

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.

Amanda Miller, J.D.

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary
Department Education

Liz Clark

Vice President, Policy and Research
NACUBO

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.

Sujith Cherukumilli

Education and Workforce Policy Adviser
Senate HELP Committee

Amaris Benavidez

Professional Staff Member
House Committee on Education and the Workforce

30th 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.

Convener: Juan Muñoz, Ph.D., HACU Board Chair, Chancellor, University of California, Merced

Welcome Remarks: Antonio R. Flores, Ph.D.
President and CEO, HACU

Remarks on Immigration and Higher Education:

Kica Matos, J.D.

President

National Immigration Law Center

State-Level Perspectives:

Amanda Winters

Program Director, Postsecondary Education

National Governors Association

Center for Best Practices

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.

Convener: Chancellor Marie Lynn Miranda, Ph.D.
University of Illinois Chicago

Sponsor Remarks: Kim Canning

Vice President of University Partnerships

Kaplan North America

President Remarks:

Daniel López, Jr., Ph.D.

President, Harold Washington College

Institutional Leadership & Best Practices Panel

Moderator: Lena Rodriguez, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Policy and Government Relations, HACU

Panelists:

Angel Rodriguez

Associate Vice Chancellor

San Bernardino Community College District

Xiomara Santos

Executive Director of Government Relations, HACU

Chris Fisk

Senior Vice President

Actum

Declan Kingland

Director of Federal Affairs

Howard University

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.

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.

Convener: Ted Alejandro

San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools

Sponsor Remarks:

Tom Stewart, Ph.D., Executive Vice President
Cause Research Institute, and Co-Chair, Whole Human
Council, National University

Congressional Remarks:

Rep. Juan Vargas [CA]
Rep. Juan Ciscomani [AZ]
Rep. Sylvia Garcia [TX]
Rep. Tony Gonzales [TX]
Rep. Joaquin Castro [TX]

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.)

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

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 -
NEW LOCATION**

**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 31st National Capitol Forum on Higher Education in Spring 2026, in Washington, D.C.

Survey Deadline: May 13, 2025