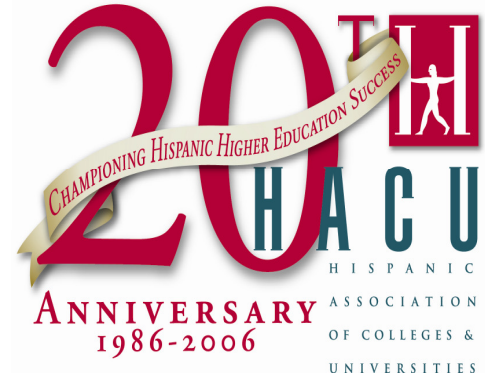


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HACU Mourns Passing of Former California State Assemblyman Firebaugh

March 21, 2006, Sacramento, CA - The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was saddened to hear of the passing of former California State Assemblyman Marco Antonio Firebaugh today in Los Angeles.

During his time in the Assembly, and as Chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, Assemblyman Firebaugh was a relentless advocate for the needs of the traditionally under-served. While Assemblyman Firebaugh carried many bills that positively impacted California, HACU especially remembers him as the author of Assembly Bill 540, which allowed undocumented students who attended and graduated from California high schools the right to qualify for in-state tuition at California's public universities.

"Assemblyman Firebaugh was instrumental in securing the educational future of hundreds, if not thousands, of worthy California children. Were it not for his persistence in pushing a bill making undocumented students eligible for in-state tuition, so many students would not be able to achieve their dream of a college education. HACU, Hispanic students, and California are indebted to this man who had the vision to provide for the state's future," said Antonio R. Flores, President and CEO of HACU.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities was established in 1986 with a founding membership of eighteen institutions. Today, HACU represents more than 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Although member institutions in the U.S. represent less than 7% of all higher education institutions, together they are home to more than two-thirds of all Hispanic college students. HACU, committed to assuring higher education access and success for Hispanic students, is the only national educational association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). For more information, visit www.hacu.net.

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