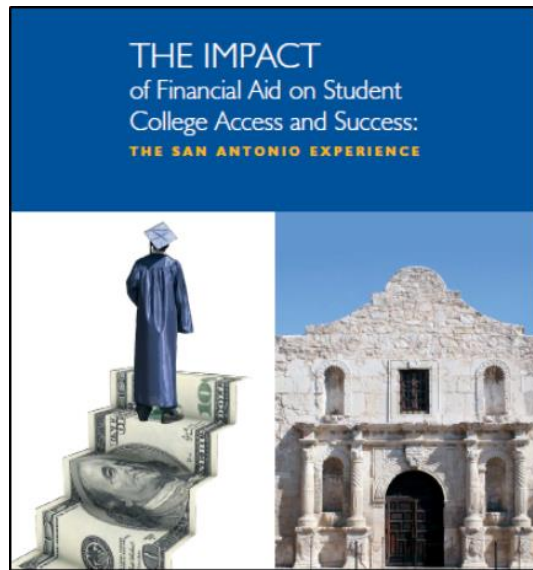


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# **The Impact of Financial Aid on Student College Access & Success: The San Antonio Experience**



**36<sup>th</sup> Annual SFARN Conference  
June 7, 2019**

**Noé C. Ortiz & Eyra A. Pérez**

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## ***Collaboration in San Antonio***

- Movement spearheaded by Mayor Julian Castro leading to cafécollege.
- Supported by Lumina Foundation's Latino Student Success Project.
- Strengthened by *Excelencia* in Education and other momentum builders.

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## ***Student Aid San Antonio***

- Collaborative effort for FAFSA completion.
- Built on successful financial aid efforts of local school districts and colleges/universities.
- Offers free guidance and one-on-one assistance.

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## ***Financial Aid Council of San Antonio***

Founded to provide infrastructure for collective work:

- Provide services and advocacy to facilitate college enrollment, persistence, and completion.
- Forum for communication and collaboration on student financial aid issues and initiatives.
- Supports best practices leading to systemic change.

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## ***Financial Aid Curriculum***

**Challenge:** State law requiring HSs to teach how to pay for college beyond expertise of school districts.

- Financial aid experts provided technical knowledge through:
  - Creation of financial aid curriculum.
  - Professional development.
- School districts realize financial aid essential to college enrollment:
  - Adoption of FAFSA completion as key strategy in college and career readiness.

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## ***Financial Aid Summit***

- To identify needs, gaps, strengths, and proven practices.
- Call to action by sharing local financial aid data to show critical needs.
- Strategies to guide financial aid efforts.

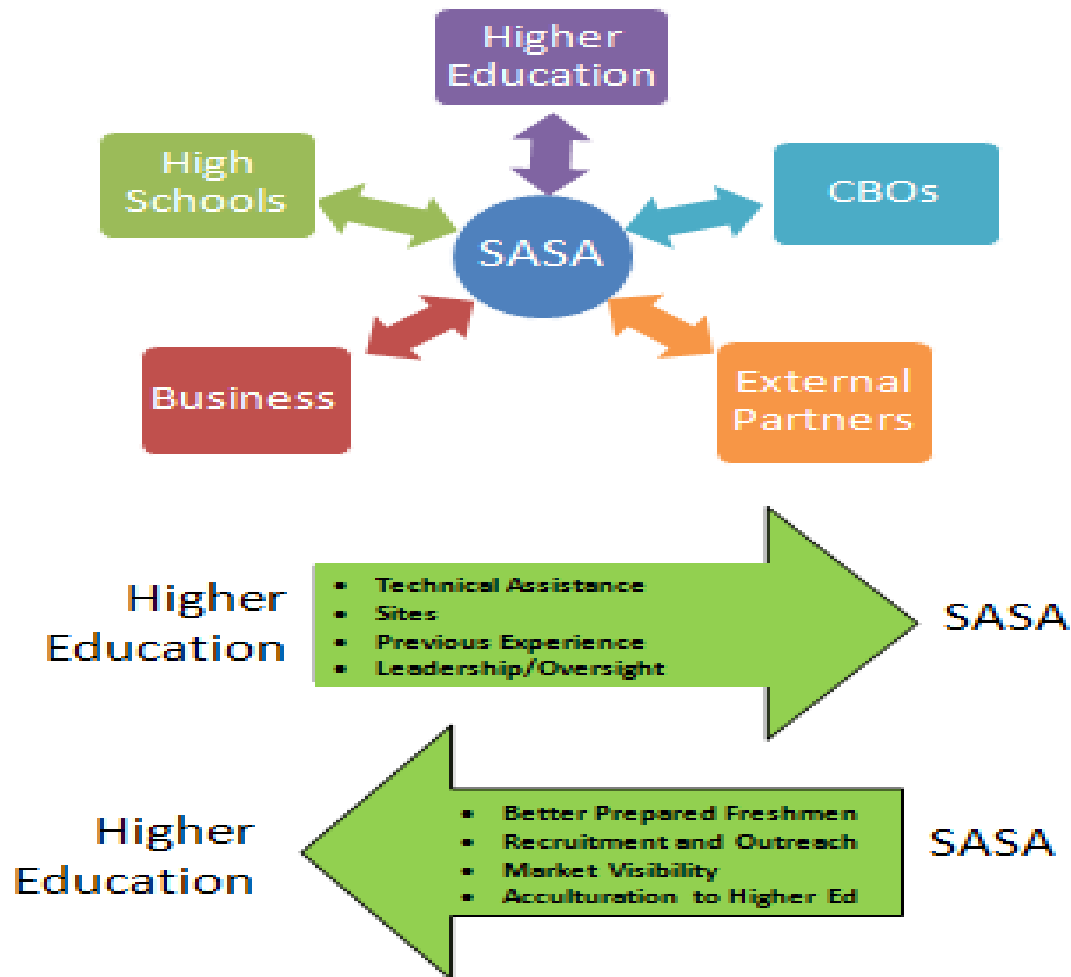
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# Findings

