

Victor B. Sáenz, Ph.D.

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Victor B. Sáenz, Ph.D. is Chair and Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a Fellow in the Sid W. Richardson Regents Chair in Community College Leadership, and he holds courtesy appointments with the Center for Mexican American Studies, the Department of Mexican American and Latino Studies, the Irma Rangel Public Policy Institute, the Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis, and the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute. His current work advances research-informed best practices and policy solutions that improve educational outcomes for underserved students in postsecondary education, with a special emphasis on young men of color.

In 2010 Dr. Sáenz founded an award-winning initiative called Project MALES (Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success), a multi-pronged effort based at UT-Austin that is focused on advancing success strategies for male students of color across the education pipeline. In 2013 the project launched a statewide initiative called the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color made up of over thirty institutional partners in K-12 and higher education, and it seeks

to align and coordinate existing programs and services that target underrepresented male students. In fall 2019, Project MALES was recognized as a finalist for the Examples of Excelencia Award (baccalaureate category) from Excelencia in Education.

Over the years, Dr. Sáenz has received research and service awards from both scholarly and practitioner organizations. His research on unrepresented students in higher education has been cited in numerous policy reports, scholarly publications, and been covered by national media. He has spoken about his research at the White House, the National Press Club, on Capitol Hill, and at conferences across the country. Dr. Sáenz earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Change from UCLA in 2005. He also earned a Master's degree in Public Affairs (1999) and a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics (1996) from UT-Austin.