



HACU

HISPANIC  
ASSOCIATION  
OF COLLEGES &  
UNIVERSITIES

VOLUME 14, NO. 5, MAY 2005

# THE VOICE

OF HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Inside this Issue:  
Higher Education at Risk  
Message from  
the President



## HACU'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

There is still time to register for HACU's 6th International Conference, "Technology and Culture: International Convergence," May 22-24 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. An international roster of public policy and education leaders will join participants at a conference that will foster new partnerships and cross-border strategic initiatives, address 21st century challenges, explore latest trends and promote Hispanic higher education access and excellence. For more information visit [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net).

## HACU'S 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HACU's 19th Annual Conference on October 15-18, in Phoenix, Arizona, will showcase best practices and programs at HACU member and partner colleges and universities. The conference, "Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders," will promote new partnerships, networking and Hispanic higher education funding opportunities. Visit [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net) for registration and conference information.

## BUDGET AWARD

Portland Community College, a HACU member, was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for 2004. It's the fourth straight year PCC has received this honor. Institutions that have high standards of governmental budgeting receive this award. In order to receive the budget award, the recipient had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation, which included how well it serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device.

## FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

HACU member East-West University in Chicago is giving qualified students the opportunity to win a four-year scholarship in the Fourth Annual East-West Challenge. Successful contestants will be entered in a drawing where the first prize is a four-year, 100% tuition scholarship to East-West University in Chicago's South Loop. In addition to a four-year scholarship, other prizes include a 75% and 50% scholarship. The Challenge is open to American citizens or permanent residents in the U.S., who have a high school diploma or G.E.D., and meet East-West University admission requirements. For more information about the Challenge visit the university's web site at [www.eastwest.edu](http://www.eastwest.edu).

## RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARD

The University of Texas at San Antonio Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program has received \$3.6 million from the National Institutes of Health to fund a second round of research projects over the next four year. The funding supplements the original \$10.4 million awarded, bringing the total to \$14 million for 20 faculty research projects. "As a Hispanic-serving institution, UTSA is a leader in training the scientists of tomorrow who will provide a well-educated and technologically advanced workforce to support San Antonio's growing \$13 billion health care and biosciences industry," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT

Arizona Western College and the University of Arizona received grant funds from the Department of Education's TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program. Roughly \$1.5 million in grants will fund the support services to help increase the retention and graduation rates of low-income, first-generation and disabled students. The SSS program provides opportunities for academic development, assists student with basic college requirements and serves to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The SSS program may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants.

## BOEING DONATION

California State Northridge has received seven donations, totaling \$58,500 from the Boeing aerospace company to support programs in Northridge's colleges of Education, Engineering and Computer Science, and Business and Economics. "We thank Boeing for its generosity and are proud to have them as a corporate partner in the college," said Philip Rusche, dean of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education.

## RETENTION

Seventy-five percent of the freshmen who entered the University of New Mexico in the fall of 2002 came back to school in 2003. The number is a point of pride for the institution, which is using an expanding series of Freshman Academic Choices to bring a very diverse student body of freshmen into the mainstream of a large university. The Freshman Academic Choices tries to match the interests of incoming freshman so that new students are able to develop a group of friends and study partners to assist them in making the transition to a large university setting.

## OVERVIEW

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Telecommunications System

### ABOUT OUR COVER

2005 Capitol Forum participants on Capitol Hill. HSI delegations met with their congressional representatives during this year's Forum.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HACU's 6th International Conference  
May 22-24, 2005 • Santa Fe, New Mexico

HACU's 19th Annual Conference  
October 15-18, 2005 • Phoenix, Arizona

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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 400 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.

# HACU'S CAPITOL FORUM: A SUCCESS

By Antonio R. Flores  
President and CEO of HACU

Against the backdrop of war abroad and economic uncertainties at home, the HACU higher education community came together in the nation's Capitol for three days to present a persuasive case for Hispanic education access and excellence as critical to our country's economic strength and security.



HACU's 2005 Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education proved an extraordinary success in presenting to the 109th Congress a compelling agenda 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 in a unified voice for inclusion and Hispanic higher education success for students across the country. Joined by leaders from Congress and corporate America, our focus was reaching consensus on how to build a better future for all of us.

