



HACU

H I S P A N I C
A S S O C I A T I O N
O F C O L L E G E S &
U N I V E R S I T I E S

UPCOMING EVENTS

* May 3-5, 2007
[7th International Conference](#), "Hispanic Culture: Celebrating our Heritage"

* May 12, 2007
[Strategy Conference for SB 160 \(California Dream Act\)](#)
Location: California State University, Los Angeles
Contact: Eric Guerra (916) 651-4022 or Eric.Guerra@sen.ca.gov

**If you would like us to include your events in the newsletter, please send an email with event details to wro@hacu.net.*

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HACU WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 13, 2007



NAVIGATING THROUGH OUR WEB SITE:

HACU Western Regional Office's (WRO) page is updated regularly to keep our institutions informed on their respective Legislature's progress. You can find the WRO page under the Government Relations tab on www.hacu.net. On the [WRO main page](#), you can navigate through the five states we represent in the Western Region. In the [California](#) section, you will find a table with all of the bills we are monitoring and supporting/opposing this legislative session. You can obtain the latest version of the bill by clicking on the bill number. If we have taken a formal position you will find the letter submitted to the Legislature in the position column. Below the table, you will find a link that will direct you to a short summary of all the bills listed in the table. Additionally, we have provided a list of the Legislature's Education and Budget Committee Members along with their fax numbers, so you too can submit your input on these important issues.



[SB 160, THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT \(CEDILLO\)](#) would allow students who have attended California high schools for 3 years, and graduated from a California high school the right to pay in-state tuition. This bill was heard in the Senate Education Committee on March 14, 2007, and placed on the suspense file. The deadline to pass fiscal bills, such as SB 160, out of committee is April 27. HACU has taken a support position on this measure and urges its membership to do the same. [Support Letter](#)

[ACADEMIC PREPARATION](#): The lack of state funds for Academic Preparation programs in the Governor's 2007-08 budget was a disappointment for HACU. The proposed budget does not include new state funds and eliminates the current state funding for academic preparation programs (\$7 million from the California State University System and \$12.3 from the University of California System). Academic preparation programs were designed for educationally and economically disadvantaged students enrolled in K-12 schools that have low college enrollment rates. The vital purpose of these programs is to close California's opportunity gap in college access. We have submitted letters to the Legislature's Budget Committees and the Governor asking them to restore the appropriate funds for these programs. It is our hope that the Governor's May revision of the budget includes proper funds for academic preparation.



FINANCIAL AID access is extremely important to all students, particularly Hispanic students. HACU is working diligently to increase the number of students obtaining financial assistance needed to succeed in obtaining a college degree. We have been monitoring and have submitted formal support for two financial aid bills, Assembly Bill 175 and 302. [AB 175](#) (Curren Price) would increase the Cal Grant B Access Award until the maximum award covers at least 20% of the access cost for a student living off-campus. [AB 302](#) (Hector De La Torre) would delete the provisions of the Cal Grant Program which currently limits the maximum award amount of the Cal Grant B received by students attending the University of California, California State University, or nonpublic institutions, during the student's first academic year. The bill will include a Cal Grant B access award in the amount of \$1,551 and an additional amount to cover tuition and fees. Both bills have passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee and are waiting for a hearing in the Assembly Appropriation Committee. Support: [AB 175](#) and [AB 302](#).

**If there is a specific bill or issue you would like us to consider, please do not hesitate to contact our office .*