



HACU

HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

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THE VOICE

OF HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Internships That Count!
Message From The President**

NEW NAME FOR MIAMI-DADE

■ HACU member Miami-Dade Community College is now Miami-Dade College, with a new logo to match. Beginning in September, Miami-Dade College will offer programs leading to a bachelor's degree in education. The college is one of only a few two-year degree-granting institutions to be authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees in addition to its associate degree and professional certificate programs. Miami-Dade College's six HACU member campuses graduate more Hispanic and African-American students than any other college in the nation.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

■ Four HACU member and partner colleges and universities are participating in a new international leadership-training project between the United States and China. Northeastern Illinois University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, the University of Southern Colorado and Stephen F. Austin University in Texas are participating in the Sino-American Leadership Initiative. The project will provide opportunities for program development and expanding faculty/student exchanges.

E-SCHOLARS

■ The United States Office of Personnel Management has launched a new web site at www.studentjobs.gov/e-scholar.htm to provide students information on more than \$400 million worth of educational scholarships, internships, fellowships and other programs offered by the federal government. The Office of Personnel Management also is a partner in the HACU National Internship Program, the nation's largest Hispanic college internship program.

STUDENT SUCCESS

■ A student retention program at HACU member Santa Monica College in California won a national award for encouraging first-time freshmen to improve their grades and to stay in school. The National Council of Student Development, an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges, gave the 2003 "Best Practices Award" to the college's Student Success Project. "We've worked hard over the past few years to design strategies that will keep students in college and on a path of success," said Santa Monica College counselor Esau Tovar. "We hope our program can be a model for other colleges."

HEALTH PHYSICS

■ To meet the demand for physics technicians, Idaho State University, a HACU partner institution, has created an associate of science degree in physics with an emphasis in health physics that will be offered this fall in Pocatello and Idaho Falls. Estimates by the Nuclear Energy Institute indicate that nearly 8,000 new health physicists will be needed to support ongoing nuclear industry operations between now and 2020.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREES

■ HACU member Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, this fall will begin offering a Professional Master of Public Health degree that can be completed in 20 months. The program is offered through a collaborative effort between Barry University's School of Graduate Medical Sciences and School of Natural and Health Sciences.

MASTER'S IN SPANISH

■ The Department of Modern Languages and Literature at HACU member California State University at Bakersfield won approval to offer a master's degree in Spanish beginning this fall. "We are absolutely delighted to be able to bring this level of richness to the study of Spanish language and culture to our service region," said Marla Iyasere, dean of the university's School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES ON CAMPUS

■ Continental Airlines this summer provided free air fare to 12 high school seniors from Texas, New York, California and Washington, D.C., to visit college campuses where they have been accepted. The trips were made possible through a Continental Airlines/Upward Bound partnership called "Volando al Future/Flying Toward the Future." Continental Airlines provides the tickets to help Hispanic students who are participants in Upward Bound explore the possibility of attending college away from home. Upward Bound is a federal TRIO program designed to prepare low-income, first-generation students for the college experience.

OVERVIEW

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ABOUT OUR COVER

The HACU National Internship Program is opening doors to a great future for Hispanic higher education students. A special report begins on Pg. 6.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Excitement is building for HACU's 17th Annual Conference October 18-21 in Anaheim, California. To register online, visit www.hacu.net.

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ABOUT HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities represents more than 340 member and associate member colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico and abroad with high Hispanic student enrollment rates — including federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions. HACU's mission is to improve access to and the quality of post-secondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students; to meet the needs of business, industry and government through the development and sharing of resources, information and expertise; and to promote the development and success of member and associate member colleges and universities.

MOVING FORWARD

By Gumecindo Salas
Vice President of Government Relations

Congress is moving toward final action on several bills of importance to the Hispanic higher education community. HACU, in turn, is accelerating efforts to ensure that Congress ultimately will approve substantial new increases in federal funding for Hispanic higher education for the next fiscal year and beyond.

HACU is urging Congress to endorse its proposal for a \$175 million appropriation under Title V of the Higher Education Act for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) for federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2004.

The House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education voted to only minimally increase the Title V appropriation for HSIs from \$92.4 million in FY 2003 to \$94 million in FY 2004.

The sheer growth in numbers of HSIs, which serve the nation's youngest and largest ethnic population, would translate this small increase into no increase at all by any practical measure. The number of HSIs is expected to double within the next few years.

Congress also is being asked to approve two bills introduced by Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico to eliminate federal red tape restrictions from the Title V program in FY 2004.