## Partnership Development

- Evolutionary process based on shared responsibility.
- Shared vision and goal
- Dynamic and complex
- **Key Factor:** Leveraging existing relationships
- **Key Factor:** Mutually beneficial to partners

## Mutually Reinforcing Activities





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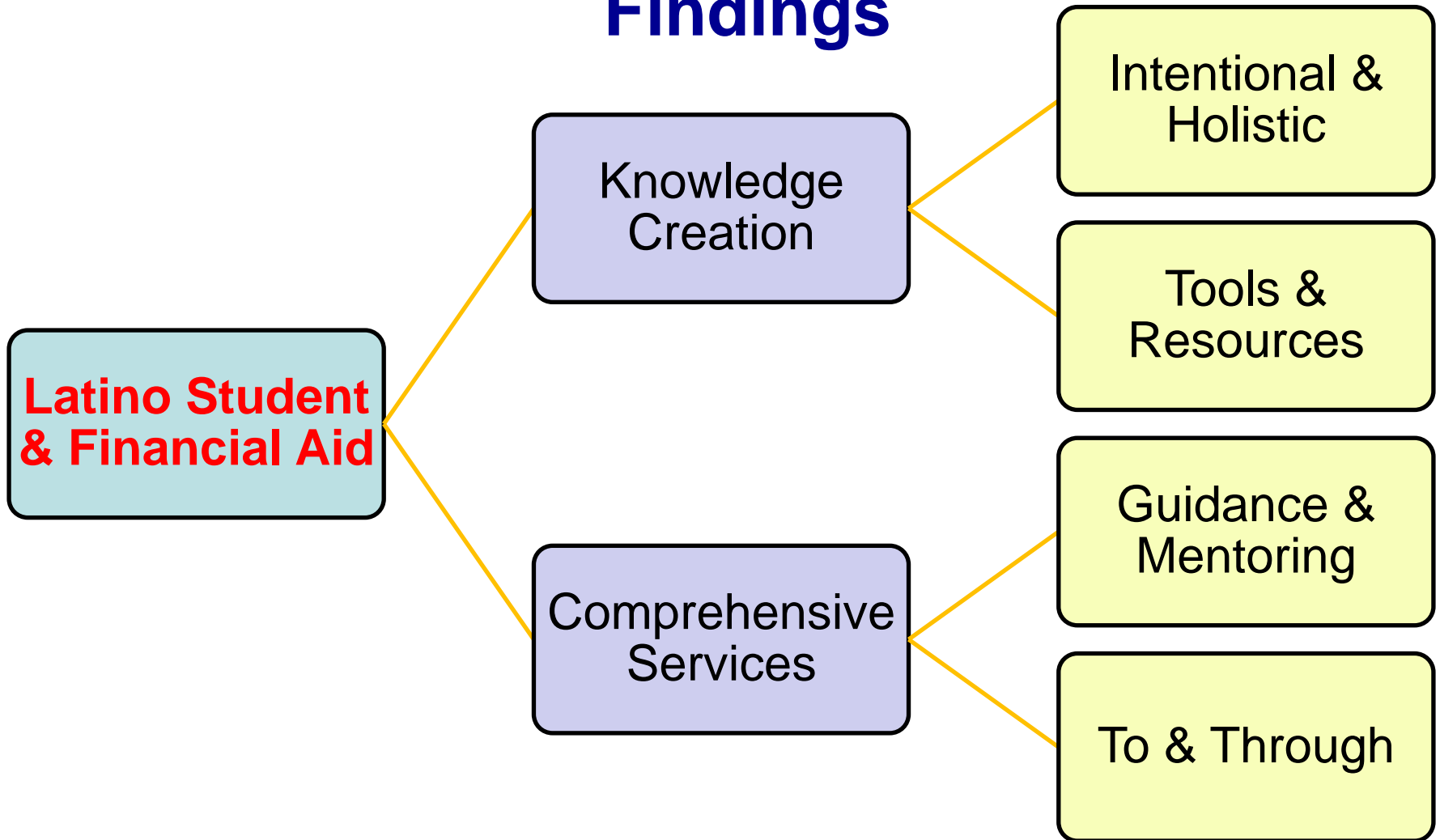
# Findings

## Four Phases of Partnership Development



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## Findings



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# Findings

## Data to Inform

### Building Infrastructure

- Backbone organization with capacity & trust
- Partners as sources

### Tracking

- Analyze more than FAFSA rates
- Best data to guide, inform & track progress

### Measuring Effectiveness

- Activities, services & interventions
- Beyond outputs

### Analysis

- Start with top layer to gain momentum, commitment, trust
- Probe into deeper challenges & barriers

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Please visit  
**[www.EdExcelencia.org](http://www.EdExcelencia.org)**  
to access case study  
and other resources

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