

LATIN AMERICAN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



April 14, 2023

Denver City Council
Safety, Housing, and Education Committee
Denver, Colorado

Dear Members of the Safety, Housing, and Education Committee:

Thank you for making higher education a priority as you proceed through your deliberations this year in reviewing the proposed ordinance changes for the Prosperity Denver Fund.

The five ordinance changes proposed by the Denver Prosperity Fund seek to improve accessibility, expand eligibility, and address administrative barriers. As a 74-year-old scholarship foundation, the oldest Latino-serving nonprofit organization in Colorado, we have a clear understanding of the impact our deserving Denver students experience through the support of the Prosperity Denver Fund. The Latin American Educational Foundation serves 40-50 Denver students per year with plans to increase that number in the coming years. The biggest obstacle we face in serving Denver students is the 3-year residency requirement. Additionally, we provide high school services with a focus on college and career counseling that do not currently qualify for reimbursement through the Prosperity Denver Fund. Making these key adjustments to the ordinance would dramatically increase the number of Denver students we could serve on an annual basis.

Our organization is a strong believer that Colorado's colleges and universities drive our state's economy, are key contributors to our quality of life, and help level the playing field for underrepresented student populations and their families. We believe the investment you make in higher education pays a substantial dividend in terms of the highly skilled workforce our state needs. It also makes a big difference in the lives of so many Denver students as they look to improve their prospects through higher education.

Thank you for your action and for all you do in service to our city and state.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Lopez", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Nick Lopez
President & CEO

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