



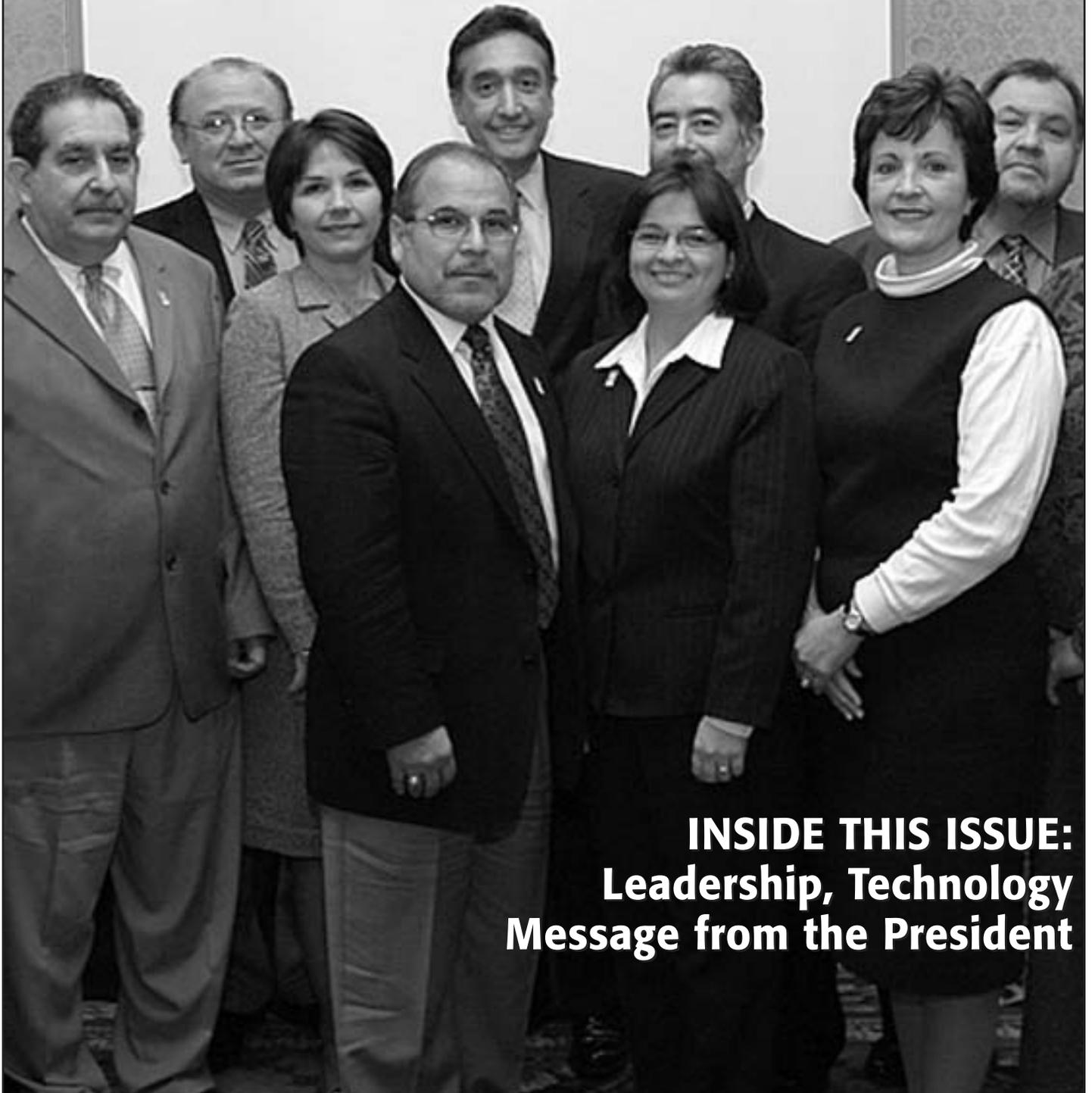
HACU

HISPANIC  
ASSOCIATION  
OF COLLEGES &  
UNIVERSITIES

VOLUME 13, NO. 4, APRIL 2004

# THE VOICE

OF HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:  
Leadership, Technology  
Message from the President**

## HISPANIC STUDIES

Four HACU member schools in the Texas A&M University System are collaborating to offer the first Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies in Texas. HACU Associate member Texas A&M University at College Station will administer the degree. Three HACU member A&M System campuses — Texas A&M International University, Texas A&M University- Kingsville and Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi—will offer graduate courses in the program.

