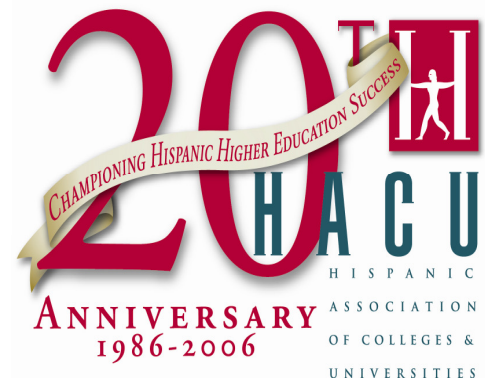


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HACU responds to Governor Schwarzenegger's May Revise Budget Changes to Higher Education

SACRAMENTO, CA – While pleased with Governor Schwarzenegger's overall investment in higher education, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was disappointed that the Governor's proposed May Revise did not include funding for Student Academic Preparation and Education Programs. The Governor removed \$7 million from the California State University System and \$17.3 million from the University of California in academic preparation funds. These programs are essential to the academic success of many Latino students.

HACU applauds the Governor's continued commitment to buying out the fee increases at the CSU and UC systems, increasing the maximum size of the Cal Grant award available to those attending private colleges and universities, and equalizing funding and investing in career technical education at California community colleges. In addition, the Governor has proposed funding for undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, a proposal which will begin to address California's critical health care needs, including the special needs of the Latino community.

"HACU hopes that the California Legislature will pass a budget for higher education which includes funding for academic preparation programs. Additional funding for the three public higher education systems and the Cal Grant program is a good beginning, but academic preparation is essential for many students to attain their dreams of completing a college degree," said Antonio Flores, President and CEO of HACU.

Currently, HACU has 99 members in the state of California and in September of 2005 opened a regional office in Sacramento to address Hispanic higher education legislative and policy issues in the western region of the U.S.

HACU represents more than 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America and Spain. Although its member institutions in the U. S. represent less than 10% of all higher education institutions nationwide, together they are home to more than two-thirds of all Hispanic college students. HACU is the only national educational association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).