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Professor Tinto received his Ph.D. in education and sociology from The University of Chicago. He is currently Distinguished University Professor at Syracuse University. He has carried out research and has written extensively on higher education, particularly on student retention and the impact of learning communities on student growth and attainment. He has consulted widely with Federal and State agencies, with independent research firms, foundations, and with two and four-year institutions of higher education on a broad range of higher educational issues, not the least of which concern the retention and education of students in higher education.

He serves on the editorial boards of several journals and with various organizations and professional associations concerned with higher education. He chaired the national panel responsible for awarding $5 million to establish the first national center for research on teaching and learning in higher education, and served as Associate Director of the $6 million National Center on Postsecondary Teaching, Learning, and Assessment funded by the U.S. Office of Education. He his currently working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, Institute for Higher Education Policy, American Association of Colleges and Universities, American Association of Community Colleges, Council for Opportunity in Education, Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Education, and the European Access Network, all involved in a range of efforts to increase student success in higher education, especially among low-income and under-served students. His forthcoming book from The University of Chicago Press (2012) entitled, *Completing College,* provides a framework for institutional action for student success and shows how it can be applied to guide programs and policies in both two- and four-year institutional settings.