



HACU

HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

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THE VOICE

OF HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
HACU's Capitol Forum
Message From The President

RINGSIDE FOR ¡ADELANTE!

■ Platinum table tickets to a May 20 fundraising luncheon in San Antonio, Texas, for the ¡Adelante! U.S. Education Leadership Fund will come with ringside seats for a 2003 Miller Lite Texas Title Belt Series event May 22 in San Antonio featuring two-time world boxing champion Jesse James Leija. The boxing event will be televised live on HBO Latino. Oscar De La Hoya, a six-time world champion who is promoting the boxing event, will address the fundraising luncheon for the national Hispanic scholarship and leadership program. ¡Adelante! was founded by HACU in 1997 with ongoing support from Miller Brewing Company, and became a separate organization in 1999. For more information about the May 20 fundraising package, contact ¡Adelante! Executive Director John Puder at (210) 692-1971 (jpuder@adelantefund.org). Or visit www.adelantefund.org

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

■ Online registration is available at www.hacu.net for HACU's 5th International Conference, *Hispanics: Reencounter and Vision – United by the Past, Working in the Present, and Looking Towards the Future*, July 27-29, in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. HACU's international conferences have attracted wide attention to global issues and trends in cross-border education, diversity, workforce development, public policy advances and cultural development.

GROSSMONT PRESIDENT HONORED

■ The California Community College Council for Staff and Organizational Development named Ted Martinez Jr., president of HACU member Grossmont College, the recipient of the 2003 Outstanding President Award. "This honor from staff development professionals is especially gratifying because it is given by those upon whom we depend to help us improve," Martinez said. "Staff development helps everyone do a better job, and the beneficiaries are always our students."

FORD BOARD

■ Juliet Garcia, president of HACU member University of Texas at Brownsville, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Ford Foundation. Garcia is also Vice Chair of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Most recently, she completed a six-year term as Chair of the Advisory Committee to Congress on Student Financial Assistance.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

■ HACU member Santa Monica College in California is hosting a national conference May 8-9 on workforce development co-sponsored by HACU and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. The conference, "Strategic Partnerships for Excellence in Workforce Development," will bring together representatives from HACU member colleges and universities, and community and government agencies and organizations. For more information, visit www.smc.edu/workforcedevelopment/conference.htm.

MINORITY MEDICINE

■ Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida awarded HACU member Barry University in Miami a \$300,000 grant to fund the establishment of the Institute for Community Health and Minority Medicine. Barry University's School of Graduate Medical Sciences already serves 80,000 Hispanics at its Families R-US Health Center and more than 28,000 migrant farm workers and their children at the Good News Care Center and Open Door Health Clinic.

NANOTECHNOLOGY

■ HACU member and associate members University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at Brownsville and University of Texas-Pan American have established a "Nano at the Border" consortium on nanotechnology. The goal is to help Texas become a leader in this potential next revolution in science. Nanotechnology enables materials and devices to be fabricated that have new physical or chemical properties as a result of their orderly construction from pieces that are about a billionth of a meter in size.

ADVANCE PROGRAM

■ The ADVANCE Program at HACU member New Mexico State University awarded \$81,575 in grants to 13 tenured and tenure-track female faculty members of the university in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The ADVANCE program, funded with a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation, provides support for female faculty in STEM fields to gain tenured and full professorships, and to assume leadership roles at the university.

OVERVIEW

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ABOUT THE COVER

HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education featured a call for record new investments in the higher education needs of the nation's youngest and largest ethnic population. A special report begins on Pg. 6.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HACU's 5th International Conference, *Hispanics: Reencounter and Vision – United by the Past, Working in the Present, and Looking Towards the Future*, July 27-29, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

HACU's 17th Annual Conference, *Hispanic Higher Education Success: America's Path to the Future*, October 18-21, Anaheim, California.

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The Voice of Hispanic Higher Education reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. We are not responsible for returning any unsolicited materials such as photos, brochures, etc. We also reserve the right to refuse publication of any unsolicited material.

