

Recent and impressive gains in college enrollment among Hispanic<sup>1</sup> young adults continue to be driven in large part by increased participation at the community college level, while Hispanic youth remain less likely than their White counterparts to enroll in a four-year college (56% versus 72%) or to complete a bachelor's degree (22% vs. 11%; Fry & Lopez, 2012; Fry & Taylor, 2013). At the same time as the bachelor's degree has become the threshold for racial and ethnic parity in educational attainment (Carnevale & Strohl, 2013), disparities in four-year enrollment and completion between Hispanic and White youth remain two of the nation's widest and most stubbornly persistent group-level disparities in educational outcomes (CITE).

A growing literature seeks to understand why Hispanic and White students exhibit such different patterns of college entry. Some researchers have suggested that while most Latino students believe that a college degree is important, many have lower expectations and lower levels of enrollment relative to other racial/ethnic groups (Lopez, 2009; but see also Burciaga, Huber, & Solórzano, 2009). Others have argued that while the majority of Hispanic students have ambitious educational goals, many encounter steep barriers as they attempt to convert high educational expectations into preparation for enrollment in a four-year institution (Gándara & Contreras, 2009; Gonzalez et al., 2003; Klasik, 2010; Pérez & McDonough, 2008; Tornatzky, Cutler & Lee, 2002). Most studies addressing enrollment gaps between Latinos and Whites have also focused on background differences in levels of parent income and education, and more recently differences in parent social capital, to try and explain these disparities (O'Connor et al., 2010). Nonetheless, the extent to which youth's educational expectations and college preparation, as well as their parents' socioeconomic resources, uniquely contribute to Hispanic-White differences in college enrollment is not entirely clear. Parents' economic and social