You will find a complete list of Forum speakers in another article in this issue, but allow me to single out a few individuals and stakeholder groups who shared their expertise.

We are especially grateful for the opportunity to share HACU's Legislative Agenda and Public Policy Priorities for Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act with Sally Stroup, Assistant Secretary for Post Secondary Education for the U.S. Department of Education. We were inspired by the commitment to Hispanic higher education success so clearly articulated at the Capitol Forum by U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, U.S. Senator George Allen of Virginia, and U.S. Representative Ruben Hinojosa of Texas. We were especially honored by the participation of U.S. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and Ken Salazar of Colorado, representing both

sides of the aisle in the Senate, Daniel Garza from the Office of Public Liaison for the White House, and His Excellency Carlos Westendorp, the Ambassador of Spain to the United States.

Our thanks go to every member of the House and Senate who opened their doors to the leadership of HACU's 400 member and partner colleges and universities during a day of visits to Capitol Hill.

At this year's Capitol Forum, HACU welcomed the participation of a number of Federal agency leaders and congressional staffers, including Arden Bement, Director of the National Science Foundation, and Tom Windham, NSF's Senior Advisor for Science and Engineering Workforce, who highlighted the Agency's effort to increase the STEM capacity of the nation's colleges and universities, and Dale W. Moore, Chief of Staff to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, who spoke on former Secretary Veneman's support for HSIs and the new Secretary's, Mike Johanns', commitment as well.

We also had the excellent participation from the leadership of member institutions, including Charles Reed, Chancellor of the California State University System, who addressed the changing demographics of California and the nation and its impact on higher education.

Sister organizations were also well represented by Jamie Merisotis of the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education and the Institute for Higher Education Policy and Constantine Curris of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), among others.

Michael Dunlap, Chairman and CEO of Nelnet, ably represented one of HACU's key corporate partners. We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors for this year's Capitol Forum: the College Board, the Central Intelligence Agency, Education Testing Services, Southwest Airlines and Gateway, who provided a cyber café to Capitol Forum participants.

We are also indebted to the

Continued on page 8

# HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY



*Senator Ken Salazar, Colorado (left), with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas (center), and Alexander González (right) at the Capitol Forum Closing Reception*

The leadership of the country's Hispanic higher education community met on Capitol Hill April 3–5 to call for much needed federal funding for the nation's colleges and universities that educate the country's largest and fastest growing ethnic population.

"The Administration and Congress must provide resources necessary to our colleges and universities to educate more Hispanics to meet the nation's workforce needs. Hispanics will make up 1 of every 2 new workers by 2025 and must be better trained in science, technology, engineering and mathematics than workers in the past. Our nation's policy-makers have a stake in supporting substantial new federal investments in Hispanic higher education," said Antonio R. Flores, president and CEO of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

HACU's 2005 Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education met at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C. Key leaders of Congress and the Administration spoke to Forum participants on the budgetary and national security needs of the nation. Other speakers focused on demographic, legislative, technology and science-related issues and the importance for HSIs to establish and maintain partnerships with federal agencies.

U.S. Senator George Allen from Virginia addressed the audience on Senate bill S 196 (Minority-Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Network Technology Opportunity Act) and encouraged everyone to request his/her U.S. Senator to co-sponsor the bill that will provide new technology resources for

Minority-Serving Institutions. Senator Jeff Bingaman from New Mexico and Representative Ruben Hinojosa (Texas) held a press conference during the Forum to highlight the Next Generation HSI Bill (S 357 and HR 761) which will provide new resources for expanding and enhancing the graduate potential of HSIs.

Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (Texas) and Ken Salazar (Colorado) were featured speakers at a closing reception in the Hart Senate Office Building. Hutchison, along with Bingaman, chairs the bipartisan Senate HSI Coalition, and Salazar is one of the first two Hispanic U.S. Senators elected last year.

Other keynote speakers included Sally Stroup, the Assistant Secretary for Post Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education, who informed participants on the status of the HEA Reauthorization process and the Administration's commitment to higher education. Arden Bement, Director of the National Science Foundation, and Tom Windham, NSF's Senior Advisor for the Science and Engineering Workforce, highlighted the Agency's effort to increase the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) capacity of the nation's colleges and universities.

