

Hispanic Business Names Top 10 Engineering, Medical, and Law Schools

Diversity is emerging as a top priority nationwide. As such, universities are striving to recruit multicultural and multiethnic students and leaders into their programs. Kevin Washburn, Dean of the #1 Law School for Hispanics – University of New Mexico School of Law – states, “A diverse educational climate makes education better for everyone”. To determine the most diverse schools across the country, *Hispanic Business* ranked the Top 10 Graduate Schools of Engineering, Medicine, and Law (see tables, below). *Hispanic Business* determined the leading schools of diversity by using factors such as enrollment and percentage of degrees earned by Hispanics as well as full-time Hispanic faculty. Additionally, *Hispanic Business* considered efforts to recruit and retain Hispanic students and faculty, to include marketing and community outreach. Of the Top 40 Graduate Schools for Hispanics nationwide, 30 are in the states of Texas, Florida, California, and New Mexico, with Texas and Florida each possessing 10 of the most diverse graduate programs in the nation.

Of the Top 10 Engineering Schools for Hispanic students, Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Engineering is the leading school. Georgia is credited with creating a web of involvement that encourages participation at every level, and creates a “pipeline by touching lives through engineering”, according to Felicia Benton-Johnson of the Georgia Institute. Interestingly, however, the University of Texas at El Paso College of Engineering surpassed the other 9 Top Graduate Schools in Engineering in Hispanic enrollment, percentage of postgraduate degrees earned by Hispanics, and the percentage of Hispanic faculty (30.5%, 29.7%, and 27.9%, respectively), yet was ranked at number 3 in the list. Of the Top 10 Engineering Schools, three are in Florida and two are in Texas.

Top 10 Engineering Schools for Hispanic Students
1. Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Engineering
2. Purdue University, College of Engineering
3. University of Texas at El Paso, College of Engineering
4. Cornell University, College of Engineering
5. University of Florida, College of Engineering
6. University of Central Florida, College of Engineering and Computer Science
7. University of New Mexico, School of Engineering
8. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Engineering
9. University of Texas at Austin Cockrell, School of Engineering
10. Florida Atlantic University, College of Engineering and Computer Science

Source: Hispanic Business, Sept 2009

Of the Top 10 Medical Schools for Hispanic students, Stanford University, School of Medicine is the top ranked school. Stanford’s Hannah Valentine, Senior Associate Dean of Diversity and Leadership at the university, states that programs for both high school and undergraduate students work best, and they are able to spur interest in education and build student-faculty relationships through one-on-one interaction. Again, several Texas schools surpass the others in Hispanic enrollment, percentage of postgraduate degrees earned by Hispanics, and the percentage of Hispanic faculty, with the leading numbers out of University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio with 17%, 20%, and 23% respectively. Of the Top 10 Medical Schools, four are located in Texas and two are located in Florida.

Top 10 Medical Schools for Hispanic Students
1. Stanford University, School of Medicine
2. University of Miami, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
3. University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School
4. University of Texas, Medical School at Houston
5. University of Texas, School of Medicine at San Antonio
6. University of New Mexico, School of Medicine
7. Florida State University, College of Medicine
8. University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine
9. University of Arizona, College of Medicine
10. University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston School of Medicine

Source: Hispanic Business, Sept 2009

Of the Top 10 Law Schools for Hispanic students, University of New Mexico, School of Law ranked Number 1. Kevin Washburn credits his school's high diversity to surrounding communities where a strong alumni base attracts minority applicants. In addition, current and former Court Justices and Attorney Generals serve as "walking advertisements" for the diversity of the law school. University of New Mexico, School of Law was higher than all of the other Top Law Schools in terms of Hispanic enrollment, percentage of postgraduate degrees earned by Hispanics, and the percentage of Hispanic faculty, with 31%, 30%, and 23% respectively. Of the Top 10 Law Schools, three are found in California and three are found in Florida.

Top 10 Law Schools for Hispanic Students
1. University of New Mexico, School of Law
2. University of Texas at El Paso, College of Business Administration
3. Florida State University, College of Law
4. American University, Washington College of Law
5. University of Miami, School of Law
6. University of San Francisco, School of Law
7. Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Conner College of Law
8. University of Florida, Fredric G. Levin College of Law
9. University of Southern California, Gould School of Law
10. University of California, Los Angeles School of Law

Source: Hispanic Business, September 2009

Looking toward 2010 and beyond, all of these Top Schools, and others across the country, are making improvements to shape the student and faculty body to include more diversity. As stated by Hannah Valentine: "Ultimately the schools that are the most diverse will be the most successful."

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