

AZ HSI Consortium: Building Community & Capacity Among AZ HSIs

December 15, 2020

Dear Arizona Hispanic Serving Institution Presidents,

We hope that you and your college/university are ready to embrace the new calendar year. In anticipation of 2021 and the years ahead, it is with great excitement that we invite you to be part of the **AZ HSI Consortium**, a statewide community of collaborators who are leading Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) across Arizona.

PURPOSE. The purpose of the consortium is to serve as a cooperative community of HSIs aimed at strengthening our individual and collective capacity to intentionally support conditions necessary for Latinx student success in Arizona. As such, the consortium seeks to support shared professional development and networking opportunities, the exchange of relevant and just in time information and resources, and cultivate collaboration towards seeking federal and foundation funding and other important partnerships. These goals and activities were informed by an extensive review process led by the [University of Arizona](#), which involved content analysis and interviews that examined the purpose and structure of HSI consortiums in other states, including [California](#), [Texas](#), [Nevada](#), and Florida.

AZ HSIs. The number of [HSIs in Arizona](#) has grown to a total of 16 institutions, along with [14 Emerging HSIs](#). This growth signals both an increase in the number of Latinx students pursuing post-secondary education at two- and four-year institutions in Arizona and the opportunity and responsibility for ensuring that our institutions meaningfully center the HSI designation and enact it in ways that attentively serve and support educational success for our Latinx students and those from low-income households.

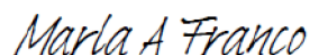
NEXT STEPS. A virtual launch meeting is scheduled for **January 25, 2:00-3:00 pm** to welcome you all to the consortium, discuss strategies for collectively developing this community to be of mutual benefit, and to strategize an effective structure for supporting the AZ HSI Consortium moving forward. We will share structures and insights that we gathered from HSI consortiums in other states to provide context as we think about how best to meet our own needs here in Arizona.

Please [click here](#) to indicate your attendance at the launch meeting. We highly encourage Presidents to attend this first meeting, along with your next level of leadership who is most likely to engage in on-going convenings. Thereafter, there will be opportunities for others from your campuses to engage.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Marla A. Franco, Assistant Vice Provost, Hispanic Serving Institutions, The University of Arizona, marlafranco@email.arizona.edu.

We look forward to working with you to launch the AZ HSI Consortium.

Sincerely,



Marla A. Franco, Ph.D.
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Assistant Vice Provost, HSI Initiatives
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Rey Rivera, Ed.D.
Co-Founder, AZ HSI Consortium
President, Estrella Mountain Community College