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ABOUT HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities represents more than 340 member and associate member colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico and abroad with high Hispanic student enrollment rates — including federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions. HACU's mission is to improve access to and the quality of post-secondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students; to meet the needs of business, industry and government through the development and sharing of resources, information and expertise; and to promote the development and success of member and associate member colleges and universities.

NOTES FROM WASHINGTON

HACU'S AGENDA

By Gumeindo Salas
Vice President of Government Relations

HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education laid a solid foundation for efforts now under way in the 108th Congress to win record new increases in federal funding for Hispanic higher education.

Already, proposals in support of several components of HACU's Legislative Agenda for federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 and HACU's Public Policy Priorities for Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) are making their way to Congress. HACU's agendas are posted at www.hacu.net.

HACU will be calling on the leadership of member and partner colleges and universities to provide testimony, letters and telephone calls in support of these measures in coming weeks. HACU will continue to rely on the leadership of the HACU Governing Board's Government Relations Committee, which has proven instrumental in relaying the importance of HACU's legislative agendas to Congress and the White House.

HACU continues to work with key members of Congress in seeking support for proposals that would be of critical importance to HACU member Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). One proposal would eliminate the two-year wait now required of HSIs before these institutions can re-apply for Title V funding under the HEA. Another would address the "50 percent" low-income assurance requirement provision within the federal definition of HSIs.

HACU has made both the elimination of the two-year wait and "50 percent" provision a part of HACU's Public Policy Priorities for Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. HACU also is requesting an increase in Title V appropriations to HSIs from \$93 million in federal fiscal year (FY) 2003 to \$175 million in FY 2004.

HSIs are at the forefront of every important effort to address the fact that Hispanics now suffer the lowest high school and college graduation rates of any major population group. Two-year waits between applications by eligible HSIs for Title V grants only impede the efforts of these HSIs to implement continuing programs with long-range solutions to



this challenge.

Removing the "50 percent" provision from the federal definition of HSIs would erase an inequitable component of the Title V definition of

HSIs. In addition to requiring that at least 25 percent of the full-time equivalent student enrollment be Hispanic, 50 percent of those students also must fit federal low-income definitions. This additional regulatory burden is not required of other Minority-Serving Institutions, and should be eliminated.

Senator George Allen of Virginia was applauded at the Capitol Forum for his introduction of S.196, which would target \$250 million in new National Science Foundation grants each year for the next five years to HSIs and other Minority-Serving Institutions. The bipartisan bill was co-sponsored by Senators Ted Stevens of Alaska, John McCain of Arizona, Zell Miller of Georgia and Ernest Hollings of South Carolina.

HACU also is enlisting the leadership of member colleges and universities in calling for passage of legislation to eliminate barriers to a college education for talented young immigrants who are long-term U.S. residents.

The bipartisan, companion measures that comprise the DREAM Act in the Senate and the Student Adjustment Act (H.R. 1684) in the House are of tremendous importance to the higher education community.

H.R. 1684 was introduced last month in the House by U.S. Representatives Howard Berman of California, Chris Cannon of Utah and Lucille Roybal-Allard of California.

The DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act was to be re-introduced in the Senate by U.S. Senators Orrin Hatch of Utah and Richard Durbin of Illinois.

The DREAM Act and Student Adjustment Act would allow states the flexibility to define eligibility for purposes of in-state tuition, without regard to immigration status, for long-term U.S. residents who otherwise have met the rigorous academic requirements to apply for college admission.

The bills also would provide U.S. raised children of undocumented parents who have good moral character and graduate from high school a mechanism to apply for legal residency so that they can attend college and contribute their knowledge to the vitality of the U.S. economy.

HACU CAPITOL FORUM AN EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS

By Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO of HACU

Against the backdrop of war abroad and domestic economic uncertainties, the HACU higher education community came together in the nation's capital for three days this spring to present a persuasive case for Hispanic education access and excellence that will prove critical to our country's future economic strength and security.

HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education proved an extraordinary success in presenting a compelling agenda to Congress and the country that surely will lead to record new investments in college, career and leadership development opportunities for our nation's youngest and largest ethnic population.

