

HACU International Affiliation and Activities



An education that does not include an international dimension is not a complete education

About HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1986 with a founding membership of 18 institutions. Today, HACU represents more than 500 colleges, universities, school districts and nonprofits committed to Hispanic higher education success in the United States (U.S.), Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and the Caribbean.

The Hispanic population in the U.S. and Puerto Rico exceeds 63 million. Hispanics are now the youngest and fastest growing population in the nation. However, the percentage of Hispanic students who successfully complete high school or a higher education is the lowest of any ethnic group in the U.S. This is a matter of utmost importance to HACU and its member institutions, who together enroll two thirds of the more than 3.8 million Hispanic college students in this country.

Mission and Vision

HACU strives to promote Hispanic success in higher education. Our mission is to promote the development of HACU member colleges and universities; improve access to and the quality of postsecondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students; and meet the needs of business, industry and government through the development and sharing of resources, information and expertise.

Our international members are an integral part of HACU, and they allow for the creation of international collaboration opportunities between them and our members in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. International members also benefit from the other services and programs offered by HACU.

HACU's vision, as it relates to international higher education, is embodied in the strong and lasting collaborations between its member institutions in the U.S. and those in the Americas and Europe. International education is the foundation to promoting humanity's well-being. As an international participant once mentioned during a roundtable, "... education is a global issue because people can only be changed through education ... and the world's greatest problems will always be better solved with international participation." Given the multicultural nature of its members, HACU is in a unique strategic position to facilitate partnerships and innovative programs among its membership.

International Affairs

HACU created its international member category in 1996. That same year, HACU organized the first of its international conferences, which now take place every two years in different countries. These efforts were launched to facilitate partnership agreements between HACU member institutions and increase participation of Hispanic students in international educational experiences.

Our Department of International Affairs was established in 2003 and operates out of the HACU headquarter offices located in San Antonio, Texas. The main purpose of this department is to promote the association's international membership; increase collaboration between international and national members; create new programs with international content; and explore possibilities for new initiatives, and coordinate international conferences as well as sessions with international content during our annual conferences.

Below is a list of past HACU international conferences:

Las Cruces, New Mexico (1996)
Tempe, Arizona (1997)
San Diego, California (1999)
San José, Costa Rica (2001)
Guadalajara, México (2003)
Santa Fe, New Mexico (2005)
Alcalá de Henares, Spain (2007)
Guadalajara, México (2009)
San Juan, Puerto Rico (2011)
San Antonio, Texas (2013)
Guadalajara, México (2015)
San José, Costa Rica (2017)
San Juan, Puerto Rico (2019)



International Member Benefits

Membership in HACU allows colleges and universities to establish partnerships with its more than 500 member institutions. Below please see some of HACU's international member benefits:

Conferences and Events:

HACU member institutions receive special discounted rates to participate in our annual and international conferences and other events as attendees, presenters or exhibitors. Our conferences also offer a unique opportunity for our national and international members to interact and network with educators from around the world that are committed to improving Hispanic higher education and exploring possible areas of collaboration. HACU's Department of International Affairs coordinates special sessions at these conferences that promote interaction and networking between national and international participants.

Promotional Opportunities:

HACU member institutions are highlighted **free** of charge as follows:

- **Membership Directory** – HACU's online Membership Directory is available on our website. International members receive a special code to access information that is only available to member institutions, including: names of HACU member presidents, total enrollment & Hispanic student enrollment at national member institutions, and the three main study programs for each international member institution.
- **Website** – The HACU website receives more than 180,000 visits per month from member institutions, corporations, federal agencies and individuals interested in Hispanic higher education. All HACU international members are promoted on our website and their institution's name is included in the HACU Membership Directory. Also, upon request, HACU can promote institutional educational programs in our "International Opportunities" webpage.
- **Conference Programs** – The names of all our national and international member institutions are published in our conference programs and seen by all conference participants.

Publications and Member Lists:

HACU member institutions receive a special discount on the purchase of member lists that include mailing contact information. This list can be ordered using the "Member List Order Form" found on our website under the "Membership" section. Members also receive special discounts on subscriptions to our magazine, *The Voice*. Members can subscribe to receive this quarterly magazine on our website under the "HACU News" section.

HACU Governing Board:

The HACU Governing Board includes a representative from one of our international member institutions. That same representative also serves as Chair of HACU's Commission on International Education, which meets at least once a year during our annual conferences.

HACU's Commission on International Education:

The Commission on International Education provides guidance, advice and support to HACU in the following ways:

- ✓ Guidance, information and appropriate contacts to establish international programs.
- ✓ Promoting opportunities available to students, faculty, and administrators at member institutions.
- ✓ Identifying potential sources of support for international programs.
- ✓ Advance HACU's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. to secure federal support for the development of international program opportunities for member institutions e.g., Title VI in HACU's Legislative Agenda.

Antonio R. Flores, Ph.D. President and CEO



On February 26, 1996, Antonio R. Flores became the third president and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). During his tenure as president of HACU, the association has nearly tripled its membership from 161 members in 1996 to over 500 in 2020. Also, HACU's budget and its programs have expanded three-fold. More than \$4 billion in federal funding has been allocated to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) during Flores' tenure.

Flores holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, a Master of Arts degree in counseling and personnel from Western Michigan University, and undergraduate degrees in business administration and elementary education from Universidad de Guadalajara and Centro Normal Regional in México, respectively.

Flores has received numerous honors and awards for his contributions to higher education.

Highlights and Accomplishments:

- 1996** – HACU creates the International Member category and holds its first international conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico.
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- 1999** – The first International Member president is selected to serve on the HACU Governing Board.
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- 2003** – HACU's Department of International Affairs is formed.
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- 2005** – HACU's Commission on International Education is established and they hold their first meeting.
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- 2011** – HACU visits the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and several of the local universities to establish partnership agreements.
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- 2013** – The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador sponsors a visit for HACU to create partnerships between its member institutions and Salvadoran universities.
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- 2014** – The "New Mobility and International Education Opportunities" meeting was organized by HACU and the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica. This gathering provided an excellent platform to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the universities in Central America and the United States.
- In collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Spain, HACU participated and helped organize a university exchange day titled "University Collaboration in the Areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" held in Madrid.
 - The U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica sponsored visits to universities in the U.S. for several Central American university presidents who also participated in HACU's 28th Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. The purpose of these visits was to establish articulation agreements between the universities.
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- 2016** – HACU and the U.S. Department of State sponsored the "U.S., Cuba & Latin America Higher Education Collaborative Symposium" in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco México. Representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education and several universities from Cuba participated.
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- 2017** – HACU and the U.S. Department of State organized a special session for Ambassadors in Washington, D.C. on "The State of the Hispanic Higher Education: Programs, Services, Strategies and the International Work of HACU."
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- 2018** – The President and CEO of HACU made a special trip to Spain to visit local universities to increase collaboration between them and HACU's member universities.
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- 2019** – HACU launches a special program called the Presidential Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo. Its main purpose is to prepare Hispanic university administrators to successfully compete and secure president or vice president positions at U.S. colleges and universities. Administrators from national and international institutions participated in the inaugural class, including two representatives from Chile.
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- 2020** – HACU signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute for Public Administration of the State of Jalisco (IAPEJ) in México. The MOU provides a general framework of collaboration between the two organizations focused on promoting and strengthening alliances between higher education institutions in the U.S. and México, particularly those with schools of public administration in the State of Jalisco.

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