S.1287 would make it easier for HSIs to compete for Title V grants by removing a "50 percent" low-income assurance eligibility requirement for HSIs not required of other Minority-Serving Institutions. S.1081 would remove the two-year wait-out period now required before HSIs with Title V grants can apply for new Title V grants.

As Congress considers FY 2004 budget matters, proposals for the next five-year reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) are calling for amendments that likely would become effective beginning in FY 2005.

HACU's comprehensive proposals for reauthorization of the Higher Education Act have been distributed to all key members of the House and Senate, as well as to more than 20 national education associations, in the effort to build wide, convincing support for these measures.



The proposed Next Generation Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) Act, which would take effect beginning in FY 2005, has now been introduced in the House and Senate. This legislation, which contains first-time funding for graduate education at HSIs, already has wide support in Congress.

Important components of the "Next Generation" Title V amendments, as proposed by S.1190 in the Senate and H.R. 2238 in the House, include:

- A first-time, five-year Title V funding component for graduate education development for HSIs, authorizing the annual spending of \$125 million for graduate education grants to HSIs beginning in FY 2005;
- A five-year Title V funding component for undergraduate education, authorizing \$175 million per year for undergraduate education grants to HSIs beginning in FY 2005;
- Elimination of the two-year wait out period for Title V grants;
- Elimination of the cumbersome 50% low-income assurance requirement;
- Expansion of the allowable use of Title V undergraduate grants to facilitate the transfer of students from two-year to four-year institutions.

HACU offered testimony in the House in July in support of the proposed Minority-Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Network Technology Opportunity Act. The bill would provide as much as \$250 million annually in new federal funding for technology education at colleges and universities serving the largest concentrations of Hispanic and other minority students.

Ricardo Fernández, president of Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York and a member of the HACU Governing Board, provided compelling testimony to the House Subcommittee on Research on the need for substantial new technology spending for the nation's HSIs and other Minority-Serving Institutions.

The Senate already voted unanimously to approve S.196, the Senate version of H.R. 2183 and H.R. 2272 in the House. Fernández testified on behalf of H.R. 2183 and H.R. 2272, twin versions of the proposed legislation introduced by

(continued on page 4)

THE DYNAMICS OF DIVERSITY

By Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO of HACU

In the wake of this summer's landmark ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirming diversity as a compelling public interest, there is new momentum in the higher education community to achieve equity and excellence in every classroom.

Certainly, it was gratifying to see such a tremendous outpouring of support for diversity from so many sectors of our society that preceded the historic rulings in the two court cases involving undergraduate (*Gratz v. Bollinger*) and law school (*Grutter v. Bollinger*) admissions policies at the University of Michigan.

HACU joined the distinguished company of many of the country's most respected organizations, corporations and individuals in supporting "friend of the court" briefs in defense of admissions policies designed to promote diversity in the classroom.

We congratulate our colleagues at the University of Michigan, a member of HACU, for their triumph in holding fast to the principles of diversity and equal opportunity. They are heroes for all Americans. The University of Michigan is also now a model for the nation in providing our higher education community a proven blueprint for diversity.

HACU applauds the nation's highest court for its decision in *Grutter v.*

Bollinger, upholding law school admissions policies in place at the University of Michigan as a means "to further a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body."

In response to the first affirmative action challenge in a generation, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the university's law school admissions policies that allow race and ethnic background to be one of many factors used in making student admissions decisions.

A ruling in the second case – *Gratz v. Bollinger* – against the University of Michigan's undergraduate admissions policy struck down the process and means of implementing the intent of the university. However, the court still upheld the important principle that student body diversity is a compelling state interest that can justify the use of race in university admissions.

Certainly, the nation's youngest and largest ethnic population will benefit greatly from the reaffirmation of diversity – as will all Americans. This is not a victory of minority over non-minority interests in this country. All Americans will benefit from the promise of equal opportunity to achieve higher education success in the most culturally and racially diverse country in the world.

In this era of economic uncertainties at home and conflicts abroad, we cannot

afford to close the doors to anyone's potential to achieve the advanced knowledge and skills that will contribute so profoundly to our nation's economic strength and security. Diversity in the classroom is critical to preparing our students for their leadership in our diverse workplaces and communities, and in our multicultural, multiracial global economy.

There is a long tradition in this country of promoting fairness and equity as the truest reflection of our great democracy. The Supreme Court decision in the University of Michigan Law School case reaffirms that tradition.