The Ambassador from Spain to the United States, His Excellency Carlos Westendorp, praised HACU for its advocacy work on behalf of Hispanic-Serving Institutions and announced that the Spanish Embassy is committed to signing a Memorandum of Understanding with HACU to promote cultural and educational exchange between Spain and the U.S.

Speakers highlighted the need for HSI presidents, staff and supporters to contact their Congressional representatives on a regular basis to encourage them to increase support for HSIs. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor and CEO of the California State University system, expressed support for the work of HACU and emphasized the need to expand educational opportunity to all groups and individuals in our society who aspire to an education beyond secondary school.

Michael Dunlap, CEO and Chairman of Nelnet, Inc., one of HACU's corporate partners, addressed financial aid issues, and Philip Day, Chancellor of the City College of San Francisco, spoke on the National Articulation and Transfer Network.

Dale W. Moore, Chief of Staff to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, spoke on former Secretary Veneman's support for HSIs and the new Secretary's, Mike Johanns, commitment as well. Other speakers included: Lenora Gant, Director of the Intelligence Community Centers of Excellence for the CIA; Alison Griffin from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce; Jane Oates, Senior Education Advisor to the Senate Health, Education and Labor and Pension Committee; Frank Sharry, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum; Richard Fry from the Pew Hispanic Center; Daniel Garza from the Office of Public Liaison for the White House; and Quin Dodd, Partner of Larson, Dodd, Stewart and Myrick.

All the attendees benefited from the expertise and perspective of sister organizations: the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) Constantine Currie, the Institute for Higher Education Policy's Jamie Merisotis, and American Indian Higher Education Consortium's (AIHEC) Meg Goetz.

## MET APRIL 3–5 IN NATION’S CAPITOL

The visits to Capitol Hill, according to the HSI delegations, were highly productive. More than 40 groups visited with Senators and Representatives from over 16 states to emphasize the growth of the nation’s Hispanic community and the importance of assuring this population access to a post secondary education to meet the professional workforce needs of the changing national and global economy.

In a debriefing session after the Capitol Hill visits, Forum participants thanked HACU for hosting the Forum and providing them the opportunity to learn more about legislative issues and the President’s FY 2006 budget recommendations now before Congress. The participants also felt the Forum offered them a better insight to the legislative process and gave them new advocacy skills critical for meeting with policy makers at the national and state level.

Antonio Flores, President and CEO for HACU, expressed appreciation for the tremendous support from HSI presidents, staff, students and others in making the 2005 Capitol Forum a success. He reminded the attendees that this Forum is only a first step in speaking to the 109th Congress and the Administration of the critical need to increase support for HSIs. The Government Relations staff from the Washington D.C. HACU office will be in contact with all HSIs and supporters of HACU on a regular basis to request on-going support for HACU’s Legislative Agenda for FY 2006.

For more information on the Capitol Forum, visit HACU’s web page at [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net). HACU’s FY 2006 Legislative Agenda for the 1st Session of the 109th Congress is also available on the web site.



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# 2005 CAPITOL FORUM ON HISPANIC



*Antonio Flores, President and CEO of HACU, addresses participants at the Capitol Forum Opening Reception*



*Alexander González, President of California State University, Sacramento, and Chair of HACU's Governing Board, welcomes Capitol Forum attendees*

*Sally Stroup, Assistant Secretary for Post Education for the U.S. Department of Education, addresses participants on the K-20 pipeline*

