

Parent Institute for Quality Education demonstrates the partnership that the Affiliates of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) form with Latino families. Nationally, nearly 300 of these organizations provide community and workforce development, education, social services, immigration, citizenship and other services. Collectively, the Affiliates serve millions of Hispanic Americans and immigrant families. "Day in and day out, our Affiliates work to strengthen families and communities," says Janet Murguía, President and CEO of NCLR. "Together, we are creating more opportunities for Latino parents to build a better future for themselves and their children."



# PARENT INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

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Award-winning Program:

Parent Involvement Program

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CHILDREN DO WELL WHEN THEIR FAMILIES  
DO WELL, AND FAMILIES DO BETTER WHEN  
THEY LIVE IN SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

2005 FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

## PARENTS: THE KEY TO SUCCESS

From a single meeting of parents at a San Diego high school in 1980, the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) has gone on to graduate more than 330,000 parents from its nine-week parent involvement program, partner with 1,300 schools in 145 different school districts in California, and impact the lives of more than one million children.

Working from the premise that every child can learn and that all parents want the best for their children, the parent involvement program provides parents with the tools to contribute to their children's academic progress and prepare them for postsecondary education. Parents learn not only how to support their child's social and emotional development, but also work comfortably and productively with teachers and principals.

"We stress that for children to succeed in school, parents must raise expectations," says David Valladolid, President and CEO. "You do that by setting clear goals, investing time and having a positive attitude."



WHAT HEAD START WAS TO THE 20TH  
CENTURY, PARENT INVOLVEMENT WILL  
BE TO THE 21ST.

—David Valladolid, President and CEO, Parent Institute for Quality Education

## AN EQUAL FOOTING

According to Valladolid, "The key to attracting and keeping parents involved is understanding what is important to them." PIQE typically enrolls 30 to 40 percent of a school's parents in the program, an exceptionally high number for schools in struggling communities. "Our recruiters have gone through PIQE themselves and have children on the road to college," says Valladolid. "When parents talk to other parents, that's a powerful way to deliver an important message."

In the first meeting, the course facilitator stresses what parents can accomplish by taking action to improve their child's educational environment at home and in school. The program encourages parents to talk with teachers and counselors about how their child is doing and the types of programs and resources available to help. "Parents learn what courses their children must take to prepare for a postsecondary education," says Valladolid. "They learn how to navigate the school system so their child gets the best education possible."

Parents come back to the weekly meetings, because course facilitators establish close, respectful relationships with them. "Our facilitators meet parents on an equal footing because they are parents too, and they have known poverty," says Valladolid. "They can also explain the education system in plain language, and they know when to be quiet and just listen."

## FAMILIES COUNT FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

Through a joint venture of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the FAMILIES COUNT Family Strengthening Awards recognize NCLR Affiliates with outstanding programs that work to give children what they need most—strong, capable and economically successful families. Responding to the varied needs of the families they serve, these organizations improve the economic prospects of working men and women and create the services and networks of support that all families need to realize their aspirations for themselves and their children.