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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, Other, October 30, 2018

Utah State University

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Utah System of Higher Education  
New Administrative Unit Proposal  
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University

Proposed Effective Date<sup>1</sup>: Spring 2019

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:

Proposed Unit Title: Latinx Cultural Center (LCC)

Sponsoring School, College, or Division: Provost Office

Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s):

Proposed Unit Type:

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Administrative Unit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conditional Three-Year Approval for New Center, Institute, or Bureau

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Please type your first and last name \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

<sup>1</sup> "Proposed Effective Date" refers to date after Regent approval when new unit is operational or change to unit is published.

## New Unit Description - Abbreviated Template

### Section I: The Request

Utah State University requests approval to establish Latinx Cultural Center (LCC) effective Spring 2019. This action was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on .

### Section II: Program Proposal

#### Administrative Unit Description/Rationale

*Present a brief description of the unit. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at the action being proposed. Briefly indicate why a new administrative unit or change to the unit is justified. Are similar units offered elsewhere in the USHE or the State? State how the institution and the USHE benefit from the proposed unit or unit change.*

The Latinx Cultural Center serves as a conduit for service, engagement, advocacy, and visibility for the Latinx community on the USU campus and in the Cache Valley and surrounding areas. The center is the result of a year-long process of “fact-finding” meetings with USU faculty and local Latinx community leaders convened by USU President Noelle Cockett. The meetings discussed and recognized the unique challenges faced by Latinx students and others vested in the prosperity of the Latinx community at large.

There are similar initiatives such as the one being proposed at USU and these vary in scope and size among USHE institutions (e.g., Southern Utah University has created a “Hispanic Center for Academic Excellence” on their campus).

The Latinx Cultural Center will be devoted to enhancing access, recruitment, retention, and overall success of students who identify with the Latinx community or whose professional aspirations are to work with the Latinx community. The result is an added benefit to the statewide Latinx community, especially those at USU and in Cache Valley.

#### Consistency with Institutional Mission/Institutional Impact

*Explain how the unit is consistent with the institution's Regents-approved mission, roles, and goals. Describe how the existing administrative structures support the proposed unit and identify new organizational structures that may be needed. What changes in faculty and staff will be required?*

The mission of Utah State University is to be one of the nation's premier student-centered land-grant and space-grant universities by fostering the principle that academics come first, by cultivating diversity of thought and culture, and by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement. The Latinx Cultural Center strongly supports USU's mission as the LCC aspires to increase access to resources, training, education, and professionalization that increases excellence in education for a historically-underserved demographic (i.e., the Latinx population).

As of 2018 in the state of Utah, there is a glaring disparity between the numbers of Latinos that graduate from high school and the number of Latinos that matriculate to higher education and attain a postsecondary degree. Addressing this disparity would align with the Board of Regents and Commissioner of Higher Education identified "big goal" to have 66% of Utahans with a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020.

One of the most significant contributors to this disparity is a characteristic of the Latinx culture, which historically has not had much experience with higher education. Because of this situation Latinx parents often have no experience with higher education and thus do not know

how to adequately prepare their children for the pursuit of a postsecondary degree.

The Latinx Cultural Center is a multifaceted initiative that aims to serve “first-generation students” Latinx USU students, Utah secondary education Latinx students, and the parents/guardians of those students. The center will "plug in" to other existing initiatives, programs, and centers that may have some overlap, such as the Access and Diversity Center at USU.

The Latinx Cultural Center will require a Director, an Associate Director, a Program Coordinator, and graduate student staff. The Latinx Cultural Center will also require a permanent space on the USU campus that will serve as a hub that coordinates the various initiatives concerning the Latinx community both at USU and in the larger Utah community. Currently, USU has chosen Dr. Christopher Gonzalez, associate professor in the department of English to be the Director of the Latinx Cultural Center.

### Finances

*What costs or savings are anticipated with the actions proposed? What new facilities or modifications to existing facilities or equipment are needed? Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution. If new funds are required, describe expected sources of funds.*

The space that will house the Latinx Cultural Center will require some modifications, including office and meeting space. The space will be used for graduate and undergraduate student mentors to convene; for affiliated organizations to meet; for affiliated events and speakers; for the public to visit and learn more about the Latinx community; for the showcasing of Latinx art and educational exhibits that are open to the public; as a space for students to do research and collaborate on academic endeavors. Appropriate furniture, office telephones and computers, and a projector/screen will be necessary.

The LCC will also require will require a full-time Director, Associate Director, Program Coordinator and staff assistant. The LCC will be funded in the Provost office, with funding from the President's office. Additional funding will be sought through grants and community partners. The LCC will also seek to partner with the various units on campus to provide opportunities for graduate students.