receiving a larger and larger share of income and wealth.
- In the U.S. these differences are strongly related to race and ethnicity, with sharp difference in income by race and enormous differences in family wealth, very important for college access.
- Advantages of those at the top continue to grow and are related to education.
MAJOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GAINS, LOW COLLEGE COMPLETION

Trends in Educational Attainment in Baja California (1980-2010)
Growing College Completion Gap, San Diego County, 1980-2010

[Graph showing the increasing gap between Latino and Non-Latino college completion rates from 1980 to 2010]
MEDIAN INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL, CA, 1980-2014
WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- Students and families need to understand consequences
- Schools must strongly emphasize higher education
- Financial information and aid
- Expansion of schools with strong college preparation
- Language development training for those with need
- Open spaces for poor and minority students in successful schools
- Wage and labor policies to increase rewards and incentives
- Strong policies against unequal schools and discrimination
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON U.S. INEQUALITIES

- Civilrightsproject.ucla.edu
- Patricia Gandara, *THE LATINO EDUCATIONAL CRISIS: CONSEQUENCES OF FAILED SOCIAL POLICY*