## MINORITY RESEARCH

The Bridges to Baccalaureate program at HACU member California State University at Dominguez Hills was renewed with a \$646,000 three-year grant from the Minority Opportunities in Research Division of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The program will help under-represented minority science students transfer from participating community colleges to the four-year university and ultimately graduate with a bachelor's degree in science.

## GM AND NMSU

General Motors, the world's largest vehicle manufacturer, presented a \$225,000 gift to HACU member New Mexico State University (NMSU) that will benefit the university's engineering, business administration, career services, and special projects programs. "We are very fortunate to have a company like GM supporting our university," said Joe Creed, assistant dean of engineering at NMSU.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

HACU member Alliant International University (AIU) signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) that will enable U.S. Department of Defense Acquisition, Technology and Logistics personnel to transfer DAU course credits to AIU's certificate and degree programs. AIU has six California locations in Fresno, Irvine, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area.

## PATHWAYS

The College of Science and Technology at HACU member Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi was awarded the 2003 Texas Higher Education Star Award for its Pathways to Success in Science program, which seeks to increase the participation of students in the science work force. It was the university's second award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the unique first-year learning communities program.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HACU member Florida International University was presented the 2nd Annual Beacon Award in recognition of university programs that have helped strengthen the Miami area economy. The award was presented by The Beacon Council and the economic development agency for Miami-Dade County, Florida. The university was recognized for outstanding programs within its School of Nursing and Department of Biomedical Engineering.

## JOINT ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

HACU member Pima Community College and HACU associate member University of Arizona will implement a pilot joint admissions program in the fall. Participating students will be admitted to both institutions. Students eligible for the program will begin their post-secondary educational experience at Pima Community College and can later enroll at the University of Arizona.

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

The new headquarters for the Academy of International Business (AIB), the world's leading association of scholars and specialists in the field of international business, is at the Eli Broad Graduate School of Management at HACU associate member Michigan State University. The next annual conference of the AIB will be in July in Istanbul, Turkey, hosted by a consortium of Istanbul-based universities in collaboration with Michigan State University and HACU associate member San Jose State University in California.

## MANUFACTURING

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a plan for eight new degrees at HACU member University of Texas-Pan American, including a doctoral program in manufacturing engineering. "This university is now poised to develop cutting edge technology research in manufacturing," said University of Texas-Pan American President Miguel A. Nevárez. The Rio Grande Valley of Texas, where the university is located, is home to 700 manufacturing industries.

## TECHNOLOGY

HACU member Miami Dade College signed an Agreement for Academic Cooperation with Cibertec, a division of the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (Peruvian University of Applied Sciences), to offer technology education to students in Lima, Peru. Cibertec is one of Peru's leading higher educational institutions. Miami-Dade College will expand on the range of opportunities available to Cibertec students with this international outreach effort that allows for graduates to receive training in the United States.

## OVERVIEW

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Pg. 3 • Message from the President
- Pg. 4 • Notes from Washington
- Pg. 5 • Leadership
- Pg. 6 • Special Report: HACU and Technology
- Pg. 9 • Positions and Announcements

### ABOUT OUR COVER

Former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros joins HACU-Kellogg Leadership Fellows (See page 5). A special report on HACU and Technology begins on page 6. (Photo: Andrés Pérez)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HACU's 18th Annual Conference:  
October 16-19 Miami, Florida  
Visit [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net) for early registration information!

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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## ABOUT HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities represents more than 360 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.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



# INVESTING IN HISPANIC GRADUATE EDUCATION

By Antonio R. Flores  
President and CEO of HACU

Congress has a historic opportunity to invest in a new era of innovation and prosperity for this country by supporting proposals to target new federal investments in graduate education for the country's youngest and largest ethnic population.

By investing in the advanced education of our diverse students, we will equip them with the knowledge and skills they must have to excel. Their opportunities to achieve greatness will fuel our success as a nation.

As Congress drafts legislation for the five-year reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), HACU is requesting that these measures include legislative language and first-time funding for a Title V graduate education component for our country's Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

HACU applauds the support of leaders in Congress who joined us at a news conference on Capitol Hill in March to publicly call upon the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to consider this important proposal in drafting HEA reauthorization measures.

Bills introduced last year during the 1st Session of the 108th Congress won strong, bipartisan support for a first-time Title V graduate education component. We cannot afford to lose momentum in this 2nd Session of the 108th Congress.