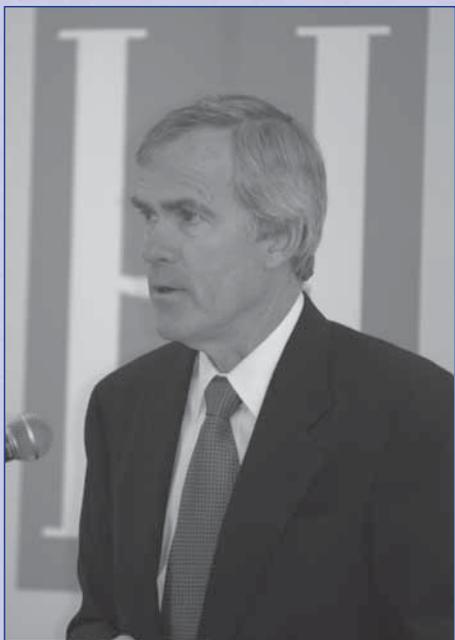


*Daniel Garza, Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison, addresses the crowd at the Opening Reception of the Capitol Forum*



*Richard Fry, Senior Research Associate at the Pew Hispanic Center, presents research regarding the demographics of Hispanics*

# FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION



*Senator Jeff Bingaman, New Mexico, talks to participants about the importance of current HIS legislation before Congress*



*Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, Texas, reminds participants why they are present and how important it is to lobby*



*Lenora Gant, Director, Intelligence Community Centers of Excellence, talks about HACU and building new partnerships with the new Cabinet*



*Jane Oates, Senior Education Advisor to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, reports on the status of the HEA in the Senate*



*Spanish Center, discusses his views on higher education*



# ACCLAIMED HISPANIC COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WINS NEW SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The nation's largest Hispanic college internship program was awarded a new three-year grant with the Department of Commerce (DOC) to provide the agency with high caliber students through the acclaimed Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) National Internship Program—better known as HNIP. The contract is valued at more than \$1 million over the next three years.

"HACU thanks the Department of Commerce, a long time partner of HNIP, for the confidence placed in our ability to meet their current and future workforce needs, and introduce hundreds of our Hispanic college students over the next three years to rewarding careers in public service," said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores. "We applaud the Department of Commerce's efforts to reverse the under-representation of Hispanics in the federal labor force and look forward to working with the DOC," Flores said.

HACU, founded in 1986, represents over 400 colleges and universities that collectively serve more than two-thirds of all Hispanic higher education students in the United States. Since 1992, the nonprofit association's HNIP program has provided more than 5,000 top Hispanic college students paid internships with leading public and private sector employers.

The Department of Commerce and HACU established a formal Memorandum of Understanding to increase employment and educational opportunities offered by the DOC for students from HACU member institutions. Since 1994, a total of 569 students have been placed in internship assignments with the Department of Commerce.

"This new contract will allow us to increase paid internship opportunities at the Department of Commerce and will provide students with extraordinary professional development opportunities, which we believe will allow these students to make more educated career choices," said William Rafael Gil, Assistant Vice President of Collegiate Programs and Federal Relations.

"These real life work experiences are extremely important because they allow students to become aware of the breadth of opportunities they never knew existed. In fact, past participant surveys confirm that, because of these internships, many students are hired for permanent positions. HACU is proud to facilitate experiences like these for talented Hispanic students," Gil said.

Although Hispanics make up one of every three new workers joining the U.S. labor force today, they remain the only under-represented population in federal workforce ranks. HNIP was established to reverse this under-representation in the federal government and has since been lauded as an "enviable" recruitment tool by independent surveys. In fact, this year, the HNIP program and the newly developed HACU Cooperative Education Program (HCEP) were both recently recognized in the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as "best practice" tools for the recruitment of Hispanics into the Federal workforce. OPM published these comments in its fourth annual report on Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government.

The 15-week 2005 spring session of HNIP, which began in January, welcomed more than 80 new interns, and the 2005 summer session—the program's largest session—will begin in June and once again is planning on placing over 400 students across the nation.

In addition to on-the-job training, HNIP interns are provided professional development workshops and career networking opportunities such as annual career fairs and the Congressional Breakfast Series in Washington, D.C. HNIP also has spawned an active alumni association with members who participate in community volunteer activities and serve as mentors to new interns.

For more information about HNIP, contact HNIP Director Sandra Penaherrera (spenaherrera@hacu.net) at (202) 467-0893. Or visit [www.hnip.net](http://www.hnip.net). For more information about HACU, contact HACU's national headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, at (210) 692-3805 or visit [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net).

