

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



Monday, November 2, 2026

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Workshops

Rebuilding HSI STEM Efforts & Renewing the HSI Mission

After four decades of HACU's advocacy, shifting federal priorities and policy conditions now require renewed strategies to reimagine institutional missions, partnerships, and practices. Drawing insights from research and institutional/national HSI initiatives, participants will explore strategies for rebuilding collaborations, strengthening institutional commitments to serving Latinx and historically underserved students in STEM, and positioning these efforts to pursue new funding and grant opportunities that support sustainable, student-centered initiatives.

AI Tutor - Take the Challenge

We all know AI is being used for bad...copy and paste cheating. With the National Science Foundation, we at CircleIn created an AI Tutor for good, that is "cheatproof" and facilitates learning. In the workshop, you're going to get your hands on the AI Tutor, and test drive the future when students are struggling by taking the AI Tutor Challenge.

Financial and Mental Wellness of Hispanic Students

This session will explore key findings from the Student Financial Wellness Survey by Trellis Strategies. The Fall 2025 survey received nearly 13,000 responses from Hispanic students, allowing for rich analysis of topics such as basic needs security, mental health, employment, and perceptions of institutional support within this population. The discussion will feature case studies from institutions that have leveraged their survey results to better support their students through data-informed policies, procedures, and programs.

Engaging Students Through Hands-On Data Analysis Across the Curriculum

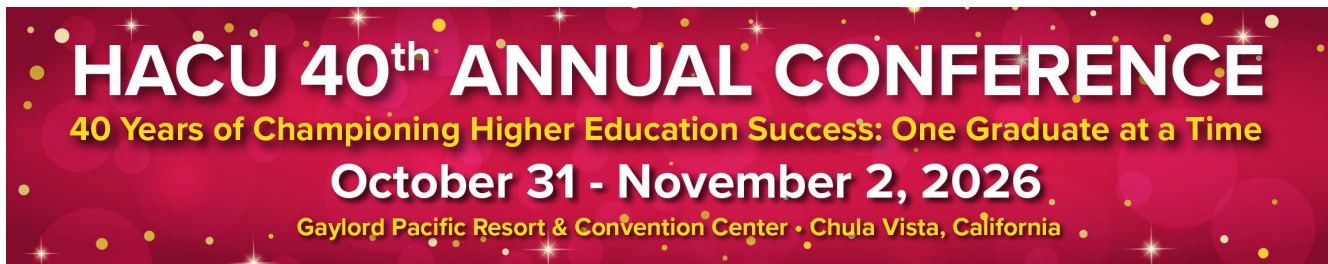
Quantitative reasoning and data analysis are essential skills for student success across the disciplines. This workshop draws on lessons from two NSF-supported initiatives from the HSI Program to demonstrate practical strategies for integrating hands-on data analysis into undergraduate courses, the Data Analysis Research Experience (DARE) program, and the HSI STEM Hub for Innovation in Numeracy Education (HSI-SHINE). Participants will explore approaches that help students develop confidence with data, strengthen analytical skills, and engage more deeply with course content.

Improving Promotion and Tenure Processes Towards a Diverse Academic Workforce

Promotion and tenure (P&T) decision-making is central to ensuring the most meritorious faculty advance in their careers. Still, P&T processes are often misaligned with institutional goals and policies. This workshop draws on NSF supported (#1409928, #2100034, and #2411941) consortium research from 12 universities to examine how P&T decisions diverge from policies and institutional priorities. Participants will develop strategies to navigate P&T processes and identify approaches to promote valid advancement systems.

Collaborative Unlimits: Building a Strategic Roadmap for Global Engagement Through the UNIBE-Partner Alliance

This session invites international higher education institutions to collaborate with UNIBE Costa Rica as partners to develop academic activities, and how international education serves as a catalyst for systemic global engagement. By presenting UNIBE Costa Rica as an institution that meets global competencies, we will demonstrate how strategic alliances can influence global engagement and promote educational success. The presentation highlights strategies to integrate global competencies into the curriculum. Participants will discover how UNIBE and its international partner institutions leverage internationalization to enhance cultural intelligence and bridge the education gap.



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Low-Risk Pathways, Lasting Success: One Student at a Time

Many Hispanic/Latino and first-generation learners face compounding barriers that can limit their academic persistence and career mobility. This session explores how Western Governors University Academy's low-risk, transferable courses, in both Onramps and Certificate programs increase persistence and completion rates of degree programs and prepare students for career success. Participants will learn how learner-centered, equitable design can increase persistence, readiness, and long-term degree attainment, especially for underserved populations at scale.