At a time of severe budget constraints in almost every state, the leadership of our Hispanic-Serving colleges and universities traveled to Washington, D.C., to speak for all students across the country in a unified voice for diversity and Hispanic higher education success. Joined by leaders from Congress, the Cabinet and Corporate America, their focus was on reaching consensus on how to build a better future for all of us.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share HACU's Legislative Agenda and Public Policy Priorities for Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act with U.S. Secretary of Education Roderick Paige, who declared education a "sacred, civil right" in his address to the Capitol Forum.

We were inspired by the bipartisan commitment to Hispanic higher education success so clearly articulated at the Capitol Forum by U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, U.S. Senator George Allen of Virginia, and U.S. Representatives Ruben Hinojosa of Texas, Robert Menendez of New Jersey, Howard McKeon of California and Raul Grijalva of Arizona.

Our deepest thanks go to every member of the House and Senate who opened their doors to the leadership of HACU's 340 member and partner colleges and universities during a day of Visits to Capitol Hill.

At this year's Capitol Forum, HACU won a ready show of support for creation of a House Coalition for Hispanic-Serving Institutions following the earlier creation, also at HACU's request, of the Senate Coalition for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

At this year's Capitol Forum, we welcomed the participation of Leslie Sanchez, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. We enjoyed the leadership of our partner federal agencies, and the leadership of allied organizations. We received important guidance from key staff members of those congressional committees with specific jurisdiction over K-16 priorities for every U.S. education institution.

Among the federal-agency leaders who participated, Dr. Cristina Beato, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, challenged HACU and its member institutions to promote new ways of increasing Hispanic representation in biomedical research and the health professions.

Lou Gallegos, Assistant Secretary for Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, urged participants to enhance Hispanic participation in the federal work force, particularly in senior positions. Frederico Juarbe, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, also encouraged HACU to promote greater veteran participation in higher education. The Special Advisor for Diversity with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Jacob Lozada, emphasized the importance of closing the Hispanic gap in the federal workforce. HACU is following up on these and other efforts generated by the Capitol Forum.

HACU gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of this year's Capitol Forum by AT&T, Gateway, Altria, ACT, Eastman Kodak, The College Board, Coca-Cola, Miller Brewing, Denny's and Freddie Mac. The College Board also provided scholarships to outstanding students of the HACU National Internship Program to add the energizing voices of our youth to this year's Capitol Forum. Gateway provided a cyber café to Capitol Forum participants.

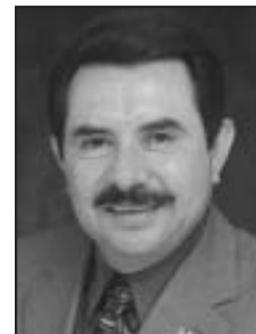
I am deeply indebted to the leadership of HACU's Governing Board, led by Governing Board Chair Salme Harju Steinberg, president of Northeastern Illinois University. I am deeply grateful for the commitment of the Government Relations Committee of our Governing Board, our HACU Corporate and Philanthropic Council, and to HACU's staff for making this year's Capitol Forum a truly outstanding event.

As in previous years, we are confident this year's Capitol Forum will prove a springboard to winning substantial increases in legislative appropriations and individual federal agency program spending in federal fiscal year 2004 for Hispanic higher education.

The Capitol Forum's focus on the pending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act also will help HACU finalize its recommendations to Congress for HEA Reauthorization. The amended HEA will determine federal spending priorities for all higher education institutions for the five years following its reenactment.

HACU conferences, such as this year's Capitol Forum, can prove powerful platforms for addressing the enormous challenges facing us as a nation in meeting the higher education needs of our Hispanic students and of every student served by our member and partner colleges and universities.

Please join me at HACU's 5th International Conference in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, July 27-29, and at HACU's 17th Annual Conference October 18-21 in Anaheim, California. Together, we can champion a better future for our students and our country.



HACU ON CAPITOL HILL

Higher education leaders from throughout the country joined public policy makers and corporate supporters at HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education to call for greater investments in the college needs of the nation's youngest and largest ethnic population.

"Improving the quality of education for all of our nation's children, not just some of our nation's children, should be an obsession that all of us should share," U.S. Secretary of Education Roderick Paige told participants at the Capitol Forum March 30 through April 1 in Washington, D.C.

