



HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

*Celebrating*  
**30**  
*years*

*of Higher Education Advocacy and Congressional Support*

**HACU 30<sup>th</sup> National Capitol  
Forum on Higher Education**

**April 29-30, 2025**

Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill  
Washington, D.C.



# Letter from President and CEO



**W**elcome and thank you for joining us at our most important advocacy event, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' National Capitol Forum on Higher Education in Washington, D.C. Every year HACU brings together administrators, faculty, staff and students from the Association's member institutions to meet with elected officials and government leaders and advocate for the legislative priorities of Hispanic-Serving Institutions. After its founding in 1986, HACU hosted its first Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C. in 1995, and this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Capitol Forum event bringing delegations to Capitol Hill.

Colleges and universities are essential to a thriving economy and our nation's future as a global leader. Your voice is crucial to America's continued success and prosperity, and our leaders need to hear directly from you the need to take action in supporting HSIs and the students they serve.

The two-day Forum commences with pre-conference workshops. The Opening Plenary luncheon will be followed by a Unity Plenary, then a discussion of HACU's Legislative Agenda, as well as sessions with speakers and presenters on the current issues HSIs and their supporters are facing. We will also be hosting a "Status of Dreamers and DACA Recipients: A Forum" event on May 1, to discuss the challenges faced by Dreamers and DACA recipients.

HACU asks that while you are on your Capitol Hill visits, you advocate for greater federal investments in HSIs and request congressional support in six priority areas: equitable funding for HSIs; the passage of the HERE Act; increasing authorization levels for Title V-Part A and Title V-Part B; immigration reform; increasing the Pell Grant; and establishing a Capital Financing Program for HSI infrastructure upgrades. These conversations are necessary to convince our congressional leaders that greater federal investment in HSIs and programs that contribute to student success are essential to not only HSIs and their students but all colleges and universities in our country.

Our voices together are stronger and can make the difference in pressing legislators to increase federal funding for these institutions vital to the future success of future generations. We hope you will share HACU's Legislative Agenda, higher education priorities and resources shared at this Forum with your campus communities and leaders and encourage them to engage members of Congress and enlist others in continued advocacy supporting our HSIs.

HACU's Governing Board always provides exemplary leadership and guidance to advance our mission, for which they have our thanks, as well as our Corporate and Philanthropic Council for their unwavering support. All our sponsors and partners have our gratitude for their contributions towards making this event possible. And we are especially grateful that you are a part of this year's Capitol Forum to champion success in higher education for all our students.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antonio R. Flores". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Antonio R. Flores  
President and CEO

# Letter from Governing Board Chair



**A**s chair of HACU's Governing Board, I am honored to welcome you to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' premier advocacy event, especially the students with us in Washington, D.C. Together we effect positive change for our institutions and create a brighter future for the nation by enlisting the future generations of higher education success.

We are excited to feature our second year of the "HSInnovators" student track of the National Capitol Forum which includes pre-conference sessions that focus on "Successfully Advocating for Hispanic-Serving Institutions." Students will also participate on the session "Crafting and Delivering your HSI Advocacy Pitch," which highlights the essential elements of creating a compelling pitch in preparation for meeting with Congressional leaders.

Our visits to Capitol Hill are central to our efforts in advocating for increased HSI funding by bringing our collective voices in advocacy, ensuring Congress understands the critical role HSIs play in educating millions of students across the country.

The two-day event will conclude Wednesday evening with a Capitol Hill Reception, "Celebrating 30 Years of Higher Education Advocacy and Congressional Support." It is an opportunity to meet and network with leaders who are key to supporting the Association's mission of championing Hispanic higher education success.

Thank you again for your participation in HACU's Capitol Forum and for supporting HACU in its mission of advocating for the students at our member institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.S. Muñoz", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Juan S. Muñoz  
 HACU Governing Board, *Chair*  
 Chancellor  
 University of California, Merced



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National University is proud to support HACU's 30th Annual

## **National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education**

in Washington, D.C.

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# HACU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities offers many scholarship opportunities provided by various partners. These scholarships can help students cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and other expenses.



Build your scholarship profile today and let our system automatically match you with HACU scholarships. New scholarships are added throughout the academic year.

Learn More:  
[www.hacu.net/scholarships](http://www.hacu.net/scholarships)



**HACU**

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# Pre-Conference Agenda

Most sessions take place at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill, unless otherwise noted.  
(Agenda Subject to change)

Note: All times are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

## Tuesday, April 29

**7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Registration/Information/Cybercafe**  
**Grand Ballroom Foyer - Lower Lobby Level**

**7:00 - 8:00 a.m.**

**#HSInnovators: Student Track Breakfast**  
(For Students Only)  
**Atrium Ballroom Foyer - Mezzanine Level**

**8:00 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Coffee Break**

**8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

**#HSInnovators Student Track Session 1:  
Successfully Advocating for HSIs**  
(For Students Only)  
**Atrium Ballroom Foyer - Mezzanine Level**

This interactive two-hour session introduces students to HACU and its pivotal role in advocating for the over five million students served by 615 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

**Part 1:** The first hour is an engaging presentation about HSIs' diverse demographics, HACU's core advocacy initiatives, and strategies for effectively communicating with Congress. Participants will also learn how to develop personalized "briefing sheets" for their Members of Congress and create compelling advocacy pitches.

