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HACU attends White House summit on expanding access to higher education

San Antonio, TX - The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was among those represented at the “White House Education and Skills Summit.” HACU Governing Board member Félix V. Matos Rodriguez, Ph.D., President of the Eugenio María de Hostos Community College of The City University of New York (CUNY), attended on behalf of the association. Several other Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) presidents as well as a number of HACU-member presidents of emerging HSIs were also in attendance.

As part of the summit, HACU submitted a commitment which notes the important work HSIs have been doing for decades to improve access for low-income students to higher education. More than just a commitment on behalf of HACU, the submission reiterates the importance of increasing investments for HSIs across the nation.

“HACU is committed to working with the President and his Administration to continue to strengthen the capacity of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to enroll and help our nation’s most vulnerable students succeed in higher education,” said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores. “HACU is especially committed to continuing our engagement of elected officials from both sides of the aisle at the national and local levels to ensure HSIs get the resources they need for more Hispanic students to pursue their higher education goals.”

HACU’s commitment also included the recently launched STEM Task Force to address the need for increasing Hispanic participation in STEM fields and HACU’s on-going efforts to link

Hispanic Serving School Districts (HSSDs) and HSIs in order to strengthen the educational pipeline in all fields.

The White House coordinated this summit as part of its effort to promote ways that higher education as well as the private sector, city and state leaders, and philanthropy can connect more low-income students with college and ensure they succeed once they get there. According to press reports, the invitation-only event focused on urging more selective higher education institutions to commit to improving low income student access to higher education.

About HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) represents approximately 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America and Spain. HSIs will convene April 7-8 at HACU's Annual National Capitol Forum in D.C., and make visits to Capitol Hill to shape and promote an agenda for Congress and the country. Information is available at www.hacu.net.

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