Briefing Document: AI in Hispanic-Serving Institutions

This briefing document reviews key themes and insights from an interview with Azania, an academic advisor at a local community college, regarding the potential impact of AI on Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

Main Themes:

Educational Equity: Leveraging AI to overcome language barriers and provide personalized learning experiences.

Supporting Bilingual and First-Generation Students: Utilizing AI for translation services and streamlining complex college processes.

Cultural Relevance and Representation: Employing AI to develop culturally relevant learning materials and experiences.

Career Development: Preparing Hispanic students for the workforce, particularly in tech fields, through AI-powered tools and resources.

Ethical Considerations: Addressing potential biases and ensuring equitable implementation of AI.

Key Insights and Facts:

1. Access and Personalized Learning:

AI can help Hispanic and Latinx students understand and complete assignments by providing translation support and personalized learning experiences.

"generative AI tools can help with overcoming language barriers with understanding classroom assignments as well as completing those assignments..."

This could lead to increased student participation and confidence.

2. Streamlining College Processes:

AI can be a powerful tool for simplifying college processes like enrollment, financial aid, and registration.

"Some of the ways I anticipate AI helping with this would be streamlining college processes such as enrollment, financial aid, registration etc.,..."

Free translation services powered by AI could significantly enhance student engagement and retention.

3. Culturally Relevant Learning:

AI can be used to collect data on student experiences and needs, allowing institutions to adapt policies and practices to better serve Hispanic and Latinx students.

"If I understand AI correctly, the more that Hispanic and Latinx students use it the more meaningful and expansive the feedback will become... applying what is learned through AI in our policies, processes, interactions, and classrooms"

It's important to actively encourage the use of AI by Hispanic and Latinx students to gather relevant data.

4. Career Preparation in Tech:

AI can connect students' interests with relevant career paths, particularly in the diverse field of IT.

"With this in mind and AI's ability to collect large amounts of data and streamline it, I see phenomenal potential for a breakthrough in connecting students' interests with appropriate career paths."

AI-powered tools can also assist with resume and cover letter writing, enhancing students' job application skills.

5. Ethical Considerations and Institutional Policies:

Azania acknowledges the lack of clear institutional policies regarding the ethical use of AI.

"At this time, I sincerely have no clue. With quick research on our website, I could not find anything."

This highlights the urgent need for institutions to address potential biases in AI and ensure its equitable implementation.

Overall, Azania's insights suggest that AI holds significant potential for improving educational experiences and outcomes for Hispanic and Latinx students at HSIs. However, careful consideration of ethical implications and proactive development of institutional policies are crucial for responsible and equitable deployment of AI.