Leaders of many of HACU's 340 member colleges and universities, including Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), presented a unified, grass roots voice during a day of Visits to Capitol Hill to meet with the leadership of Congress to advocate for record new federal investments in Hispanic higher education.

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, co-founder and co-chair of

the Senate HSI Coalition, pledged her continuing support for efforts to address Hispanic higher education needs. Hutchison and the Coalition have been an instrumental part in winning a series of record federal spending increases for Hispanic higher education in recent years.

Paige and Hutchison were among several recipients of awards from HACU presented by HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores and Salme Harju Steinberg, president of Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago and chair of the HACU Governing Board.

A NEW COALITION

At the Capitol Forum, Flores called for creation of a bipartisan House HSI Coalition to mirror the mission and efforts of the bipartisan Senate HSI Coalition. Various members of the House of Representatives expressed support and a willingness to serve on the proposed House HSI Coalition.

Members of the Senate HSI Coalition, in addition to the co-chairs Hutchison and Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, as well as Senators Barbara Boxer of California, Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, Jon Corzine of New Jersey, Thomas Daschle of South Dakota, Pete Domenici of New Mexico, Richard Durbin of Illinois, Dianne Feinstein of California, Peter Fitzgerald of Illinois, Bob Graham of Florida, James Inhofe of Oklahoma, John Kerry of Massachusetts, Jon Kyl of Arizona, Patty Murray of Washington and Charles Schumer of New York.

HACU's Legislative Agenda is calling for a series of increases in appropriations to HSIs and other higher education institutions that have large Hispanic student populations, as well as increased investments in pre-collegiate programs. Hispanics suffer the lowest high school and college graduation rates of any major population group.



U.S. Secretary of Education Roderick Paige addresses Capitol Forum

HSIs also receive less federal funding on average per student compared to all other degree-granting institutions. "We still only get about 50 cents on the dollar per student, compared to other institutions," Flores said in joining presidents and chancellors of HACU member colleges and universities to urge an end to federal funding inequities.

HACU is calling for an increase in federal appropriations to HSIs under Title V of the Higher Education Act (HEA) from \$93 million in federal fiscal year (FY) 2003 to \$175 million for FY 2004, along with new or expanded appropriations within the budgets of several federal agencies.

HACU also is calling for increased long-term investments in Hispanic higher education within a reauthorized HEA. Congress this year will begin the reauthorization process, which will determine federal spending priorities for all higher education institutions for the next five years.

"If our goal as a nation truly is to leave no child behind, then we must leave no Hispanic child behind," U.S. Representative Robert Menendez of New Jersey, chair of the House Democratic Caucus, told the Capitol Forum.

Robert Menendez, the highest-ranking Hispanic in Congressional history, praised



U.S. Congressman Robert Menendez of New Jersey, Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, with students attending the Capitol Forum.

continued on page 6

HACU ON CAPITOL HILL *continued from page 5*

HACU's membership for its efforts. "I want to salute you. We need voices to speak up and speak out," Menendez said.

Standing ovations greeted Menendez and U.S. Representative Ruben Hinojosa, chair of the Education Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Hinojosa led the successful effort to win unprecedented new federal recognition and support for HSIs during the last HEA reauthorization in 1998.

Funding for HSIs has increased from \$10 million in 1998 to more than \$150 million for this current federal fiscal year, Hinojosa said.

'GAINING MOMENTUM'

"It's clear we're gaining momentum. We must keep that momentum going," Hinojosa said. "Paramount in our efforts will be establishing a graduate component for HSIs. This is long overdue." HACU is requesting a first-time FY 2004 \$50 million appropriation under Title V to strengthen graduate programs at HSIs.

The availability of adequate federal funding will become especially critical at a time when budget shortfalls in more than 45 states already are leading to "draconian" cuts in higher education and other programs, Hinojosa said.



HACU Governing Board Chair Salme Steinberg presents a special award to U.S. Congressman Ruben Hinojosa of Texas, Chair of the Education Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

"We do not have the luxury of allowing any generation of students to fall through the cracks," said U.S. Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon of California, chair of the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

"My goal is to get (HEA) reauthorization passed through the House this year," McKeon told the Capitol Forum. "Your support will be very, very important."

