

# HACU 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

40 Years of Championing Higher Education Success: One Graduate at a Time

October 31 - November 2, 2026

Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center • Chula Vista, California

## Call for Presentations

Submission Deadline: March 6

Notification of proposal acceptance: April 3



HACU  
H I S P A N I C  
A S S O C I A T I O N  
O F C O L L E G E S &  
U N I V E R S I T I E S

The Hispanic Association of College and Universities (HACU) is seeking workshop proposals for its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held on October 31 - November 2, 2026. Proposals are welcomed from individuals with an interest in sharing innovative programs, partnerships, and services for the advancement of underserved student populations in higher education and PreK-12 education as it relates to the theme “40 Years of Championing Higher Education Success: One Graduate at a Time”

The sample topics included within each track are provided as suggestions, and additional relevant topics are welcomed and encouraged.

### Track 1: Capacity-Building for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Emerging HSIs

- Identifying and securing private and corporate foundation grant opportunities to support innovative student and faculty development initiatives.
- Leading and coordinating campus-wide teams to research, write, and submit competitive proposals successfully.
- Transitioning an institution from HSI designation to student success
- Effective partnerships between HSIs and emerging HSIs
- Effective alumni engagement practices and strategies
- Grant funding to assist with strengthening institutional programs, facilities, and services to expand educational opportunities in the age of AI.

### Track 2: Teaching and Learning

- High impact teaching practices such as learning communities, experiential learning, and supplemental instruction
- Integrating new technologies in education (AI Software, Learning Management Systems, Gamification, Adaptive Technology, etc.)
- Leveraging data to guide practice
- Delivering forward-thinking bridge programs to enhance STEM pathways
- Creating practices in the classroom that prioritize inclusiveness and fairness (discipline specific, interdisciplinary, etc.)
- Creating pathways that support college readiness (dual enrollment, summer bridge, P-Tech, etc.)

### Track 3: Student Engagement and Success

- High impact practices in access, retention, and graduation for undergraduate and graduate students
- Systems of support to ensure student well-being, such as mental health services and student advocacy centers
- Programs and services that enable social and economic mobility
- Serving diverse student populations (low income, underserved, first generation, veterans, etc.)
- Effective practices for DACA students
- Successful transfer programs between community colleges and universities
- Effective partnerships between PreK-12 and postsecondary education

### Track 4: Excellence in Leadership

- Developing your own cohort of institutional leaders
- High impact practices in developing high-performance teams
- Developing leadership capacity throughout the organization
- Strategies for fostering diverse perspectives and decision-making.
- How to assess leadership effectiveness: metrics, methods, and impact
- Mentorship, sponsorship, and coaching models to build talent throughout the organization

### Track 5: Federal and State Advocacy, Policy and Research

- State legislation that impacts HSIs and students
- Leveraging Policy Resources to Strengthen HSI Capacity and Impact
- Unlocking Federal Partnerships: Funding and - Research Pathways for HSIs
- From Policy to Practice: How Legislation Shapes the Future of HSIs
- The Legal Landscape for HSIs: Key Developments Affecting Funding and Compliance
- Research and policy analysis on student success in HSIs and HSSDs/PreK-12 School Systems

### Track 6: Global Engagement

- The role of international education
- Cultivation of renewed faculty engagement in internationalization efforts and curriculum development
- New models for comprehensive and inclusive internationalization
- Research in international education as a catalyst for expanding global engagement
- Sustainable development and environmental initiatives

### Track 7: Preparing the Future Workforce

- Responding to industry trends through micro-credentialing, certifications, online programs and stackable courses
- High impact practices for adult learners (ABE, GED, returning students, etc.)
- Effective partnerships in the evolving workforce
- Successful community college practices for students entering the workforce
- Successful guided pathway models
- Aligning curriculum for high-skilled industries
- Leveraging workforce agencies to improve student employment opportunities

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## Conference Format

HACU's Annual Conference features general sessions with speakers, and conference track sessions featuring individual presenters, panel discussions, informative workshops, and facilitated discussions.

Sessions are 75 minutes in length, including time for questions and discussion. We accept the following:

### Session formats:

- **Presentation workshop:** A session focused on sharing topics of interest, lessons learned, or evidence of impact related to the proposed topic. This type of interactive session is composed of one to three presentations in a specific area.
- **Panel session:** An opportunity to provide insights and guidance from several subject matter experts. A panel session composed of two or three presentations on different aspects of a specific topic.
- **Facilitated discussion:** Session on a proposed topic where attendees are invited to share challenges and solutions through conversational engagement and exchange.

No more than four individuals may serve on a panel or workshop session.

In some instances, the HACU review committee may suggest combining presentations similar in content into one workshop or panel.

All conference rooms will be set up to accommodate the maximum number of conference participants possible. LCD projectors, laptops and screens are available to presenters at no cost. Additional equipment, such as speakers and internet can be available at an additional cost to presenters.

## Submission Guidelines

### Proposals submitted under the seven tracks should be built upon:

- Evidence-based best practices that can be replicated at institutions and organizations across the country.
- Partnerships among institutions, school districts, industry and government that leverage and capitalize on growth and opportunities.
- Research and analysis that will form the foundation for transformational change.

### Submissions must include the following:

- Presentation Title (10-word limit)
- Presentation Abstract (50-75 word limit) – A brief description to be included in the conference program
- Presentation Plan (50 word limit) – A brief description that provides an overview of expected audience involvement. Interactive presentations are highly encouraged.
- Presentation Summary (250-300 word limit) – Extended description of proposal for committee review. Proposals will be reviewed for relevance to 2026 conference theme, thoroughness, clarity and expected learning outcomes. HACU reserves the right to edit summaries of accepted presentations for inclusion in the conference program.
- More than one proposal may be submitted, but only one will be accepted per presenter.
- The first presenter listed on the submission form is the lead contact and will provide all contact information for co-presenters to HACU. This individual is responsible for disseminating all correspondence from HACU to co-presenters as well as organizing and facilitating the presentation. All presenters are required to register for the conference and will be able to register at a discounted conference registration rate at \$280 before May 31, 2026. After May 31, 2026 the discounted conference registration rate is \$400.
- **Presentation proposals must be submitted online and will be accepted until March 6, 2026.**
- **Notifications of HACU workshop committee decisions will be made by April 3, 2026.**

For questions or additional information regarding the Call for Presentations process, please contact:  
Darlene Martin, Conference Manager • (210) 576-3208 • [darlene.martin@hacu.net](mailto:darlene.martin@hacu.net)

### ABOUT HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), founded in 1986, is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) association representing more than 500 colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and school districts throughout the U.S.