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *Continued from page 3*

leadership of HACU's Governing Board and staff for making this year's Capitol Forum a truly outstanding event. Our Board Chair Alex González, President of California State University at Sacramento, led other members of the Board in chairing sessions and supporting HACU's legislative agenda for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. Special thanks to Board members Sylvia Zapico, Maria Sheehan, Louis Caldera, Modesto Maidique and Tomas Arciniega who joined Dr. Gonzalez in serving as moderators for various sessions. Their individual and collective leadership and support proved invaluable to our Capitol Forum success.

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 2006 for Hispanic higher education.

HACU conferences, such as this year's Capitol Forum, provide 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 colleges and universities.

Please join me at HACU's 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 22-24, and at HACU's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, October 15-18 in Phoenix, Arizona. Together we can champion a better future for our students and our country.

## DECLINING BY DEGREES: HIGHER EDUCATION AT RISK

A LANDMARK PBS DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL EXAMINES THE QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA

PREMIERES JUNE 23, 2005, FROM 9–11 PM ON PBS.

A PRODUCTION OF PEABODY, AWARD-WINNERS JOHN MERROW AND LEARNING MATTERS, INC.

COMPANION BOOK—WITH FOREWORD BY TOM WOLFE—AND WEB SITE TO EXPAND IMPACT.

How good is higher education in America today? The competition for admission into certain highly selective colleges and universities may be greater than ever, but the vast majority of American college students don't attend those schools. And, even if they did, the same question arises: Does the reality of higher education measure up to the dream of millions of individuals and to the educational needs of the nation?

On Thursday, June 23, 2005, on PBS from 9–11 p.m. (check local listings), a thought-provoking documentary special, *Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk*, sets out to answer these questions, taking viewers behind the scenes of American higher education to experience college through the eyes of students, parents, professors and college administrators. Reported and narrated by Peabody Award-winning correspondent John Merrow, the documentary illuminates crucial issues about the quality of higher education in the United States. Set on four very different college campuses across the country—a private liberal arts college, a major state university, a regional public university and a community college—this two-hour

special examines both the promise and the peril in higher education today.

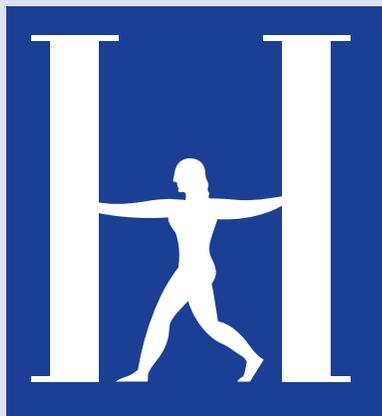
*Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk* premieres in the midst of a growing national concern about quality, fueled in part by an increasing preoccupation with college rankings, grade inflation, declining academic standards and overall concerns about the quality and readiness of America's workforce. Until very recently, America led the world in educating its young, but today about a dozen countries send a higher percentage of their youth to college.

The documentary follows 30 students and teachers, as it explores the road between admissions and graduation—a route that is no longer linear. Going beyond what Americans believe about the college experience, *Declining by Degrees* exposes the disappointment, disorientation and deflation that so many college students feel, and the struggles they face, regardless of the schools they choose to attend. "I didn't have anything that really kept me wanting to come to campus," says college senior Britney Schmidt, reflecting on her first year at a large public university. "I wasn't being challenged, I wasn't really thinking about things... It was just high school over again."

The top 25 private liberal arts colleges, including Amherst College, profiled in this special, typically represent the popular image of higher education. Yet, despite the intense competition to be admitted to such top-ranked colleges, these institutions represent only a fraction of America's higher education system, educating less than 0.3% of all those attending college, about 47,000 out of the total national enrollment of 13.7 million undergraduates. More than 5.3 million students attend large universities with 15,000 or more students.

Major funding for *Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk* is provided by The Lumina Foundation for Education. Other funders include The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation and the Spencer Foundation.

*Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk* is a production of Learning Matters, Inc. The Executive Producer is John Merrow. Senior Producer is John D. Tulenko. Producers are Carrie Glasser, John Heus, Shae Isaacs and David Wald. Edited by David Wald. Associate Producer is Hillary Kolos. Additional Production Research by Valerie Visconti.