Senator George Allen of Virginia won applause for his efforts to bring more technology to under-served HSIs with his Digital and Wireless Network Technology Program Act, or S.196. U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva of Arizona also was applauded for calling for greater investments in Hispanic higher education.

"We'll be advocates together," said Leslie Sanchez, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. "I wish you tremendous success," Sanchez said.

"Our students cannot afford for us to slow down right now, even though the economy is bad," said Charles Reed, chancellor of the 23-campus California State University System.

"The HEA gives us a critical opportunity to assist Hispanic students throughout the country," he said, urging support for TRIO and GEAR-UP programs under Title IV of the HEA as a way to "reach Hispanics to get them to think about college early."

HACU joined the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Opportunity in Education to sponsor a two-day, pre-Capitol Forum session of the TRIO Retention Institute for Minority-Serving Institutions.

PARTNERS

The leadership of several federal agencies also attended the Capitol Forum to stress their support for Hispanic higher education partnerships to increase the numbers of Hispanics in federal workforce and management ranks.

"Our work with HACU is very important," said Clarence Johnson of the U.S. Defense Department's Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Equal Opportunity.

"We need a diverse health force," said Dr. Cristina Beato, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The under-representation of Hispanics in health care professions, Beato said, "is totally unacceptable."



Marissa Demeo, Regional Counsel for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), describes two cases before the Supreme Court challenging diversity in higher education.

HACU presented special awards to AT&T, Gateway, Altria, ACT, Eastman Kodak, The College Board, Coca-Cola, Miller Brewing Company, Denny's and Freddie Mac for sponsoring the Capitol Forum and for being year-round corporate sector leaders for Hispanic higher education.

The HACU Capitol Forum was under way as the U.S. Supreme Court was considering two affirmative action cases challenging efforts to increase diversity in the classroom in higher education institutions.

HACU has joined with the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and other national minority education and civil rights organizations in support of the University of Michigan. The HACU member university is the defendant in both cases challenging affirmative action policies at the campus.

"Affirmative action is needed to establish a diverse learning environment. It benefits Latino students, and it benefits non-Latino students," MALDEF Regional Counsel Marissa Demeo said.

"Should we lose, there will be an onslaught of attacks on financial aid, summer programs... and any other programs that seek to assist disenfranchised populations," said Lester Monts, Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Multicultural Affairs at the University of Michigan.

SCENES FROM THE CAPITOL FORUM



California State University System Chancellor Charles Reed invites Capitol Forum participants to also attend HACU's 17th Annual Conference in California in October.

(From left): HACU Governing Board Chair Salme Harju Steinberg, President of Northeastern Illinois University; U.S. Congressman Howard McKeon of California, and HACU Governing Board Member Miguel Palacios, President, Pima Community College-Desert Vista Campus, Arizona.



Congressman Tom Udall of New Mexico meets with HNIP intern Jon Ortiz, a student at New Mexico Highlands University.



Tomas Arciniega, President of California State University at Bakersfield, at a Capitol Forum briefing on HACU's Legislative Agenda.



Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York meets with HACU leaders and students during the Capitol Forum Visits to Capitol Hill. (From left, front row): HACU Vice President of Government Relations Gumecindo Salas, Ana Garcia Reyes of Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, Senator Clinton, and Hostos Community College President Dolores Fernandez



Dr. Cristina Beato, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, addresses Capitol Forum.



HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores joins HACU Governing Board Chair Salme Harju Steinberg, President of Northeastern Illinois University, to present a special award to U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, co-chair of the Senate Hispanic-Serving Institutions Coalition.

HACU AND AT&T SHARE MISSION TO PROMOTE HISPANIC EDUCATION SUCCESS

By Luz Velez

HACU's mission to promote Hispanic higher education success is also critical to the success of AT&T, Steven Estrada, director of government solutions proposals for the AT&T Foundation, said at HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education.

"Because Hispanics make up such a large sector of our population, we understand that it is not only good, but smart business to support them," Estrada said in an interview during the Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C.

"In order for business to survive, it is imperative to have a diverse work force that looks like the nation's population," Estrada said. "The Foundation also recognizes that its diversity initiatives improve marketing and workforce development."