It was inspiring to hear so many voices successfully unite inside the nation's highest courtroom in defense of the promise of diversity. Yet, there remains a need to better communicate the benefits of diversity to those who continue to question its merits. There are too many classrooms and workplaces where the dynamic benefits of diversity have not yet been achieved. We must continue to promote the benefits of diversity in the court of public opinion to ultimately achieve the reality of diversity for every sector of our great society.



NOTES FROM WASHINGTON *(continued from page 3)*

U.S. Representative Randy Forbes of Virginia and U.S. Representative Edolphus Towns, respectively.

HACU is hopeful the House of Representatives will add its unanimous vote to that of the Senate to pass this legislation of such tremendous importance to closing the well-publicized digital divide between minority and non-minority college-age populations.

In the Senate, HACU is urging re-introduction of the DREAM Act. The bipartisan Development, Relief, and

Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is the companion to the House version, the Student Adjustment Act, which already has been introduced.

Allowing states the flexibility to offer more affordable in-state tuition rates to otherwise eligible students, regardless of their immigration status, would open new doors to college for thousands of deserving immigrant youth. HACU is calling for action by Congress on these measures before the start of college classes this fall.

Grass roots advocacy by the leadership of HACU's member, associate member and partner colleges and universities remains a powerful means to win passage of this and other important legislation now before Congress.

Visit the Government Relations page at www.hacu.net for continuing updates as legislation of critical importance to Hispanic higher education moves through Congressional committees and toward final votes.

Visit HACU at www.hacu.net

HACU TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS ON TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION

HACU urged Congress to support legislation providing substantial new technology support to the Hispanic higher education community.

In testimony before the House Subcommittee on Research, HACU requested support for the proposed Minority-Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Network Technology Opportunity Act. The bill would provide as much as \$250 million annually in new federal funding for technology education at colleges and universities serving the largest concentrations of Hispanic and other minority students.

“Hispanic and other minority populations have dramatically less access to our rapidly evolving technologies than non-minority populations,” testified Ricardo Fernández, president of Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York and a member of the HACU Governing Board. Fernández testified for HACU at the subcommittee hearing.

Fernández praised the Senate for its unanimous vote in favor of S.196, the Senate version of H.R. 2183 and H.R. 2272 – twin versions of the bill now before the House.

H.R. 2183 was introduced by U.S. Representative Randy Forbes of Virginia. U.S. Representative Edolphus Towns of New York introduced H.R. 2272.

Fernández cited a series of recent reports from the U.S. Department of Commerce on the widening “digital divide” between minority and non-minority populations.

According to those reports, more than one half of U.S. households have computers and more than four of every ten have Internet access; for Hispanic households, only one-third have computers and only about one-fifth have Internet access.

Historically under-funded Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions must receive substantial new federal funding to best address the digital



Ricardo Fernández (center), president of Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York and a member of the HACU Governing Board, testifies before Congress on technology bills for HSIs and other Minority-Serving Institutions.

divide, testified Fernández, who also is board chair of the American Association of Higher Education.

HSIs have a student enrollment that is at least 25 percent Hispanic. At Lehman College, where Fernández has served as president for the past 13 years, the student enrollment is 44 percent Hispanic.

The need for substantial new technology funding is especially critical for HSIs, which serve the country’s youngest and largest ethnic population, Fernández said, citing the continuing under-representation of Hispanics in technology fields.

HACU JOINS PARTNERS IN HISPANIC EDUCATION

HACU joined 12 national Hispanic organizations and corporate sector advocates to establish Partners in Hispanic Education to expand educational opportunities for Latino communities throughout the United States.

“HACU brings the energy and reach of the nation’s Hispanic higher education community to this powerful new partnership to create opportunities for educational excellence and success in our Hispanic communities,” HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores said at a news conference in Washington, D.C., in July to announce the national partnership.

“Many of our organizations have worked together before with outstanding

results in service to the Hispanic community. We can also achieve great success in this new, wider-reaching partnership to empower communities to help more Hispanic youth achieve their college and career goals,” Flores said.

In addition to HACU, consortium members include the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), the USHCC Foundation and MANA: A National Latina Organization.

Other consortium members are the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, State Farm Insurance Companies, IQ Solutions, the League of United Latin American Citizens,

the Army, the National Association of Hispanic Publications and the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR). HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores is also chair of HACR.

