THE CAUSES OF UNDERREPRESENTATION OF LATIN@S IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND S.T.E.M. FIELDS

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THE CURRENT SITUATION

• The US economy is more reliant on science and technology than ever before.
• Despite being 13.9% of the US workforce including all industries, Latin@'s average at 8% in high tech industries.
• This issue is most noticeable in the Silicon Valley area, where this percentage is only 4.7%.
LOOKING AT POSSIBLE ROOT CAUSES

• The findings of Dismantling Stereotypes About Latinos in STEM by Diley Hernandez
• “The digital divide” according to Transnational Computer Use in Urban Latino Immigrant Communities: Implications for Schooling by Patricia Sánchez
• Latin@s, especially immigrants, are very subject to this digital divide.
• Access to technology at home may be more limited in access to technology because of this.
WHAT’S CHANGED OR NEEDS TO CHANGE?

• The America Competes Act was passed to provide financial aid for underrepresented students, helping to remedy some of the financial burden for Latin@ students to receive higher education.

• We need to improve school curriculum, structural and cultural factors in order to encourage more interest in STEM.

• Continue to bring to attention any businesses using racist tactics to hire employees, especially in Silicon Valley where Latin@ representation is very low.

• Look into providing easier access to technology for Latin@ students, allowing them to more easily become interested in technology as a career, as well as encourage STEM field careers.
RESOURCES


