

VALIDATION THEORY WORKSHOP

Laura I Rendón developed “validation theory,” defining it as an enabling, confirming and supportive process initiated by in- and out-of-class agents that fosters academic and personal development (Rendón, 1994). Validation theory has served to guide academic and student support initiatives throughout the nation. The theory has also been used as a framework to guide research on student success in two- and four-year colleges and universities.

A well-established body of research now confirms the importance of validation as a way to work more effectively with diverse students, especially underserved student populations, many who are low income and first generation. This interactive workshop will highlight differences between traditional and underserved student populations, barriers to college persistence, student assets that propel them toward college completion, examples of academic and interpersonal validation, and the role of faculty and staff in creating a culturally-validating student success framework.