Partners in Hispanic Education will host education initiatives in six pilot cities. A first series of town hall meetings, financial aid and scholarship seminars, and workshops for parents, students, educators and business and community leaders is scheduled October 18 in San Diego. Other pilot cities will be: Miami; Detroit; Tucson, Arizona; El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico, and The Bronx, New York.

HISPANIC NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In today's tough labor market, where even a college diploma won't automatically land someone a job, the nation's largest Hispanic college internship program is setting new records in providing "great jobs with a real future."

"Our internships are translating into great jobs with a real future for our students, who we match to paid internships in their chosen career fields with many of the nation's best known employers," said William Rafael Gil, Executive Director of the HACU National Internship Program, or HNIP.

"Even in this slow economy, our results are tremendous in the number of college students placed, and the number of full-time jobs offered to our students at the end of their internships in the very career fields they want," Gil said.

HNIP, which has become the largest Hispanic college internship program since its inception in 1992, to date has provided internships to more than 4,400 top college students. Although Hispanic students make up the greatest majority of participants, HNIP is open to eligible students of any ethnicity.

The summer session currently under way through August welcomed 447 new students from 26 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia now on the job with 25 top corporations and federal agencies. The fall session begins in August.

November is the deadline for students to fill out their online applications at www.hnip.net for the popular spring session, which begins in January.

*"HNIP is unmatched
at opening doors
to rewarding
career opportunities."*



HNIP intern Erin Steurer on the job.

PRAISE FOR HNIP

Word about HNIP apparently is out among savvy college students who know a diploma isn't always enough to convince potential employers to open their doors in today's uncertain economy. The HNIP web page now attracts an average 16,000 visits a month to an Internet site that offers a growing backlog of testimonials from former interns.

"Prior to doing my internship with HACU, I never realized how many job opportunities were out here," said Paola Felix, a former HNIP intern with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Today, I have a promising job with the USDA." Susie Saavedra's internship with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "prepared me for work in a fast-paced environment." Today, Saavedra is a staff member for U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton of New York.

HNIP matches a qualified applicant's career interests with internship openings from dozens of partner federal agencies and private corporations that provide paid 10- or 15-week internships. The pay scale is based on grade level; i.e., graduate students earn more than sophomores. HNIP provides for travel and facilitates housing at internship sites throughout the country.

"HACU staff takes the weight off our shoulders by finding the best travel schedule and accommodations," boasted Ricardo Guadarrama, a former intern with the Veterans Affairs Administration. "The best part is that I have been able to travel throughout the United States," said Norma Escobedo, a former intern for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. Interns also are offered professional development and networking opportunities as part of their experience. Events have included breakfasts with members of Congress, career fairs, resume workshops, national conferences and formal receptions.

Peer networking is a plus listed by many former interns who maintain their wide circle of intern friendships to keep abreast of career advancement trends and new job openings. "HNIP is unmatched at opening doors to rewarding career opportunities. Many former interns today are well-paid, full-time professionals as a direct result of their participation in this phenomenal program," said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HACU established HNIP in 1992 to address the Hispanic employment gap in the federal workforce and in private sector management ranks. Hispanics today make up the nation's youngest and largest ethnic population, but they also represent the only under-represented minority group in the federal labor force.

HNIP is making a difference. A recent, independently researched report on the program labeled HNIP an "enviable" recruitment tool based on a consistently high rate of permanent job offers that are made following the internships.

According to surveys of HNIP interns from the years 1993 through 2002, 59.4 percent of the internships ended with an offer of a job or paid fellowship; 31.8 percent said yes to those offers.

HNIP internships match a student's field of study and career goals to the needs of participating federal agencies and corporations. This summer's employers include names as

PROVIDING 'GREAT JOBS WITH A FUTURE'

familiar as Target, Verizon, JP Morgan Chase, National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, Freddie Mac, Shell Chemical Company, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Reserve Board.

The internships are competitive. This summer's interns, ranging in age from 17 to 49, have an average GPA of 3.41.

"One of the reasons we're so successful is the quality of the internships," HNIP's Gil said. "These are not the kind of internships where participants fetch coffee or spend a lot of their time at a copying machine."

Interns for the Spring 2003 session reported assignments ranging from creating sophisticated computer databases to hands-on strategy sessions with top government officials. Marvin Martinez, a student from California State University at San Bernardino who interned this spring with the National Institutes of Health, found himself networking in Bethesda, Maryland, with hundreds of corporate executives meeting with federal officials to discuss public-private sector business relations.