Our HSIs, which serve the largest concentrations of Hispanic higher education students, are at the forefront of every substantial effort to educate a population that already comprises one of every three new workers joining the U.S. work force. Our HSIs have the most expertise, and they have the best access to the fastest-growing Hispanic population centers in this country.

Yet, many of these under-funded HSIs lack the resources to build or

expand graduate education programs. HSIs on average continue to receive only about half the federal funding per student accorded every other higher education institution.

Only 20 percent of our HSIs offer a master's degree. Less than 12 percent of HSIs offer a doctoral degree. Many of our under-funded HSIs simply do not have the infrastructure to offer advanced degree programs.

Hispanics are under-represented in every profession demanding a graduate degree. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 3.3 percent of all Hispanics have an advanced degree. They make up less than 5 percent of all employment in the professional specialty fields.

There are too few Hispanics in the hard sciences, in engineering, in medicine, technology and in teaching—fields that fuel our country's

innovations and economic progress.

Hispanics comprise only 4.6 percent of the country's physicians, 2.8 percent of natural scientists, 3.6 percent of mathematical and computer scientists, 5.4 percent of public school teachers, 3.5 percent of engineers and 3.2 percent of lawyers and judges.

It is essential that we equip our HSIs with adequate resources to build programs that will increase the numbers of Hispanics enrolling in and graduating from advanced degree programs, and reverse the persistent under-representation of Hispanics in these crucial professions.

Without the infusion of new professionals with advanced degrees and specialized knowledge and skills, the United States will be unable to maintain a competitive edge in these emerging



(From left) University of New Mexico President Louis Caldera joins U.S. Representative Heather Wilson of New Mexico and HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores at a news conference urging support for Hispanic graduate education funding.

Continues on page 4.



# PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FALL SHORT OF FUNDING NEEDS

By Gumecindo Salas  
Vice President of Government Relations

With work now under way to shape the 13 appropriations bills that will make up the federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget, HACU is urging the leadership of key committees in Congress to substantially exceed the Administration's budget recommendations for Hispanic higher education.

HACU formally stated its disappointment with the Administration's budget in a letter to President Bush asking him to revise his current recommendations. Formal letters also were sent to the leadership of Congressional budget and appropriations committees urging their support for HACU's Legislative Agenda.

HACU is urging the leadership of individual HACU member and partner colleges and universities to join in formally requesting support for greatly expanded funding increases for Title V, GEAR UP, TRIO, Pell Grant and other programs of critical importance.

A shortened legislative calendar in a presidential election year is lessening expectations that a budget will be in place by the start on October 1 of the next federal fiscal year, which also may dampen efforts to finalize the five-year reauthorization of the Higher Education Act this year.

HACU must escalate its efforts in coming months to make Hispanic higher education a priority in Congress, especially in the face of the Administration's call for little or no funding increases for Title V and other important programs.

Title V remains the chief vehicle for targeting federal funds to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Although HSIs make up less than 7 percent of all colleges and universities, they educate more than half of all Hispanic higher education students.

Yet HSIs receive less federal funding on average per student compared to all other institutions of higher learning. The Administration's recommendation for a 1.9 percent increase in Title V appropriations for FY 2005 would not account for the cost

of inflation, much less accommodate the annual increases in the college-age Hispanic population.

The U.S. Department of Education's own list of HSIs grew from 219 such institutions in 2002 to 242 in 2003—a 10.5 percent increase. Clearly, a 1.9 percent increase in Title V would only widen the gap in funding support.

HACU's Legislative Agenda for FY 2005 is calling for a \$175 million appropriation for undergraduate Title V support, as well as creation of new legislation and \$20 million in first-time funding for a graduate education component to Title V.

Strong bipartisan support accompanied the introduction of bills last year containing proposals for a new Title V graduate education component. HACU will advocate for re-introduction of these bills in the current session.

HACU also won strong support last year for two critical components of its Title V recommendations for HEA reauthorization, one to eliminate the two-year wait-out period for HSIs between grant completion and new application cycles, and the second to eliminate the 50-percent low-income assurance requirement from the funding criteria of Title V. HACU anticipates that key

leaders in Congress will be successful this year in eliminating these unnecessary and cumbersome regulations.

HACU will be requesting the support of its membership to provide grass roots testimony to key committees as they begin debating these proposals in coming months. HACU's membership will be notified of key debates and approaching votes throughout the year via HACU Action Alerts and Member Advisories.

Congress must be persuaded that recommendations for retrenchment in Hispanic higher education funding are not acceptable for a population that will have such a profound impact on our country's future economic success and security.

