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HACU Statement on California’s May Revise Higher Education Budget

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) thanks Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for releasing a May Revise budget that increases funding for higher education, including all of the Cal Grant programs.

Despite the severe economic crisis, the 2010-11 California May Revise continues to restore the “one-time” cuts sustained in 2009-10 by the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU). In addition, the Governor’s budget provides some enrollment growth funding for the Community Colleges (CCC), CSU and UC. HACU applauds the significant commitment to higher education these two actions demonstrate during difficult economic times.

Also, the May Revise rescinds the Governor’s January proposal to eliminate Competitive Cal Grants, and provides \$45.5 million to provide access to low-income students to higher education. No longer under consideration are proposals in the Governor’s January Budget that would have eliminated \$111.8 million for UC and CSU enrollment growth and reduced Cal Grants by \$79 million by freezing income eligibility and award. These were related to contingent federal funds triggers.

“We laud the Governor for a budget that recognizes the importance that higher education will play in getting California back on the road to economic recovery,” said Antonio R. Flores, President and CEO of HACU. “We understand that this is a very difficult budget year, and that many of the other cuts proposed will affect Latino families, but we look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature on a final budget that provides Latino students with access and success in California’s system of higher education.”

HACU was established in 1986 with a founding membership of 18 institutions. Today, HACU represents approximately 400 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Portugal and Spain. HACU’s regional office in Sacramento represents its membership in the western region of the U.S. HACU is the only national educational association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

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