LaDonna Groven of the University of Southern Colorado helped develop an employee operations procedures handbook during her spring internship in Richmond, Virginia, with the U.S. Department of Defense. Paula Williams of InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico at Bayamon helped create a spreadsheet on more than 500 marine pollutants and answered hot-line questions about the transportation of hazardous materials. "Boy, am I glad that I did not snooze in my chemistry classes," she said of her Defense Department internship.

REWARDING WORK

Sari Buffil of Florida A&M University found it rewarding to network with professionals who feel "passionately" about their work with children during her spring internship at the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



Priscilla Guzman of St. Mary's University in Texas learned "that it is important to calmly deal with unexpected problems" when the SARS outbreak halted work on a normally routine international information exchange at the National Institutes of Health.

Beda Gamboa-Padilla can add fundamental data analysis to her resume after a spring internship with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Yetune Abegunrin of the University of Maryland at College Park worked on experiments to find the most

effective way to eliminate microbial contaminants in raw produce during an internship with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Alejandro Casarez of the University of Texas at San Antonio was surprised to find that a spring internship with USDA offices in Kansas City, Missouri, would add "war efforts" to his resume. "The USDA plays a particularly big role in the war by providing humanitarian aid to the people of Iraq, as well as to soldiers. It seems we all have an indirect role in the war," Casarez said.

"HNIP provides on-the-job training that is immeasurable in lifelong work value. HNIP provides our interns the confidence to accept a job offer in a career field they want with solid experience already on their resume," Gil said. "It's what inspires us to keep working to expand this program's opportunities for future interns."

**Become
a friend
of
HACU**

Contribute \$50 or more and with your support help HACU champion Hispanic success in Higher Education.



For more information call

(210) 692-3805

HACU TO HONOR HIGHER EDUCATION CHAMPION AT 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

HACU is inaugurating its first HACU Roast and Fundraiser as part of its 17th Annual Conference October 18-21 at the Hyatt Regency-Orange County in Anaheim, CA.

Tomás Arciniega, president of California State University at Bakersfield and a nationally renowned champion of Hispanic higher education, will be named the first honoree at the pre-conference roast and fundraiser October 17 at the Hyatt Regency-Orange County.

A part of the proceeds from the event, for which tickets still are available, will be used to establish a scholarship in Arciniega's name.

"From California to Capitol Hill, Dr. Arciniega has proven a compelling advocate for the higher education needs of the nation's youngest and largest ethnic population. His remarkable achievements have opened countless new doors to college and career success for Hispanic students everywhere," said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores.

As an active member of the HACU Governing Board, and past Governing Board Chair, Arciniega has helped build HACU's membership to more than 300 colleges and universities, serving the largest concentrations of Hispanic higher education students in 26 states and Puerto Rico.

His public championship of the country's fastest-growing school-age population has helped HACU win tens of millions of dollars in new support each year from the federal government and private sector for Hispanic college students and the higher education institutions that serve them.

"Dr. Arciniega is an extraordinary leader for diversity, equity and excellence who continues to inspire all of us in the Hispanic higher education community," Flores said.

As one of the longest serving presidents in the California State University System, Arciniega, 65, has served as president of California State University at Bakersfield since 1983. The university's multi-cultural student enrollment has more than doubled during his 20-year tenure.

Arciniega, who in June announced plans to retire on July 1, 2004, is the winner of numerous state and national awards. He is a widely published expert on higher education administration, bilingual education and multicultural education. He has served as a technical consultant to the Ministries of Education in Honduras, Bolivia, Panama, and Guatemala. Arciniega was named by Change magazine as one of the top 100 Academic Leaders in American Higher Education.



Tomás Arciniega, president of California State University at Bakersfield and a nationally renowned champion of Hispanic higher education, will be the honoree of HACU's inaugural Roast and Fundraiser preceding HACU's 17th Annual Conference in October in Anaheim, California.

Arciniega is Trustee Emeritus of the Carnegie Foundation and a past presidential appointee of the National Council on Education Research. He serves on the boards of the Aspen Institute, Educational Testing Service, Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, National Hispanic Scholarship Fund and MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievements). He is a past president of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

For more information about HACU's 17th Annual Conference and the Arciniega Roast and Fundraiser, visit www.hacu.net.

CLASE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BENEFITS HACU STUDENTS

José Jaime Rivera, president of HACU member University of the Sacred Heart in San Juan, Puerto Rico, joined Coors Brewing Company executives in San Juan to announce that up to \$50,000 will be awarded in CLASE scholarships to college students in Puerto Rico for the 2003-2004 academic year.

