HACU PATHWAYS EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Take the Next Step

An Eight-Week Leadership Experience for Emerging Higher Education Professionals offered by the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities.

This online program equips early-career higher education professionals with the knowledge, practical skills, and professional network needed to lead with confidence, contribute to institutional success, and prepare for future supervisory and leadership opportunities.

Why This Program?

Early-career professionals in higher education are increasingly called upon to lead projects, influence teams, collaborate across departments, and advance institutional priorities, often before they have had the opportunity to develop these leadership skills formally. This program provides a structured pathway to leadership growth, combining practical, higher education-focused curriculum, interactive learning experiences, and meaningful engagement with experienced leaders. Participants will build the skills, confidence, and professional networks needed to lead effectively and make a greater impact within their institutions.

Who Should Apply

The program is designed for higher education professionals in their first five years of working experience who are seeking to strengthen their leadership knowledge and skills. Ideal participants include professionals working in academic affairs, student affairs, enrollment management, student success, institutional support services, and other entry-level higher education roles.

Key Focus Areas

The curriculum focuses on five essential leadership competencies:

- Leadership
- Professional Identity
- Strategic Planning
- Communication
- Data-informed Decision-making

Program Format

The program is offered twice each year.

- Spring cohort - 8 virtual sessions
- Fall cohort - 8 virtual sessions

Leadership Immersion Experience

Participants may also register for the Leadership Immersion Experience, which begins with a one-day, in-person learning session and continues with attendance at HACU's Capitol Forum (Spring cohort) or HACU's Annual Conference (Fall cohort). The experience offers additional professional development and networking opportunities.

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Participant Outcomes

- Strengthened leadership competencies
- Increased readiness for supervisory roles
- Practical skills that can be immediately applied
- Greater confidence to lead and influence
- Expanded professional networks
- Stronger preparation for career advancement

Program Features / Experience

- Structured online leadership curriculum
- Interactive learning opportunities
- Engagement with experienced higher education leaders
- Leadership Immersion Experience

Participant Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Have one to five years of full-time professional experience in higher education.
- Hold a bachelor's degree.

Applications are available for Spring and Fall cohorts each year. Scan the QR Code for current dates, costs, and additional program information.

Learn More & Apply
Info at leadership@hacu.net

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