**Part 2:** The second hour transitions into a hands-on practice session. Students will break into small groups to apply their new skills, using member briefing sheets to craft and refine advocacy pitches.

**8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Pre-conference Session 1: Federal Funding Opportunities for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)**  
**Springwood - Lower Lobby Level**

Implications of the new Administration's Executive Orders for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

**10:00 - 10:15 a.m.**

**Break**

**10:15 - 11:45 a.m.**

**#HSInnovators Student Track Session 2:  
Crafting and Delivering your HSI Advocacy Pitch**  
(For Students Only)  
**Atrium Ballroom Foyer - Mezzanine Level**

Join us for a student pitch competition, where selected students will deliver their best pitches for the chance to win Southwest Vouchers, an iPad, and cash rewards. Judging criteria will focus on clarity, persuasiveness, and relevance to HSI advocacy.

**10:15 - 11:45 a.m.**

**Pre-Conference Session 2: Federal Funding Opportunities for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)**  
**Executive Room - Lower Lobby Level**

Federal funding from a legislative staff perspective.



*Celebrating*  
**30** *years*  
*of Higher Education Advocacy and Congressional Support*

**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS/SPONSORS**

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**The Official Airline of HACU's  
30<sup>th</sup> National Capitol Forum**



**HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

For 39 years, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) has advocated on behalf of Hispanic-Serving Institutions and the students they serve.

HACU serves its membership through advocacy, conferences, partnerships and educational programs, and offers scholarships and internship opportunities for students.

HACU, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) association representing more than 500 colleges and universities in the U.S., Latin America and Spain, and school districts in the U.S. HACU's headquarters are located in San Antonio, Texas with regional offices in Washington, D.C., Sacramento, California, and Chicago, Illinois.

**Stay Connected with @HACUNews #HACU2025 #FundHSIs**

# 30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Capitol Forum Agenda

Most sessions will take place at the Hilton Washington D.C. Capitol Hill, unless otherwise noted.

(Agenda subject to change)

**Note: All times are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

## Tuesday, April 29

**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**

**Open Plenary Luncheon**

**Grand Ballroom - Lower Lobby Level**

Join national leaders in a high-profile discussion on the policy landscape for HSIs. This session will set the tone for Capitol Forum by addressing major legislative, workforce, and immigration topics impacting our institutions and students.

**1:30 - 1:45 p.m.**

**Break**

**1:45 - 3:15 p.m.**

**MSI Unity Plenary - Building Cross-Sector  
Collaboration**

**Grand Ballroom - Lower Lobby Level**

A focused discussion on coalition-building, shared priorities, and legislative strategy among Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). As the federal landscape continues to evolve, this session will explore how MSIs can align efforts, amplify their collective voice, and shape policies that advance their students and communities.

**3:15 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Coffee Break**

**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**HACU Legislative Agenda Briefing**

**Grand Ballroom - Lower Lobby Level**

Gain an overview of HACU's key legislative priorities for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and engage directly with the Government Relations team. This session will equip attendees with the latest updates on federal policy and advocacy efforts impacting HSIs.

**4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Breakout Session by States**

**Grand Ballroom - Lower Lobby Level**

Participants attending Capitol Hill meetings, grouped by state, will receive important information from HACU's Government Relations team about their meetings and information about HACU's Legislative Priorities.

**Stay Connected with @HACUNews #HACU2025 #FundHSIs**

*Celebrating*  
**30**  
*years*

*of Higher Education Advocacy and Congressional Support*



# Capitol Hill Day

## Agenda

Morning session takes place at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill. Capitol Hill meetings and reception noted.  
(Agenda subject to change)

**Note: All times are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

### Wednesday, April 30

**8:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Registration / Information / Cybercafe**  
**Grand Ballroom Foyer - Lower Lobby Level**

**7:30 - 8:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**8:00 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast Plenary: Advocating for HSIs**  
**Grand Ballroom - Lower Lobby Level**

Kick off the morning with powerful insights on the role of advocacy in elevating Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Attendees will hear directly from Members of Congress about the importance of HSIs in the federal policy landscape and learn how to effectively champion legislative priorities on behalf of their institutions and students.

**10:15 a.m.**

**Attendees depart hotel to Capitol Hill for Congressional Meetings**

**11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Congressional Meetings scheduled by HACU's government relations offices**  
**U.S. Capitol**

(OFF SITE. Meeting times vary according to state delegations. Schedule will be provided.)