This year's CLASE (Coors Light Academic Success in Education) scholarship program was funded by Coors and proceeds from a 2002 Coors concert series featuring the Grammy Award-winning rock-en-español group Maná.

HACU is administering the \$125,000 CLASE scholarship program for students attending HACU member colleges and universities in 26 states, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

In the fall of 2002, Coors Light teamed up with HACU and Maná to provide college scholarship funds derived from a portion of the proceeds from their 13-city U.S. concert tour.

Founded in 1873, Adolph Coors Company is the third-largest U.S. brewer and the world's eighth-largest brewer. Its principal subsidiary is Coors Brewing Company, which sells its products in North America, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

For more information about CLASE and other HACU-administered scholarship programs, visit the "Student Resources" page at www.hacu.net.



From left: Peter Swinburn, President, Coors Brewing Company Worldwide; Al Timothy, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Coors Brewing Company; José Jaime Rivera, President, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, and Member, HACU's Governing Board; the Honorable José Luis Dalmau, Spokesperson for the Senate Majority in Puerto Rico; and, Mauricio Cardenas, Vice President and General Manager, Coors Brewing Company-Puerto Rico

HETS CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By Yubelkys Montalvo

The Hispanic Educational Telecommunications System (HETS), the nation's first bilingual distance learning consortium, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year with expanded services and a recent awards ceremony to honor the achievements of its partners.

HETS is a consortium of 17 U.S. colleges and universities -- all member institutions of HACU -- and a new affiliate member in Colombia. U.S. member higher education institutions are located in California, Florida, New Mexico, New York, Puerto Rico and Texas.

HETS, which includes HACU among its diverse partners, was established in 1993 to widen the access of Hispanics to higher education and training opportunities through telecommunications and distance learning.

HACU member Hostos Community College of the City University of New York recently hosted the HETS 10th anniversary celebration featuring awards. HACU member Herbert H. Lehman College concurrently hosted the HETS Board of Directors meeting, where a new board was elected.

Manuel J. Fernós, president of HACU member Inter American University of Puerto Rico, where HETS has its headquarters, was elected HETS board chair. Fernós replaces Ricardo Fernández, president of HACU member Lehman College of the City University of New York, who presided over HETS from 2001 until this year.

James E. Lyons Sr., president of HACU member California State University at Dominguez Hills, was elected board vice chair. Antonio Pérez, president of HACU member Borough of Manhattan Community College of the City University of New York, was elected board treasurer. Dolores Fernández, president of HACU member Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, was elected board secretary.

Through HETS, member institutions are engaged as partners in initiatives that include development of online courses and programs, interactive workshops and information networking.

For example, 31 academic leaders of HETS member institutions from the United States and Colombia recently participated in the First Collaboration Initiatives Workshop to develop online programs with other partner institutions in the fields of communication, cross-cultural nursing, entrepreneurship, criminal justice, Latin American studies and student support resources.

HETS also developed the first bilingual online interactive portal, the Virtual Learning and Support Plaza, at www.virtualplaza.org – a project funded with a Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships (LAAP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. Additional support for the Virtual

Plaza is provided by in-kind contributions from member institutions and corporate sponsorships. The Virtual Plaza provides numerous services, including an online mentoring program for college students.

At the awards ceremonies in New York, HETS presented a Board Member of the Year award to Fernández and an award to Pérez for Exemplary Leadership in support of the consortium.

IBM Corporation and Banco Popular de Puerto Rico each was presented with the HETS/LAAP e-Mentoring Corporate Partner Award. Miami Dade College, which has developed the highest number of online courses for the Virtual Plaza, received the HETS/LAAP Funded Online Offerings Award.

The HACU member Ana G. Méndez University System in Puerto Rico received the HETS/LAAP Partner for Virtual Promotion Award for its efforts to promote HETS online distance learning projects to the U.S. higher education community. Several professors and staff members at HETS member institutions received HETS/LAAP Project Collaboration awards.

Other important HETS member institutions that received awards were: the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Lehman College of the City University of New York, the University of New Mexico, Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, the University of Texas at Brownsville and University of Texas-Pan American - all HACU member colleges and universities.

HETS also announced a series of new services at its online Virtual Plaza, which provide an opportunity for anytime/anywhere learning, networking and mentoring support for a

rapidly growing online community of higher education students, faculty, professionals and sponsors.

With its unique cultural comfort zone of online placitas (little plazas), the Virtual Plaza now also offers online lounges, or salitas, to enhance the mentoring program. Each salita features a forum for mentoring activities to provide e-mentors and students a means to communicate in addition to email correspondence.

