



## **An investment for success**

January 16, 2007

Re "Latinos lag in reaching, finishing college," Jan. 9: Reversing the college access and graduation gap for California's Latino students will not only avert future economic disaster, it will greatly enrich the state's economy.

Recently, we at the Alliance for Excellent Education found that if California's minority high school students graduated at rates equal to their white peers and went on to post-secondary education at similar rates, the state's economy would gain billions of dollars in additional personal income by 2020.

A high school diploma, backed by the skills necessary to succeed in college and the workplace, is a prerequisite for success in the 21st century economy. By investing in measures to make every child a graduate, California and the nation can expand college access and ensure continued economic success.

- Bob Wise, Washington, D.C.

President, Alliance for Excellent Education, and ex-governor, West Virginia

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