*HACU is urging the leadership of individual HACU member and partner colleges and universities to join in formally requesting support for greatly expanded funding increases for Title V, GEAR UP, TRIO, Pell Grant and other programs of critical importance.*

## INVESTING IN HISPANIC GRADUATE EDUCATION (Continued from page 3.)

fields of the global economy.

HACU is requesting that the House Committee on Education and the Workforce incorporate language from the landmark "Next Generation Hispanic-Serving Institutions" bill introduced last year by U.S. Congressman Ruben Hinojosa of Texas.

Congressman Hinojosa's bill, which would authorize \$125 million in new federal spending each year for graduate education for our HSIs, won the bipartisan support of 81 House co-sponsors, including every member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Congressional Hispanic Conference.

Strong, bipartisan support also followed introduction of a companion bill in the Senate by U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman of

New Mexico, with U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas acting as principal co-sponsor. Senators Bingaman and Hutchison are co-chairs of the Senate Hispanic-Serving Institutions Coalition.

HACU commends the authors and supporters of these bills. HACU again calls upon their leadership to now guide efforts to ensure these proposals become law.

Graduate education funding for HSIs will lay the foundation for a new era of Hispanic higher education excellence, which will enrich every one of us by bringing new diversity, ideas and innovations to every professional field of endeavor.

# PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS

National Hispanic higher education and public service leaders gathered in San Antonio in February at a meeting of the HACU-Kellogg Leadership Fellows to support efforts to prepare the next generation of Latino leaders for today's increasingly diverse campuses and communities.

Former U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, also a former San Antonio mayor, said increasing Hispanic higher education leadership ranks must accompany efforts to expand Hispanic student graduation numbers.

He cited the accomplishments of HACU and Hispanic presidents at HACU member Hispanic-Serving Institutions as examples of role models and mentors for the next generation of students and leaders.

Cisneros praised Our Lady of the Lake University President Tessa Martinez Pollack, University of Texas at San Antonio President Ricardo Romo, California State University-Bakersfield President Tomas Arciniega and other members of the HACU Governing Board present during the two-day leadership training program hosted by HACU.

Antonio Perez, the internationally acclaimed president of HACU member Borough of Manhattan Community College of the City University of New York, offered a compelling talk on the role of crisis management in higher education.

His campus suffered the loss of students' lives in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. After the attack, classes were cancelled while the college served as a temporary emergency command center for the city.



*Pictured: Back Row, From Left: Tomas Arciniega, President, California State University-Bakersfield; Tomas Morales, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, Cal Poly Pomona; Eliseo "Cheo" Torres, Vice President of Student Services, University of New Mexico; Former U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros; David Leon, Director of the Serna Center and Chicano Studies; Santos Rivera, Assistant to the President, Northeastern Illinois University; Patrick Valdez, Director, HACU-Kellogg Leadership Fellows Program; Tessa Martinez Pollack, President, Our Lady of the Lake University. Front Row, From Left: Ricardo Fernandez, President, Lehman College, City University of New York; Ben Cuellar, Dean, College of Health and Human Services, California State University-Fresno; Lourdes Oroza, Dean of Academic Affairs, Miami-Dade College-Wolfson Campus; Santos Martinez, Vice President of Student Affairs, Coastal Bend College; Bea Espinoza, District Director, Community Development, Dallas County Community College District; Janice Chavez, Interim Dean, Division of Graduate Studies and Research/Grants and Contracts, California State University-Bakersfield; Sandra Pacheco, Vice President of Student Affairs, St. Edward's University; Thomas Martinez, Assistant to the President, California State University-Bakersfield. Photo by Andrés Pérez*

California public television writer and producer Sandra Membrilla Robbie screened her Emmy Award-winning documentary, *Mendez v. Westminster: For All the Children/Para Todos los Niños*, which described a little-known court case that made California the first state in the nation to end school segregation seven years before *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The HACU-Kellogg Leadership Fellows represent HACU member colleges and universities in California, Florida, Texas, Illinois and New Mexico.

They are part of the Kellogg Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) Leadership Fellows Program, funded through the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education

with a four-year, \$6 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The Alliance is comprised of the leadership of HACU representing Hispanic-Serving Institutions, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) representing Tribal Colleges and Universities, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Organizers predict that by the end of this decade, half the participants in the Kellogg MSI Leadership Program will be serving as a president or high-ranking administrator at a minority-serving college or university.