The Career Exploration section now offers assistance with preparing resumes and cover letters. The Faculty Placita offers a wider selection of distance education resources.

The portal's menu was expanded to include a new section on Academic Collaboration, featuring model projects and assistance for developing online programs and certificates among participating higher education institutions.

The site's Cyber Café menu has been restructured, and a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section has been added.

For more information, visit www.virtualplaza.org.



(From left): Nitza Hernández, Executive Director of HETS; Ricardo Fernández, president of Lehman College of the City University of New York and former HETS chair; Dolores Fernández, HETS secretary and president of Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, and Manuel Fernós, HETS chair and president of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

Yubelkys Montalvo is a HETS executive and public relations assistant.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

■ Edward Hernandez Jr., chancellor of the HACU member Rancho Santiago Community College District, was named Educator of the Year by the Santa Ana (California) Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for his service and contributions to the Hispanic community. Hernandez has also received numerous awards as chancellor of a community college district that serves more than 58,000 students in Southern California.



Edward Hernandez, Jr.

STUDY COMMISSION

■ Christine Johnson, president of HACU member Community College of Denver, was appointed by the National Assessment Governing Board of the U.S. Department of Education to help assess the future of how American educators evaluate 12th graders. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests national samples of 12th graders in a variety of academic subjects, including reading, mathematics, writing, science, U.S. history, geography and civics.



Christine Johnson

RC-2000

■ Roy Flores, chancellor of the HACU member Pima Community College District in Arizona, is the new president of RC-2000, an international federation of urban community colleges. Flores, an educator for 30 years, also is a former special assistant for economic affairs at the U.S. Department of State. RC-2000 (RC stands for "Renewal and Change") was founded in the 1980s to create an open exchange of ideas between the leaders of large community colleges throughout the world.



Roy Flores

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

■ Elba Serrano, a neuroscientist and associate professor of biology at HACU member New Mexico State University, was chosen by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to join the AAAS International Lecture Series on Women in Science and Engineering. The program, funded by the National Science Foundation, showcases the achievements of distinguished U.S. women scientists to scientists, educators, students and policymakers in Latin America.



Elba Serrano teaching biology.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

■ Joy Gates Black on August 18 becomes the new dean of student affairs at HACU member San Antonio College. Black is currently dean of equity and diversity at HACU member Los Angeles City College. Previously, she was assistant director of operations for the student union at HACU member California State University at Northridge.



Joy Gates Black

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

■ Berta Cuaron, former dean of instruction at San Diego Miramar College, is the new assistant superintendent and vice president for instruction at HACU member Palomar College in San Marcos, California. She earned her associate, bachelor and master's degrees from HACU members San Bernardino Community College, California State University at San Bernardino and Northern Arizona University, respectively.

ADVISORY BOARD

■ Adan Tijernia, an adjunct faculty member at HACU member Columbia Basin College in Washington, has been appointed to the Multicultural Advisory Board at Western Washington University. At Columbia Basin College, Tijernia is director of the Student Support Services program and teaches multicultural communications and college success.

AGRICULTURE

■ I. Miley Gonzalez, president of Gonzalez and Associates of Phoenix and former interim vice provost for research at HACU member New Mexico State University, is the new director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Gonzalez was undersecretary for research, education and economics for the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1997 to 2001, when he joined New Mexico State University.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

■ Nancy Marlin, provost for HACU associate member San Diego State University (SDSU), won the Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award, the most prestigious award bestowed by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. "With her leadership and support, SDSU has, in just four short years, increased sevenfold the number of students studying and conducting research abroad," said SDSU President Stephen Weber.

