

HACU 40th 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

Sunday, November 1, 2026

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Workshops

From Vision to Scale: Building AI Capacity Across the CSU

The California State University, the nation's largest system of Hispanic-Serving Institutions, is advancing an access-centered AI strategy across 22 universities serving more than 460,000 students. This session presents a replicable capacity-building roadmap grounded in governance, cross-campus coordination, and public-private partnerships. Presenters will demonstrate how the CSU moved from vision to system-wide scale while centering access, collaboration, and student success outcomes relevant to universities nationwide.

Leveraging Your Institutional Research Team: Partners in Advancing Student Success

This workshop demonstrates how faculty, staff, and institutional leaders can partner with their Institutional Research (IR) office to drive student success initiatives at HSIs and Emerging HSIs. Drawing on LMU's experience, presenters will highlight practical tools and collaborative approaches that support evidence based, equity focused decision making. Participants will identify opportunities to partner with IR to inform decisions and strengthen student outcomes.

HACU Student Programs: HNIP and Uplifting the Future Workforce

The HACU National Internship Program, the nation's largest Hispanic college internship program, has a 31-year history of being recognized by federal and corporate entities for its ability to bring forth opportunities to talented college and graduate students. Through these internships, students develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that make them more competitive for future employment. Learn how students can benefit from paid internships and professional development opportunities through HNIP.

HSI Partnership Model for STEM Transfer Success and Career Mobility

This panel examines how two Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Mercy University and SUNY Westchester Community College, partnered through a U.S. Department of Education Title III initiative to strengthen STEM transfer pathways. The collaboration established joint faculty-mentored undergraduate research teams, along with advising, career development, and transfer support services to reduce barriers and sustain academic momentum. Panelists from both institutions will share outcomes, lessons learned, and replicable strategies for other HSIs seeking to enhance student success and belonging

HACU Professional Leadership Programs —Preparing the Next Generation of Culturally Diverse Leaders

This workshop provides an overview of professional leadership development opportunities offered by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Designed to strengthen the leadership pipeline in higher education, these programs support professionals at various career stages.

HACU Government Relations Briefing

The HACU Government Relations team will provide a briefing and update on higher education policies impacting Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). This session will highlight the latest policy developments on Capitol Hill, including the status of the Federal Fiscal Year appropriations and its impact on the Hispanic higher education community. A portion of this workshop will highlight best practices and strategies amplifying HSI messaging and outreach.



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Advocacy Begins with Us: How HSI Students Shape Policy Initiatives

This student-led session highlights how student government leaders at a Hispanic-Serving Institution engage in legislative advocacy to expand access, strengthen workforce pathways, and advance equitable student success. Student presenters will share their experiences engaging in student government, collaborating with district administrators, and meeting with state representatives to elevate the student voice in policy decisions. Attendees will learn replicable strategies for building successful student-centered advocacy initiatives aligned with institutional priorities.

Meeting Community Needs for Local Workforce Transformation

Community College of Aurora leaders and an industry partner lead a panel discussion exploring innovative strategies to serve underserved communities lacking local higher education access. Learn how three interconnected initiatives, the Commerce City Promise tuition-free program, a new Career and Technical Education training facility, and a corporate college model for noncredit workforce development, are creating pathways to economic mobility for residents through strategic partnerships with business and industry.

Energizing Futures: Advancing Talent, Relationships, and Career Pathways through the Building Hispanic Talent Initiative®

This session highlights the continued evolution and impact of Dominion Energy's Building Hispanic Talent Initiative® (BHTI) Summer Bridge Program, a workforce development effort designed to strengthen the pipeline of Hispanic and Latino talent pursuing STEM and energy careers.