## HACU WELCOMES 22 NEW MEMBERS!

HACU started the year off welcoming 22 new member colleges and universities. As of March 4, 2004, these are:

### National Member and Partner Institutions:

Arkansas State University (Arkansas)  
 Heald College, Administration Office (California)  
 University of Colorado at Denver (Colorado)  
 Albertus Magnus College (Connecticut)  
 University of Tampa (Florida)  
 Roosevelt University (Illinois)  
 Chicago State University (Illinois)  
 Indiana State University (Indiana)

Fort Hays State University (Kansas)  
 William Paterson University (New Jersey)  
 University of New Mexico, Gallup Campus (New Mexico)  
 Nevada State College (Nevada)  
 University of Cincinnati (Ohio)  
 University of Dayton (Ohio)  
 Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania)  
 University of Scranton (Pennsylvania)  
 El Centro College (Texas)

South Plains College (Texas)  
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia)

### International Members:

Universidad de Viña del Mar (Chile)  
 Universidad del Norte (Paraguay)  
 Escuela de Administración de Empresas (Spain)

## ALLIANCE FOR EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION CALLS FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

A new report on how to close the technology gap for the fastest-growing part of the U.S. work force calls for new investments in those colleges and universities with the expertise and best access to “emerging majority” populations.

“Providing equal technological opportunities to all Americans will not only have a profound impact on the U.S. education system, but also will have far-reaching consequences for the nation’s economic competitiveness, social stability, cultural richness and homeland security,” states the report from the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education.

The report, “Serving the Nation: Opportunities and Challenges in the Use of Information Technology at Minority-Serving Colleges and Universities,” includes findings from the first national survey of all Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) focusing on information technology use. The report was released at a briefing in Washington, D.C.

“Certainly, we have much at stake in the Hispanic higher education community in this national call to comprehensively address the need to close the digital divide between minority and non-minority populations in this country,” said HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores. HACU is a founding member of the Alliance.

The nation’s Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) will be “critical players,” because they are already at the forefront of every substantial effort to address technology needs of their students and the communities beyond their campuses.

However, the report also points out that these historically under-funded institutions, serving a disproportionately lower-income student population, cannot succeed without substantial new funding.

“The vitality of the national economy will be linked to the nation’s willingness to invest in the capabilities of these institutions to prepare their students in the latest information and communication technology systems,” said a Foreword to the report by Flores from HACU representing HSIs; Gerald Gipp, Executive Director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium representing TCUs, and Frederick Humphries, President and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education representing HBCUs.

“Technology is a common issue across all of our MSIs. Our working together across HSIs, HBCUs and TCUs for this report shows the strength we can marshal in conducting research and collecting real data to support our positions on the critical need to increase investments in and to take positive steps to

strengthen technology at our campuses,” said Alex Ramírez, HACU Executive Director for Information Technology Initiatives. Ramírez played a lead role in research for the report as a member of the Alliance’s Technology Expert Group.

“Despite the thoroughness of this important report, there is still a need to gather additional data and understanding of the use of technology at our institutions,” Ramírez added. “This is still an evolving area, and advancing quickly. More research is needed so that technology can be the leverage to advancing the teaching, learning, research and service needs of our colleges and universities.”

Among the report’s recommendations is that Congress pass the proposed Minority-Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act, which would provide as much as \$250 million annually for technology education at MSIs.

There is also a call for the establishment of a Hispanic-Serving Institution Program at the National Science Foundation to use technology to enhance undergraduate education at HSIs.

“This report provides compelling evidence of the need to move our national dialogue about technology beyond basic concerns about hardware and software,” said Jamie Merisotis, President of the Institute for Higher

Education Policy, the Washington-based research organization that prepared the report. “We need to focus on how IT is being used at minority-serving institutions, and why investments in them could have an enormous impact on the nation’s future workforce development.”

While 70 percent of non-Hispanic whites use computers, only 56 percent of African Americans, 49 percent of Hispanics and 27 percent of rural Native Americans use computers. The report found that less than half (45 percent) of students at MSIs own computers, compared to 80 percent of non-MSI students.

Despite a lack of funding, some MSIs have become leaders in IT outreach.

HACU member Miami Dade College in Florida, which was showcased in the report, has used technology to increase student retention and success through the use of “tel-e advisors,” as well as online registration and financial aid information.

HACU member University of Texas at El Paso also was showcased in the report. It is one of only two U.S. universities to establish an international Internet 2 link with Mexico. The university’s distance education programs have been labeled among the best in the country.

To download a copy of the report, visit [www.msi-alliance.org](http://www.msi-alliance.org).