AT&T, which presented a check for \$50,000 to HACU at the Capitol Forum, has been a supporter of HACU since the association was founded in 1986.

In addition to AT&T's leadership in the education arena, including the promotion of Foundation mentors at public schools, AT&T also is aggressively seeking to increase the number of Hispanic employees not only in entry-level positions, but also at leadership levels.



Steven Estrada of the AT&T Foundation presents a check for \$50,000 for HACU to HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores.

For example, Estrada said, the AT&T Foundation supports emerging leaders at AT&T through programs such as the Hispanic Association of AT&T Employees.

As a beneficiary, I personally thank the AT&T Foundation and similar organizations that support diversity, equity, access and excellence in education.

Luz Velez, a reporter for The Voice, is a public administration major at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York. She is also a HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) intern at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HISPANICS AND THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

By Jose R. Garcia

Efforts to make college more affordable were the focus of a special session on Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act during HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education.

Reauthorization will determine federal spending priorities for all higher education institutions for the next five years.

Dallas Martin, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, said his association is calling on Congress to double the amount of available Pell grants for higher education students by the year 2009 under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA).

HACU is seeking substantial increases in Pell grant funding. The amount of direct aid in the form of Pell grants has declined dramatically in recent decades, with burdensome student loans now far exceeding the number of Pell grants.

While Pell grants used to cover 80 percent of a student's tuition and fees, those grants today only cover about 42 percent of a student's college costs, Martin said at the Capitol Forum session.

Participants at the Capitol Forum session also proposed improvements to existing work-study programs and reductions in student loan interest rates.

Jane Oates, representing Senator Edward Kennedy's staff on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said the pending HEA reauthorization should attract the same "broad, bipartisan support" as past efforts by Congress to improve education.

Jose R. Garcia, a reporter for The Voice, is an Interdisciplinary Studies major at the University of Arizona and a HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) intern at the National Cancer Institute.

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS

By Alejandro Y. Calderon

As the largest and fastest-growing ethnic population group in the United States, Latino communities will play a critical role in our nation's success. Yet, they remain the only under-represented population group in the federal labor force.

The most effective strategy for addressing the lack of diversity in the federal workplace is through partnerships, federal agency leaders on March 31 told participants at HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education in Washington, D.C.

"Partnerships should be a win-win situation for both the federal government and education institutions," said Dr. Jacob Lozada, Special Advisor for Diversity for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

"I can't think of any other reason for a partnership than success," said Lou Gallegos, Assistant Secretary for Administration for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). "Through partnerships, the USDA will look like the rest of America," Gallegos said.

Efforts to attract more Hispanics, the country's youngest population group, to the federal work force are especially timely in the face of an aging federal labor force. Statistics show that the average age of federal employees is 40, and that 75 percent of senior executives will become eligible to retire within the next five years.

HACU is playing a vital role in promoting workplace diversity by encouraging the formation of federal partnerships with the Hispanic higher education community. "I applaud HACU for it," said Frederico Juarbe Jr., Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Services for the U.S. Department of Labor.

The HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) was cited as an important partnership between HACU and federal agencies. The nation's largest Hispanic college internship program this year topped the 4,000-mark in student participation. Each



(From left): HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores; HACU Governing Board Chair Salme Harju Steinberg, President of Northeastern Illinois University; USDA Assistant Secretary Lou Gallegos; OPM Special Advisor for Diversity Jacob Lozada, and U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary Frederico Juarbe Jr.

year, the program provides paid spring, summer and fall internships to hundreds of Hispanic college students at participating federal agencies.

Alejandro Y. Calderon, a reporter for *The Voice*, is a graduate student in finance and marketing at the University of Puerto Rico's Rio Piedras Campus. He also is a HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) intern at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HSIs

By Jose R. Garcia

The leadership of member higher education institutions of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) met with federal government agency leaders at the HACU Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C., on March 30 to discuss federal funding opportunities available for HACU member colleges and universities.

With James M. Rosser, president of California State University at Los Angeles, serving as moderator, representatives of NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy, National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) exchanged ideas and information with representatives from HACU member

colleges and universities located throughout the country.

