



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Groundbreaking STEM Summit has backing of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Washington, DC. America needs a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and a notable group of companies and organizations is uniting to ensure that the nation gets the message. This summer, thousands of education, policy and industry thought leaders will convene in Dallas, Texas for STEM Solutions 2012, a groundbreaking leadership summit that will bring the best minds and best practices together on a national stage to open the conversation and develop solutions to the STEM skills shortage.

Among the STEM stakeholders who have signed on to get behind the Summit is the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). HACU has been committed to STEM issues from early in its 25 year history, in part because of the link between STEM courses and college success and completion (advanced high school math is one of the best predictors of college success) and in part because of the importance of STEM careers in American competitiveness and the persisting under-representation of Hispanics in STEM majors and STEM careers. Simply put, the U.S. will not be able to meet its STEM workforce needs without doing a better job of preparing Latinos for and recruiting Latinos into STEM degree programs and STEM careers.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities has worked on STEM issues from several directions, including the coordination of an initiative called Proyecto Access to expand the TexPREP program to a national model of preparing middle and high school students for STEM careers. Since 1999, the organization has been involved in a series of collaborative programs to promote information technology education to member institutions, with successive grants from the NSF. A 2003-2005 NSF grant supported “A National Study of STEM Education at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)” which HACU coordinated with a team of a dozen distinguished science educators at its member institutions. HACU has also pushed for the \$200 million appropriation under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 and the subsequent \$1 billion commitment for 10 years under the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2010 targeted to HSIs to improve STEM education and two-year/four-year articulations.



Given that history, Dr. Antonio Flores states, “It’s only natural that we should have a stake in the upcoming STEM Solutions 2012. We have already begun to promote participation among our member colleges and universities.”

Event organizers, *U.S. News & World Report*, Innovate+Educate and STEMConnector™ have enthusiastically welcomed HACU’s involvement. “To say we were extremely pleased when the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities signed on is an understatement,” said Brian Kelly of *U.S. News & World Report*. “Their deep-seated commitment to the STEM initiative, as well as their unique expertise and creative approach to finding answers, make them an invaluable addition to our leadership team. We are encouraged by their support and grateful for their many important contributions.”

To learn more about how you can help shape our nation’s future by participating in STEM Solutions 2012, visit www.USNewsSTEMSolutions.com. Furthermore, HACU has negotiated a special program rate for its network of contacts who register using code HACU025.

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U.S. News STEM Solutions 2012—A Leadership Summit is a mission-critical event focused on the shortage of science- and tech-related skills in the American workforce. U.S. News & World Report, together with Innovate+Educate, STEMConnector™ and more than 40 key organizations will bring together for the first time on a national stage major corporations, leading educators, top policy makers and education technology companies to create a collective that will fill jobs now and advance the future STEM workforce. Held June 27 – 29, 2012 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

U.S. News & World Report is a print and digital publisher of news and information in the areas of politics, policy, education, health care, personal finance and other topics of consumer interest.

Innovate+Educate is a national non-profit led by Fortune 500 companies with a goal of aligning STEM education and workforce efforts on a state-by-state basis.

STEMConnector™ is a resource center and network that helps bring together the many STEM projects around the country with a website of more than 3,000 organizations dedicated to STEM education; jobs and diversity are key priorities.

HACU: The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was established in 1986 with a founding membership of 18 institutions. Today, HACU represents more than 400 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal. HACU is the only national association representing existing and emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Information about HACU conferences, including sponsorship opportunities, is available at www.hacu.net.

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For additional information about STEM Solutions 2012

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