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Latina/o Educational Leadership: *Testimonios* from the Field

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The Schooling Pipeline

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Education is key is what was told to me...
For my family and my community it means much more than words on a page
and things important people may say
Educación should mean much more than a rigged game with a biased history
that tells a story with no mystery.
No mystery just facts!
Facts that emphasize the rich, privileged and white,
while ignoring the mystery of the Natives’ power and might!
Facts that are ingrained into youth’s minds whereby slave owners are revered as heroes
and legends, thus perpetuating a feeling of isolation for the supposed free man and
woman.
Facts that guide the content and curriculum across the nation,
leaving Latinos out and without inspiration.
Facts, all of these are facts because they are directly taught by the teacher, by the
school, by the authority.
Facts because all other facts have been discounted by the teacher, the school, the state,
the majority!
These majority facts are all over our textbooks, policies, tests, and classrooms.
We have grown accustomed to them.
Only one group has capital in this rigged system;
The dominant group that continues to outperform.
Yet we question why others cannot reach the standard, mean score,
College, the goal.
One language has all of the value and we demand
that all others take a backseat and hold on.
What message are we sending, what is being communicated?

We hold the same standards for all, yet we make the game easier for some!

Who would appreciate this if it were a sport or competition?
Who would pay to watch and listen?
Not one soul, not one soul, for we can all predict the outcome of a rigged game that
greatly favors “I” over “the other” more.

Why are we amused at the fact that our numbers look the same year after year?
Have we done anything to address, hope, opportunities, equity, and diversity here?
We haven’t even approached equality when we know that the real goal is equity.
We know this and can predict who may go to jail and who may go to college with integrity.

Schooling is loud and clear!
Develop the pipeline,
develop the pipeline,
develop the pipeline, the pipeline to where???
Answer this question
Whose culture has capital?
and then you can tell.

Who’s on the pipeline to College and who’s on the pipeline to Jail!