Joseph Martinez, senior advisor for scientific institutional research for the Department of Energy, addressed the need to expose more faculty and students at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) to "hardcore scientific research."

Hispanics are under-represented in science professions, earning only a small percentage of advanced degrees in science fields.

Milagros "Millie" Mateu, a minority university program manager for NASA, said that to reverse this trend, NASA has programs such as the Minority University Research and Educational Program (MUREP) and Science Engineering Mathematics and Aerospace Academy.

The goal, she said, is to expand NASA's education program ties not only with HSIs, but also with K-12 schools. "The idea is to form a pathway where science can be seen as fun – not as a task," Mateu said.

For information on federal funding opportunities for HSIs, visit these web pages: NASA at <http://education.nasa.gov> and <http://mured.nasaprs.com>, as well as the USDA at www.usda.gov/da/employ/college-students.htm and the National Science Foundation at www.nsf.gov.

Jose R. Garcia, a reporter for *The Voice*, is an Interdisciplinary Studies major at the University of Arizona and a HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) intern at the National Cancer Institute.

ACT PROMOTES DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

By Jessica Camacho

ACT Inc. is probably best known for the most widely accepted college entrance exam in the country. ACT also is a provider of research, information and program management services for millions of people in elementary and secondary schools, professional associations, business and government agencies – nationally and internationally.

ACT now is becoming a partner with HACU as part of ACT's ongoing effort to promote diversity in education. "All students should have the opportunity to attend college," Jon Erickson, ACT Vice President for Education Services, said in an interview during HACU's 2003 National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education. ACT was a sponsor of the Capitol Forum.

For Erickson, his previous experience working in urban public school systems inspired him to continue to work with students, he said. In addition to being a former high school teacher and coach, Erickson was a specialist in the Division of Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee before joining ACT in 1984.

Erickson supervises more than 100 staff and associated resources dedicated to assisting institutions and organizations in helping students in their transition from school-to-college and school-to-work.

Working with junior high and high school students is important because opportunities provided to them at this level of their education and early awareness that college is an option will affect their future, Erickson said.

It is important for organizations like ACT to become involved with education, because they value equal opportunity for all students, devoting resources and efforts to them.

Jessica Camacho is a graduate student in communications and public relations at the University of the Sacred Heart in Puerto Rico. She also is a HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) intern at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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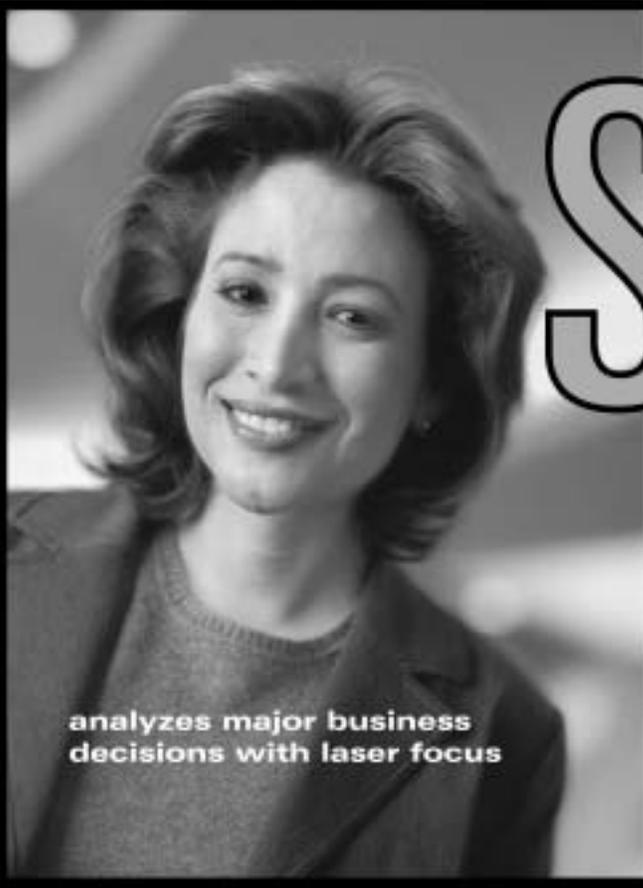
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