Imperative VI:

**Recruit, Retain and Graduate a Diverse and Highly Qualified Student Body**

The face of Texas is changing, as State Demographer Steve Murdock noted in his landmark book *The Texas Challenge* more than eight years ago. As a result, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board launched its Closing the Gaps initiative. The goals of this initiative included enrolling an additional 120,000 Hispanic students in higher education by 2015. A&M-Corpus Christi will mirror the state population in its enrollment by recruiting, retaining, and graduating a diverse, highly qualified student body. A student centered environment will enhance the intellectual community and overall student experience, helping to prepare and graduate students with the vital critical thinking, problem solving and leadership skills necessary to excel and advance in an ever-changing global economy.