

About HACU



The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) created in 1986 with a founding membership of eighteen higher education institutions, today represents more than 400 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, and Spain. HACU's advocacy and leadership on behalf of the nation's youngest and fastest-growing population is projected to expand in institutional membership and national influence. HACU is the only national educational association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Today, HSIs represent less than 10% of all higher education institutions nationwide, together they are home to 56 percent of all Hispanic college students.

In 1992, HACU took a leadership role in convincing Congress to formally recognize campuses with high Hispanic enrollment as federally designated HSIs and to begin targeting federal appropriations to those campuses. Three years later HACU and its allies convinced Congress to appropriate \$12 million specifically for HSIs. Between 1995 and 2012 funding has increased significantly because of HACU's persistent advocacy. In 2012, Congress appropriated \$100.4 million for HSIs within Title V of the Higher Education Act. HACU is recommending an appropriation of \$175 million for FY 2014.

HACU's Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C., advocates directly with Congress and the White House on issues affecting higher education achievement and success of Hispanics. Each legislative session, HACU's Government Relations office advocates for appropriations increases for HSI targeted programs within the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, HUD, NASA, and the National Science Foundation. In addition, the Government Relations Office monitors and tracks new and pending legislation with potential of affecting HSIs and the nation's Hispanic community.

A Western Regional Office in Sacramento, California, offers support for state level advocacy and program work in the western United States. Additional regional offices are being planned for the future.

On an annual basis, the HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) recruits and places more than 450 college students in federal agencies and corporate workplaces. The Office of Policy Analysis and Information conducts policy analyses and research on issues affecting Hispanic higher educational success and HSIs. HACU's Office of Student Services manages the Corporate Internship program, the Annual Conference Student Track, the HACU Scholarship program, and several study-abroad partnerships.

Annually HACU sponsors conferences and special events with a major focus on advocacy, informational, collaboration, and recognition. Major events include the annual Capitol Forum each spring in Washington, D.C., and HACU's Annual Conference. HACU's 27th Annual Conference is scheduled for October 26-28, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois. On a bi-annual basis, HACU organizes an international conference for higher education institutions from the U.S. and abroad, most recently in San Antonio, Texas.

HACU encourages student participation in all activities, especially at the Annual Conference. Hispanic students and faculty benefit from HACU-sponsored internships, scholarships, college retention research, and capacity-building programs.

HACU remains dedicated to pursuing its mission of **Championing Hispanic success in higher education.**

For more information, visit us at www.hacu.net.