CUNY BOARD

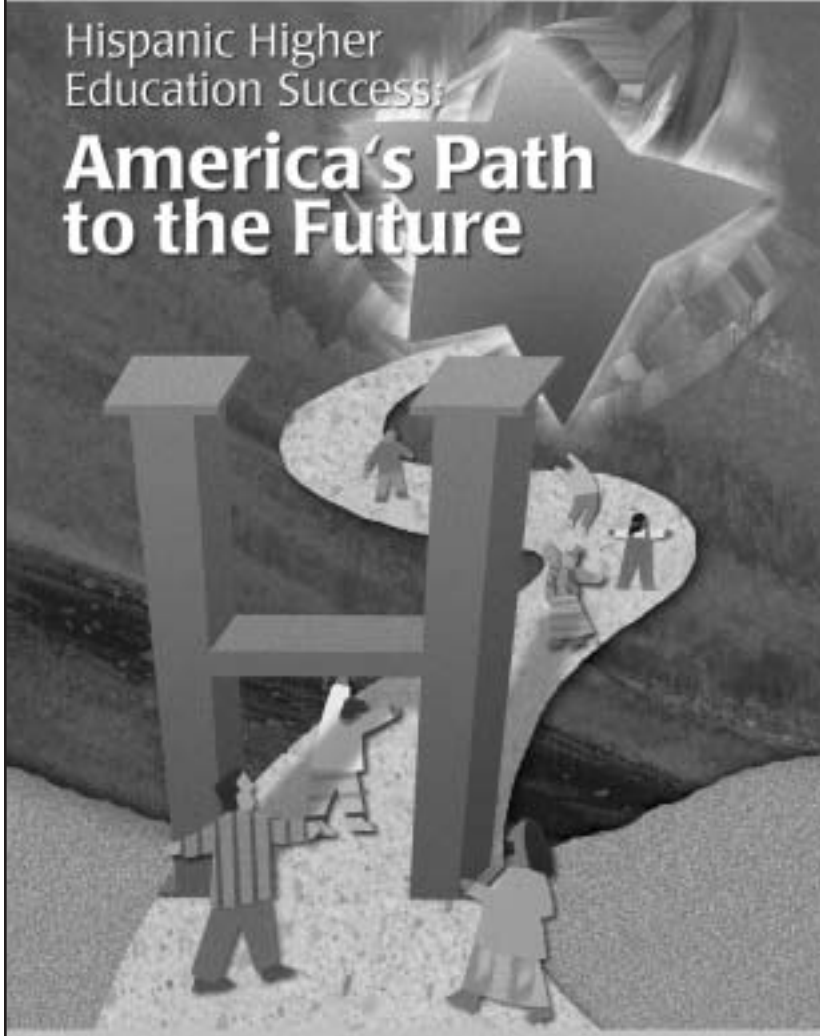
■ Rita DiMartino, a graduate of HACU member City University of New York (CUNY) campuses, was appointed to the CUNY Board of Trustees by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. DiMartino, a 25-year veteran of AT&T, is a long-time advocate for HACU and Hispanic higher education as former vice president of congressional relations for AT&T. DiMartino, who now serves as a private sector consultant, also serves as vice chair of the Hispanic Council on Foreign Affairs of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.



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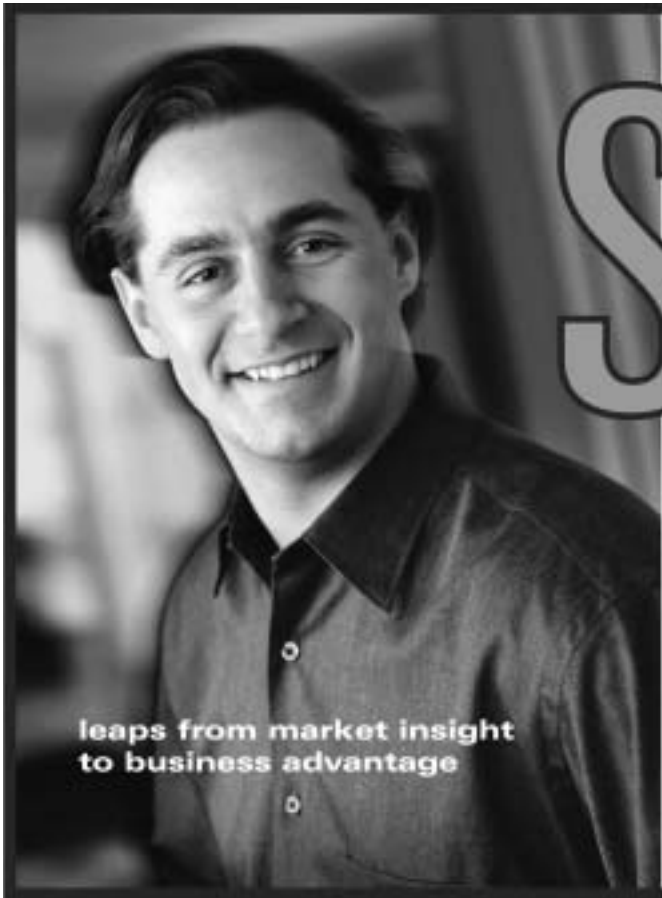
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