**Noon**

**Lunch**

**Capitol Hill Visitors Center Cafeteria**  
**Lunch Stipend for use at the Capitol Visitor Center Cafeteria**

(Lunch stipend will be provided before departing hotel.)

**4:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Break**

**U.S. Capitol**

**5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Capitol Hill Reception**  
**Rayburn Courtyard**  
**45 Independence Avenue SW**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

Capitol Hill Reception - "Celebrating 30 Years of Higher Education Advocacy and Congressional Support"

## We Need Your Feedback

Scan this code with your mobile device to complete an online Post-Capitol Forum Survey.



Survey participants will be entered in a drawing for a Free Registration to the 31<sup>st</sup> National Capitol Forum on Higher Education in Spring 2026, in Washington, D.C.

**Survey Deadline: May 13, 2025**



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## HACU's Job Board for Higher Education and K-12 Job Openings

If you are an employer looking for a diverse pool of job candidates from Prek-12 to Higher Education, the HACU ProTalent Job Board can make your search easier.

The HACU ProTalent Job Board can help companies find qualified candidates and diversify their workforces.

Get up-to-date information on our website [jobs.hacu.net](http://jobs.hacu.net).





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# Excellence in Mental Health on Campus



Through the Excellence in Mental Health on Campus initiative, your institution will join a national cohort that works collaboratively to address campus climate, policies, programs, and services to better support the students on your campus.

For more information, reach out to [emhc@stevefund.org](mailto:emhc@stevefund.org)



## CAMPUS COACHES

Engage with a dedicated coach that will provide guidance throughout the process to improve climate, policies, and services.



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Receive a comprehensive campus-specific needs assessment report based on existing institutional data.



## ACTION PLANNING

Create campus-specific, actionable, and measurable goals to address students' mental health and emotional well-being, with the support of Steve Fund experts and coaches.



## COMMUNITY

Join a national cohort of institutions working to increase the capacity of campus leaders, faculty and staff to sustain culturally appropriate responses to the mental health needs of students.

## OUR MISSION

The Steve Fund is one of the nation's leading nonprofit organizations focused on transforming educational, organizational, and workplace environments to support the mental health and emotional well-being of students. Building knowledge and capacity among organizations serving young people is critical to the Steve Fund's mission. The Steve Fund offers various solutions to assist colleges, universities, nonprofits, and workplaces in enhancing their capacity to promote mental health and emotional well-being among young people.

# #Give2HACU - Annual Giving Campaign

HISPANIC ALLIANCE TO CHAMPION HIGHER EDUCATION

# la HACHE de HACU

HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



# HELP SUPPORT OUR FUTURE

Show your support for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Your donation can have a lasting impact and expand opportunities for student success and improve the quality of their higher education.

**La HACHE is the Spanish word for the letter H. La HACHE de HACU refers to:**

The "H" in the HACU logo, formed by a figure representing Hispanics standing with arms outstretched, reaching toward the future between two pillars symbolizing higher education; and the acronym for HACU's "Hispanic Alliance to Champion Higher Education" (HACHE).



**SCAN here to  
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**[www.hacu.net/donate](http://www.hacu.net/donate)**







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**HACU International Symposium - San José, Costa Rica**

**June 12, 2025**

**Pre-Symposium - Event Executive Leadership Seminar**

**June 9-11, 2025**

Register at [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net)  
Sponsorship opportunities are available



# 31<sup>st</sup> Annual National Capitol Forum on Higher Education **SPRING 2026**

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# HACU 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Forging Transformational Leaders to Uplift Democracy and Prosperity



November 1-3, 2025 / Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center / Aurora, Colorado

HACU's Annual Conference is a unique forum for the sharing of information and ideas for the best and most promising practices in education at Hispanic-Serving Institutions. The HACU ¡Adelante! Leadership Institute (Student Track) will be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference.



Early Bird Registration Deadline is May 31, 2025

## PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Women's Leadership Symposium – Oct. 31

Deans' Forum – Oct. 31

Latino Higher Education Leadership Institute – Nov. 1

PreK-12/Higher Education Collaboration Symposium – Nov. 1

Register at [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net)

Sponsorship, exhibitor and advertising opportunities are available.

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THE CHAMPIONS OF HISPANIC SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**National Headquarters**

4801 N.W. Loop 410, Suite 701  
San Antonio, TX 78229  
Tel: (210) 692-3805  
Email: [hacu@hacu.net](mailto:hacu@hacu.net)

**Washington, D.C. Office**

One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 430  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 833-8361  
Email: [dcgr@hacu.net](mailto:dcgr@hacu.net)

**Western Regional Office**

1107 9th Street, Suite 850  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: (916) 442-0392  
Email: [wro@hacu.net](mailto:wro@hacu.net)

**Midwestern Regional Office**

Chicago, Illinois  
email: [MWRO@hacu.net](mailto:MWRO@hacu.net)

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