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Statement of HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores on Arizona budget impasse

The leadership of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions, calls on the Arizona Legislature to cease the current impasse and transmit their budget to Governor Jan Brewer so that it can be vetoed.

The budget currently approved by the Arizona Legislature is severely damaging to community colleges and universities. However, Arizona will not be able to move on to a better budget until the Legislature submits the current one to the Governor for her veto. A new budget which minimizes impact to colleges and universities and assures an educated workforce for Arizona is needed.

If the budget passed by the Legislature is not transmitted to the Governor, state government will be shut down, impacting the ability of Arizona's community colleges and universities to perform even the most basic of functions. State employees will not receive paychecks and other basic state services will come to a halt. HACU calls on the state legislature and governor to resolve the impasse that threatens this shutdown.

Especially during these difficult financial times, Arizona needs to invest in its community colleges and universities to provide worker retraining and education. Shutting down state government in the midst of this economic downturn is fiscally irresponsible. HACU urges all parties to come to the table and negotiate what is best for all Arizonans.

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About HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was established in 1986 with a founding membership of 18 institutions. Today, HACU represents approximately 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

HACU's regional office in Sacramento represents its membership in the western region of the U.S. HACU is the only national association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). HACU is committed to assuring higher education access and success for Hispanic students. For more information, visit www.hacu.net.