*HACU President and CEO Antonio Flores joins the leadership of the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education to call for new technology investments for Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other Minority-Serving Institutions.*

## ENHANCING THE IT REACH OF MSIs

By Alex Ramirez, HACU Executive Director,  
Office of Information Technology Initiatives

**H**ACU is a partner in a national initiative that has proven remarkably effective at helping those higher education institutions serving the largest concentrations of the country's minority students to become fully engaged participants in the Information Age.

The Advanced Networking with Minority Serving Institutions (AN-MSI) initiative was created to collectively address the digital divide with support from a four-year, \$6 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Through this grant, AN-MSI is developing crucial information technology (IT) campus infrastructures at the country's Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

EDUCAUSE, which was awarded the grant as the premier association for IT in higher education, partnered with HACU representing HSIs, the Executive Leadership Council and National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education representing HBCUs, and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium representing TCUs.

As a result of this groundbreaking new partnership, numerous MSIs have directly benefited from an initiative that has enhanced the IT capacity of several of these campuses, and also allowed these institutions to share expertise and resources.

As a result of AN-MSI, state-of-the-art wireless backbone systems were installed at remote TCUs, providing much needed Internet connectivity and setting a distance record in the process. A similar wireless system is being piloted at HSIs in Puerto Rico as part of a possible regional network to greatly enhance the island's network capability. HBCUs are now exploring how to secure wireless networks to greatly increase the connectivity speed of their campus IT systems.

### INNOVATION

Prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, AN-MSI enlisted HSIs in Southern California to form a network security support partnership. As a result, the participating HSIs obtained a \$3.2 million U.S. Department of Education grant—setting the model for

collaborative grants—to fund a remote security center and to develop campus security training and capability.

Their efforts have led to collaborative efforts with the EDUCAUSE/Internet 2 Computer and Network Security Task Force, and CERT at Carnegie-Mellon to promote this new network security model to the higher education community. With AN-MSI seed money, an HBCU then created a new commercial remote security monitoring system.

Establishing a strategic IT direction is critical for the effective use of IT to meet campus learning and research goals and manage costs. Early on, AN-MSI supported a general, community-wide IT strategic plan for TCUs called the Circle of Prosperity.

Three HSIs in the Bronx have engaged in a collaborative strategic planning process setting individual and collaborative plans. The City University of New York system supports 80 percent of this novel approach, leveraging AN-MSI money and assistance. In cross-community collaboration, an HSI is employing an IT strategic planning process developed for HBCUs by the Executive Leadership Council that assisted the HSI in its strategic planning.

### LEADERSHIP

Leadership development is essential to all initiatives in higher education. To help college presidents and other executives understand IT, AN-MSI allowed several to attend Seminars on Academic Computing—a small, premier conference for IT leaders.

More than 20 HSI presidents and administrators attended a HACU pre-conference session co-sponsored by the IBM Foundation and addressed by the presidents of HACU and the foundation. At this session, IBM pre-released the landmark "Latinos and Information Technology" report, which was produced by the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute and included contributions from AN-MSI.

Through conferences and AN-MSI "All-Hands" quarterly meetings, MSI Chief Information Officers (CIOs) and other campus IT leaders learn IT management and leadership skills, exchange ideas and information on effective practices, and engage in informal peer mentoring, in addition to setting project direction.



*Alex Ramirez, Executive Director for  
Information Technology Initiatives,  
Hispanic Association of  
Colleges and Universities*

An online IT training service, KnowledgeNet ([www.knowledgenet.com](http://www.knowledgenet.com)), was introduced as a pilot project to outstanding reviews, and their services are now available at a 27 percent discount.

The award-winning Student Technical Services program, originally established by the University of Wisconsin, is now being implemented at eight MSIs, and was introduced to others through three regional workshops to help meet critical IT staffing shortages, and to address future campus IT workforce needs. MSI students and staff manage the programs providing IT support to the campuses.

AN-MSI has hosted six video conferences, organized by the University of Texas at El Paso, a HACU member HSI, to discuss issues on shaping distance education to meet the needs of the changing college student demography.

In a partnership profiled in the Chronicle of Higher Education, AN-MSI also works with dot.edu from the University of Wisconsin to assist with distance learning training and services, and distributed, remote hosting of online courses.

