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Excelencia Media Contact:
Miguel Ayala
202-785-7350 x1113
mayala@EdExcelencia.org

HACU Media Contact:
Norma Jean Revilla-Garcia
210-576-3206
njgarcia@hacu.net

Number of Hispanic-Serving Institutions In U.S. Increases, Reflects Growing Student Enrollment

Last Academic Year Saw Additional 37 Institutions Become an HSI

Washington, D.C. – *Excelencia* in Education (*Excelencia*) and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) today announced that the 2015-16 academic year saw continued and concentrated growth in the number of Latinos attending college. As a result, there is an increase in the number of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in the United States. In general, HSIs have 25% or more Latino enrollment. In 2015-16, 14% of all institutions of higher education (472 HSIs) enrolled 64% of all Latino undergraduates.

Additionally, the number of Emerging HSIs, or colleges approaching the 25 percent Latino student enrollment threshold, also shows an upward trajectory from 310 to 323. While these numbers are promising at first glance, the success of Latino students at these schools continues to be a challenge. *Excelencia* and HACU are implementing programs and conducting the research to inform ways to improve the success of these students.

“Since 2006, we have seen a 78 percent increase in the number of institutions classified as HSIs, and with a growing number of Emerging HSIs. I am confident this trend will continue. This means we must be laser-focused on the success of the Latino student population, making sure these institutions are investing in practices that clear a path from matriculation to commencement. We aim to inform those practices with our data and research through our HSI Center for Policy & Practice (HSI-CP2),” said Deborah Santiago, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President for Policy at *Excelencia*.

Some important facts about HSIs to note:

- HSIs enroll nearly two-thirds of all Latino undergraduates.
- When you put together the student population at all HSIs, 46 percent of students are Latino.
- Many HSIs have relatively low enrollment, with 59 percent of HSIs enrolling 2,000 or less total full-time students.
- 44 percent of HSIs were community colleges, and 66 percent were public institutions.
- A majority of HSIs are located in urban areas and are concentrated geographically, with 81 percent of these institutions in California, Texas, Puerto Rico, Florida, New York, and New Mexico.
- HSIs and Emerging HSIs are present in all but 13 states, including those less known for their Latino population, such as Indiana, Kansas, and Tennessee.

“The continuing growth in the number of HSIs is a positive sign of progress in educational opportunity and achievement for Hispanics, who account for almost three quarters of the growth in the U.S. workforce in this decade. Hispanic educational success is vital to America’s future prosperity and security,” said John Moder, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at HACU.

HACU collaborates with member colleges and universities to improve access to and the quality of postsecondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students, and meets the needs of business, industry and government through the development and sharing of resources, information and expertise. For the HACU fact sheet and lists, visit http://www.hacu.net/hacu/HSI_Fact_Sheet.asp.

Excelencia works with presidents, faculty, and staff at higher education institutions as well as researchers and other experts to identify, inform, and promote programs that accelerate Latino student success. For fact sheets and lists of HSIs and Emerging HSIs, visit www.EdExcelencia.org/HSI-CP2.

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About *Excelencia*

Excelencia in Education (*Excelencia*) accelerates higher education success for Latino students by promoting Latino student achievement, conducting analysis to inform educational policies, and advancing institutional practices while collaborating with those committed and ready to meet the mission. Launched in 2004 in the nation’s capital, *Excelencia* is building a network of results-oriented educators and policymakers to address the U.S. economy’s need for a highly educated workforce and engaged civic leadership. For more information, visit www.EdExcelencia.org.

About HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was established in 1986 with a founding membership of eighteen institutions. In 1992, HACU led the effort to convince Congress to formally recognize campuses with high Hispanic enrollment as federally designated HSIs and to begin targeting federal appropriations to those campuses. Today, HACU represents more than 470 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, and Spain. HACU is the only national educational association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). HACU’s headquarters are located in San Antonio, Texas, and regional offices are in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento, California. For more information, visit www.hacu.net.