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AM Alert: Excelencia in education

A report out today called "Latino College Completion: California" shows some progress in the number of Latinos earning undergraduate degrees - and a couple who won the lottery last year are working to move that along.

Jacki and Gilbert Cisneros, who won \$266 million last year after buying the right MEGA Millions ticket in Pico Rivera, are funding a "Generation 1st Degree" program in that town by contributing \$1.25 million to the **Hispanic Scholarship Fund**.

The effort aims to get at least one member of every household to earn a college degree.

Excelencia in Education, a national group working on the project, says its report shows the number of Latinos earning undergraduate degrees in California between 2006 and 2008 grew by 13 percent. Other groups saw an 8 percent increase.

But 39 percent of working-age adults in the state have college degrees, compared with 16 percent of working-age Latinos.

Read the full report here.

In other education news, state schools chief **Tom Torlakson** this morning will unveil recommendations made by his 59-member (that's not a typo) transition advisory team.

The report, "A Blueprint for Great Schools," is available here after 10:30 a.m.

With Medi-Cal benefits for **Adult Day Health Care** services set to end on December 1, the Department of Health Care Services will hold a stakeholders' hearing today to discuss transition plans.

Not everyone is expected to endorse them.

California Association for Adult Day Services Executive Director **Lydia Missaelides** issued a statement in advance of the hearing describing the state's strategy as "nothing more than a list of existing health care services for ADHC patients to be plugged into like widgets or lumped together in managed care plans that the patient may not accept or that may not be able to provide for the patient's specific needs because the services simply don't exist."

The meeting will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the department's auditorium at 1500 Capitol Avenue.

You can find the transition plan on the department's web site.