AN-MSI has provided valuable technical assistance directly to participating MSIs. Through the NSF-funded Network Resource Startup Center, AN-MSI reviewed one HSI's major network upgrade, saving the campus from a costly error and enabling the campus to partner with Cisco to showcase a new product line at

*Continues on page 8.*

## THE PROMISE OF “GIGABIT OR BUST” TECHNOLOGY FOR UNDER-SERVED LATINO COMMUNITIES

Providing technologically under-served Latino communities with next-generation broadband access can grow high-paying jobs and new wealth in California and other states, according to a new report on how to promote One Gigabit or Bust™ technology to close today’s digital divide.

The comprehensive white paper, “Fostering a Collaborative Vision of a One Gigabit Ubiquitous Network for California’s Latino Community,” from HACU and the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), is now available at the CENIC web site at [www.cenic.org/GB/pubs/latinowp.pdf](http://www.cenic.org/GB/pubs/latinowp.pdf).

“While this report concentrates on introducing promising next-generation technologies to California’s Latino communities, the potential to eventually

benefit Hispanic communities and the colleges that serve them throughout the United States is tremendous,” said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores.

The report is the result of the findings of a workshop at HACU’s 17th Annual Conference in California last year hosted by CENIC’s One Gigabit or Bust™ Roundtable Latino Education Issues Task Force and HACU’s Office of Information Technology Initiatives.

Susan Estrada is the Director of the One Gigabit or Bust Initiative. Alex Ramirez, Executive Director of the HACU Office of Information Technology Initiatives, chairs the Latino Education Issues Task Force.

The report describes the means to leapfrog over the current digital divide between minority and non-minority

access to basic information technology by providing minority communities access to the near-instantaneous flow of information possible through gigabit broadband communications technologies.

One gigabit-per-second technology, for example, represents more than a thousand-fold increase in the speed of relaying information over today’s commercial DSL and cable broadband networks.

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving the HACU member California State University and University of California systems, the California Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Southern California, HACU member California Community Colleges and the state’s K–12 school system.

## A CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE ‘REVOLUTION’

Cyberinfrastructure developments will prove essential to enhancing the future scientific and engineering research capacities of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Its significance is being strongly felt throughout the scientific and engineering research and educational community as it enables a new way of doing science and engineering.

“There is a major evolution, if not revolution, taking place in science and technology of importance to HSIs as the main providers of higher education to the next generation of Hispanic scientists, engineers and the professoriate,” said Alex

Ramírez, Executive Director of the HACU Office of Information Technology Initiatives. Ramírez cited a report, “Revolutionizing Science and Engineering through Cyberinfrastructure,” from the National Science Foundation’s Advisory Committee for Cyberinfrastructure.

The report explains that the usual two approaches to science, theoretical and experimental, “have been extended to *in silico* simulation,” enabling researchers to explore more possibilities with greater fidelity than ever before. “Advanced networking enables people, tools, and information to be linked in ways that reduce

barriers of location, time, institution, and discipline,” the report stated.

“An important goal of the ACP (Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Program) must be to more effectively include Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) ... and other underrepresented groups into mainstream scientific and engineering research and education,” the report also stated.

According to Ramírez, “If this new way of doing science is not taught at HSIs, this could dramatically increase the digital divide, and lessen the abilities of Hispanics to become an effective part of the next generation of scientists and engineers.”

## ENHANCING THE IT REACH OF MSIS (Continued from page 7.)

considerable savings.

About 50 campuses have been visited by small AN-MSI teams to assess campus networks and information technology organizations, and to provide recommendations. AN-MSI produced a well-received booklet, “Mainstream Network Model: Guidelines to Upgrading Campus Networks,” for use by MSIs.

### COMMUNITY

The overriding accomplishment of AN-MSI is in building a sense of community among the minority organizations that has allowed them to come together to solve diverse IT problems, share their expertise and provide support within their respective

communities and across MSI communities.

AN-MSI has raised the profile and engagement of MSIs within the mainstream higher education IT community, to mutual benefit. Collaboration, human networking, is the mechanism by which AN-MSI meets its goals and the IT capacity building and workforce development goals of MSIs and the NSF.

The phenomenal success of the AN-MSI initiative is the best evidence of the need to expand this undertaking as an MSI-led program for IT capacity building, minority workforce development and education. The current project has reached only a third of the more than 380

MSIs in this country.

Much remains to be done to assist in meeting the educational, workforce development, and research needs and goals of MSIs, the communities they serve, and the nation as a whole as the demography shifts to a “minority majority”—as already has happened in the country’s most populous state, California.

The goal now is to seek the means to allow this initiative to continue and evolve to meet these needs, build upon mechanisms developed and maintain the momentum of an extraordinary success story for our minority higher education community.

