



Cal State L.A. MORE student conducting research in lab.

White House Recognizes Cal State L.A. for Excellence in Educating Latino Science Students

► **LOS ANGELES** – The White House has selected Cal State L.A.’s Minorities Opportunities in Research Programs to be part of a nationwide initiative that recognizes excellence in educating Latino students. The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics announced its “Bright Spots in Hispanic Education” during National Hispanic Heritage Month in September.

“We’re proud that our MORE Programs have helped diversify the nation’s laboratories and universities,” said Cal State L.A. President William A. Covino. “Science is richer because of the presence and contributions of our graduates.”

MORE Programs are among 230 Bright Spots, or programs that have helped promote educational excellence in the Latino community. “There has been notable progress in Hispanic educational achievement, and it is due to the efforts of these Bright Spots in Hispanic Education, programs and organizations working throughout the country to help Hispanic students reach their full potential,” said Alejandra Ceja, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence.

MORE Programs are an umbrella organization established to pre-

pare motivated students of color to earn Ph.D.s in science fields. The National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health fund these programs. In its most recent listing, the National Science Foundation ranked Cal State L.A. as the top baccalaureate institution of origin for Latino science and engineering Ph.D. recipients among all undergraduate and master’s colleges and universities in the continental U.S. MORE alumni are the largest contributors to this ranking, and MORE Programs are directed by Professor Carlos Gutierrez at Cal State L.A.

“This award recognizes the exceptional dedication and talent of both our students and their faculty mentors. It is also a wonderful tribute to the longstanding success of the Cal State L.A. MORE Programs in preparing underrepresented minority students for Ph.D. programs,” said Scott Bowman, dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences. “MORE Programs are perhaps the best exemplar one could imagine of the teacher-scholar model in higher education.”

The White House initiative was established in 1990 to address the educational disparities faced by the Latino community. The initiative seeks to leverage these Bright Spots to encourage promising practices, peer advice and partnerships to promote educational attainment.

PHOTO: CAL STATE L.A.