

Letter of Welcome from the Chair

Welcome from the Chair of the HACU Governing Board

Welcome to Washington, D.C., and HACU's 2004 Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education, "Capitol Strategies for Hispanic Higher Education Success." Together, we will present a compelling voice to Congress and the country for our students.

Our goals are three-fold: to frame salient policy based on issues confronting Hispanics in higher education; to engage leading representatives from government, corporate and philanthropic sectors in the formulation of new policy initiatives; and, to advance the mission and strategic goals of HACU's member and partner institutions of higher learning.

Our Hispanic higher education community faces tremendous challenges. Our outstanding member colleges and universities are at the forefront of every successful effort to serve our country's fastest-growing and most under-served student population. Yet, many of these vital institutions are now struggling with substantial retrenchments in local, state and federal funding support.

HACU welcomes your presence at this critical election-year forum as we present an agenda for bold new investments in Hispanic higher education for the next federal fiscal year, and also through the pending five-year reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

On behalf of the HACU Governing Board and our students, please accept my deepest gratitude for your participation at the Capitol Forum and for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Miguel Palacios
Chair, HACU Governing Board
President
Pima Community College
Desert Vista Campus