

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

FY 2014 Authorization Request



HACU requests a National Aeronautics and Space Administration appropriation of \$15 million for FY 2014 for the Equal Access to NASA's Education Programs authorized in the NASA Authorization Act of 2005 to support a HACU/HSI/HSSD consortium to reactivate the model, regional pre-collegiate "Proyecto Access" initiative for science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) as a nationwide program.

Funding History: The shortage of Hispanics in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields was proactively addressed from 1996 until 2001, when HACU assisted more than 3,000 minority middle and high school students through the pilot *Proyecto Access* program. NASA provided the annual summer program \$1 million per year in each of the five years of the pilot project's existence. That funding no longer exists.

Need:

- Continued under-representation of Hispanics in STEM fields and a growing shortage of U.S. scientists, mathematicians and engineers require the development of an early education "pipeline" for Hispanics and other minorities to attract new talent.
- The nation risks losing its global preeminence for innovation in the sciences, mathematics, engineering and advanced technologies. Specifically, Proyecto Access targets the youngest and fastest-growing population, which will also account for more than 60 percent of the school-age population growth in the next decade.
- Elevating NASA's investment in this program will expand NASA's recruiting resources and outreach beyond its traditional base of a few research universities, only one of which is an HSI.
- NASA can increase the diversity of its workforce and leadership ranks and serve as a model for other federal agencies with a similar objective to increase Hispanic employment and outreach.
- The \$15 million request would reactivate and expand a model pre-collegiate program extended and successfully tested by HACU. The program will assist NASA by preparing students to pursue careers in STEM fields at HSIs and other colleges and universities.

HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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