



# CEOSE Mini-Symposium

## • Women of Color in STEM: Perspectives on Experiences, Research, Evaluation, and Policy in Higher Education and Careers

October 27, 2009

Arlington, VA

The Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering  
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# **MOTIVATING LATINAS IN STEM: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

A personal perspective  
by

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# Latin@s in America

- Across all STEM fields, the proportion of women of color is small, and drops at each level of degree attainment (NSF 2007, CPST, 2007).

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- 2005-06--Latinas earned 61% bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics but only 37% in STEM fields.
  - Latinas lag behind Latino males in degrees earned in all STEM fields except biology/sciences.

# Latinas in America

- In 2005, Latinas received 60% of all undergraduate degrees conferred to Latinos of those only 39% were STEM degrees.  
(Excelencia in Education, 2007).



- In 2003-04--Latinas earned

- 70% of associate,

- 63% of bachelor's,

- 52% of master's, and

- 54% of PhDs awarded in

**biology/sciences to Hispanics** (NCES, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 2007).

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- In spite of the increase in bachelor's degrees, only 53% of the total Hispanic population finishes High School.

# OBSTACLES

- Teachers lacking content knowledge
- Content prerequisites
- Traditional content pedagogy
- Teachers' misunderstand Latinas
- Cultural and Family dynamics
- A dearth of role models

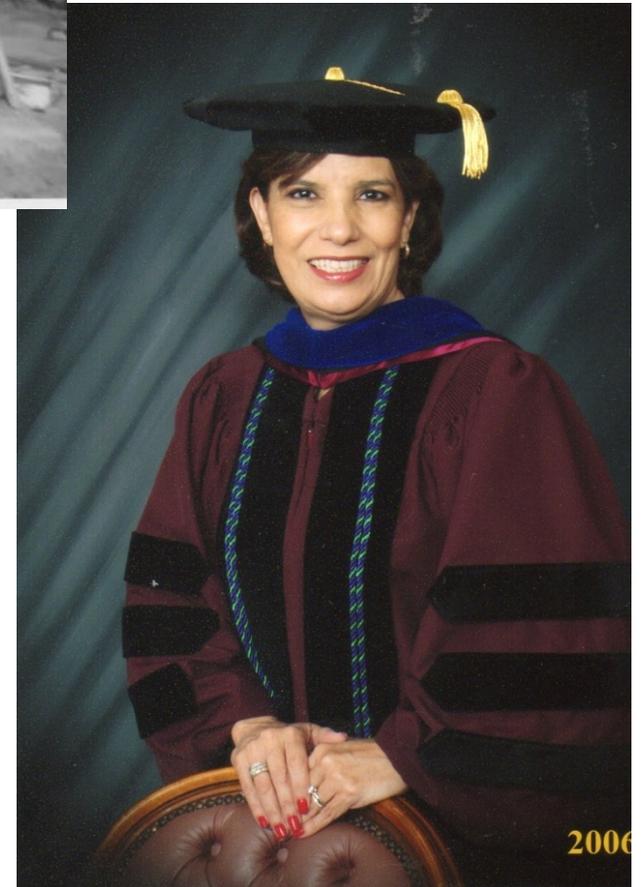
# OBSTACLES

- A lack of financial resources
- Limited Language proficiency
- Lack of a proper space to study
- Poor study habits
- Poor training in critical thinking abilities and communication skills



1957

2006



2006



**¡GRACIAS!**