## NEW HACU/DoD TASK FORCE MEETS AT PENTAGON



A new HACU/DoD Project Partnership Task Force formed by HACU and the Department of Defense (DoD) met for the first time at the Pentagon in February to discuss ways to increase federal funding for research, faculty exchanges and student internship opportunities at HACU member colleges and universities. HACU members of the HACU/DoD Project Partnership Task Force are: Donald Averill, Chancellor; San Bernardino Community College District, California; Dolores Fernandez, President, Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College, City University of New York; Ricardo Romo, President, University of Texas at San Antonio; Christine Johnson, President, Community College of Denver, Colorado; and, Jose Mendez, President, Ana G. Mendez University System, Puerto Rico.

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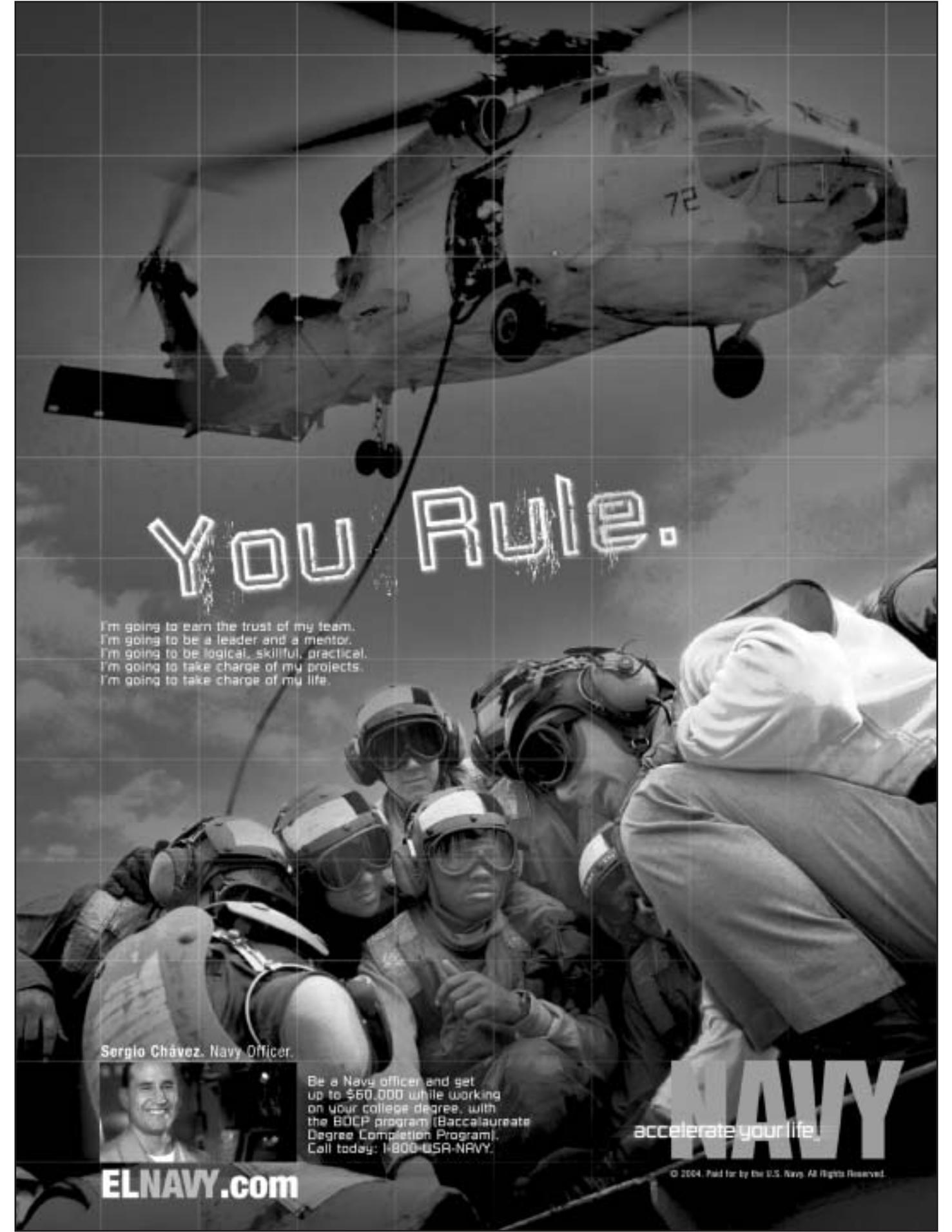
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