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# HETS ENCOURAGES DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



*Workshop participants*

As part of its efforts to train faculty and administrators at member institutions to better serve the Hispanic student community, the Hispanic Educational Telecommunications System (HETS) hosted a two-day workshop on Best Practices in Online Student Support Services. This innovative workshop, facilitated by the Assistant Director of the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications (WCET), Pat Shea, brought together more than 70 college administrators from HETS institutional members in Puerto Rico, New York, Florida and New Jersey.

The workshop took place last March 17 and 18, 2005, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, at the Central Office of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Sacred Heart. Workshop attendees included a diverse group of deans of academic affairs, deans of student affairs, distance education directors, librarians, academic advisors, counselors, IT administrators, admissions administrators, registrars and financial aid officers.

The first day of the workshop focused on the exploration of existing institutional services and best practices. Here, participants got the chance to learn, not only about existing best practices, but also about techniques to measure performance in student services. During the second day, institutions got together, by service area and by institution, to discuss collaboration possibilities in online support services. Through performance indicators given by the workshop facilitator, participants were able to analyze their own institutional sites and envision ways of making them more attractive, interactive and student-oriented.

As the main facilitator of the workshop stated, online student services should be designed specifically to serve student needs, while interacting with them as individuals. Web services have moved from an institutional information perspective towards considering customer needs and interests, and to clustering personalized and customizable services. Ideally, web services should be moving towards a completely interactive experience where students are guided through institutional processes, receive personal advising and are engaged in proactive personalized communication.

Outstanding practices in Student Support Services among HETS member institutions include an integrated enrollment management system at the Ponce Campus of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, an online academic advising model at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico and online tutorials at Hostos Community College. Workshop participants realized that every member institution has its own weaknesses and strengths. HETS sees an open opportunity to help its members move forward, with the proper training and support, and to foster collaboration among them for the creation of shared support services.

“Workshops such as this are an opportunity to keep training our constituencies in online learning. Through this type of events, HETS can get closer to its member institutions, get to know more about its needs and interests and learn ways of helping them advance in the online student support services area”, said Dr. Nitza Hernandez, HETS Executive Director. To participants, this workshop represented a way of learning how to develop better services and websites for their students.

One of HETS members’ collaborative projects, the Hispanic Online Learning Access (HOLA), has proven the power of getting institutions to work together in the creation of online support services. Six HETS member institutions from New York, Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico have jointly created a set of online learning objects designed to help students succeed in online education. These include tutorials in the areas of cooperative learning, learning styles, BlackBoard, Internet research, Word Processing and development of information skills. This type of initiative surpasses institutional policy barriers that may arise from curricular joint initiatives. It also helps in developing products tailored to the needs of each institution’s students.

HETS efforts to promote the growth of online learning, teaching and support initiatives in Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) will continue strengthening with the First Hispanic Virtual Congress on Blending Technology, Cultural Diversity and Distance Learning in Higher Education, being organized for October 2005. The goal of this Virtual Congress is to facilitate and generate an online discussion among faculty, students, researchers and administrators who are willing to share information, ideas and expertise about a wide range of issues on information technology and distance/online learning as they relate to Hispanic higher education and cultural diversity.

For more information about this and other HETS initiatives, contact HETS at (787)766-1912, extension 2221, or e-mail [ymontal@inter.edu](mailto:ymontal@inter.edu).



## Fellowships in the Social Sciences and Humanities



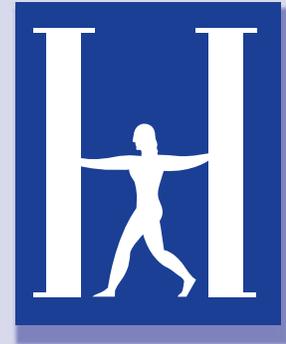
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*The Cullman Center is made possible by a generous endowment from Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman in honor of Brooke Russell Astor, with major support provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Estate of Charles J. Liebman, Sue Ann and John Weinberg, The Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, William W. Karatz, and additional gifts from Mel and Lois Tukman, The Gilder Lehrman Institute, Margaret and Herman Sokol, and The Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation.*



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