



Hispanic Serving  
Institution Initiatives



# Annual Report

2022

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UArizonaHSI

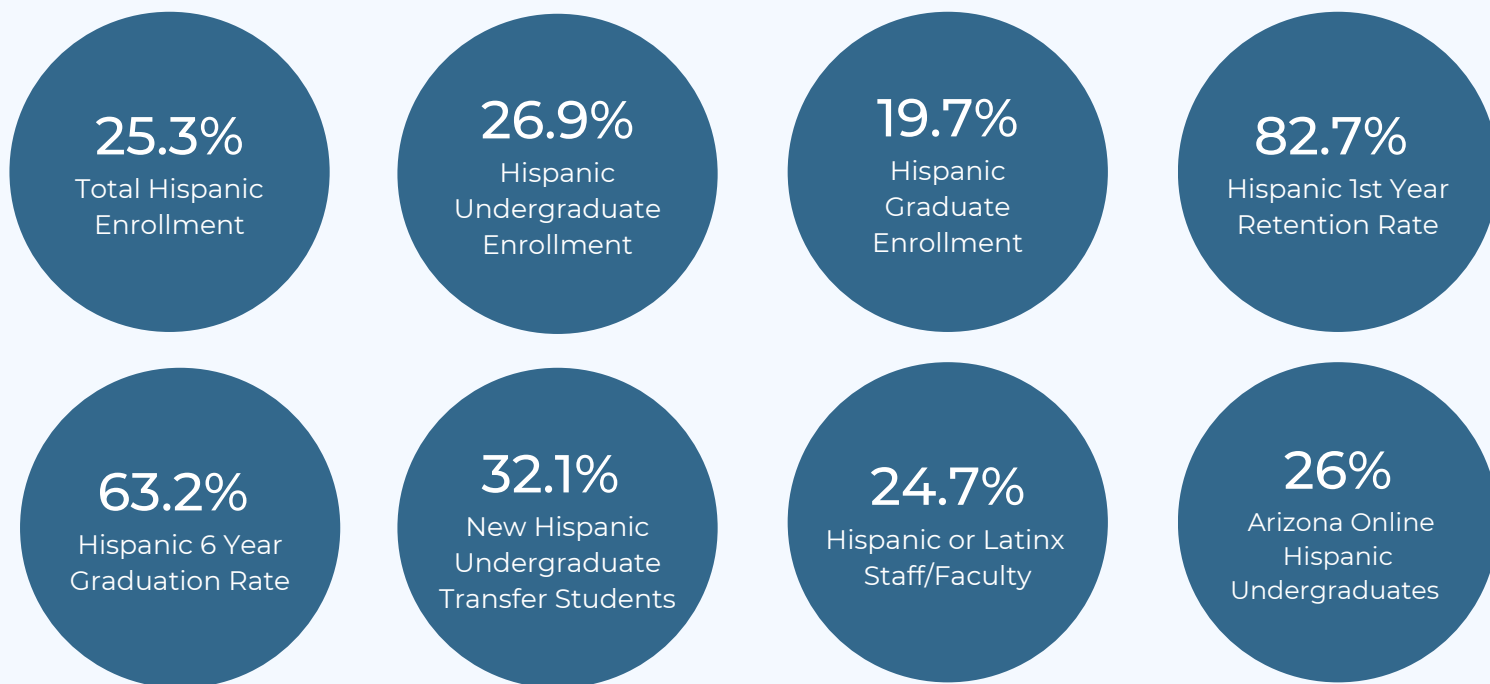


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# By the Numbers



Source: University Analytics & Institutional Research



Tied 7th in the nation for conferring PhDs to Hispanic students

Source: National Science Foundation

# Recognitions



## Seal of Excelencia

The University of Arizona was one of nine universities to receive the inaugural Seal of Excelencia in 2019 and recertified in 2022 for another three years. UArizona's 2022 recertification application was prepared by HSI Fellows, Dr. Karla Cruze-Silva, Associate Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, Dr. Jocelyn Fisher, Coordinator, Faculty Affairs, College of Applied Science & Technology, Michelle Menninger, Director, Enrollment Management & Student Services, Distance Education, and Dr. Erin Paradis, Lecturer, Business Communication, Eller College of Management.



## 2022 Fulbright HSI Leader

The University of Arizona was recognized as a Fulbright HSI Leader by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. UArizona was one of 35 HSIs to be recognized in the inaugural class and was one of 43 to earn the honor this year.



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# Communications

HSI Initiatives (HSII) has a full suite of communication tools to disseminate opportunities and announcements and highlight collaborations and HSI aligned practices. Following HSI Initiatives on social media and receiving the monthly newsletter help cultivate awareness, connection, and engagement.



Twitter followers: **3,645**  
190.2% increase over 2021



Instagram followers: **1,079**  
20.2% increase over 2021



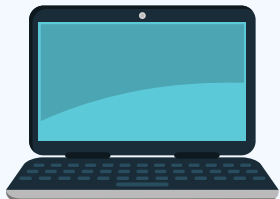
YouTube Channel: **21** subscribers



Facebook followers: **1,159**  
26.12% increase from 2021



Newsletter: **811** recipients nation-wide



## HSI Initiatives Website

**645 Sessions** (21% increase from 2021)  
A single visit to the website

**719 Total users** (25% increase from 2021)  
An individual person browsing the website

**332 New users** (38% increase from 2021)  
Someone visiting the website for the first time

## User Overview by Location

Tucson, AZ- 30%  
Phoenix, AZ- 15%  
Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX- 6%  
Denver, CO- 5%  
Los Angeles, CA- 4%

San Antonio, TX- 3%  
San Francisco- Oakland, CA- 3%  
San Diego, CA- 2%  
Portland, OR- 2%  
Washington D.C.- 2%



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# HSII PROGRAMS

Learn more about our signature programs and efforts designed to strengthen *servingsness* in collaboration with campus and community partners.

## HSI Fellows Program

Launched in 2018-2019 by a strategic investment from the Office of the Provost and partnering departments across campus, the HSI Fellows Program is a year-long cohort-based leadership development program. The program serves to strategically further the scope and depth of work around our HSI designation and provides a venue for community-building and career development for a cohort of up to 10 faculty and staff through a project-based leadership experience, mentoring and coaching, and a series of targeted workshops. The program is currently supporting its 5th cohort and has engaged 45 HSI fellows since its inception.



Cohort 4



Cohort 5

## HSI Centering Servingsness Webinar Series

The Centering Servingsness Webinar Series, sponsored by Faculty Affairs and HSI Initiatives, features the scholarship of UArizona faculty and staff, who engage in servingsness efforts that honor the cultures and lived experiences of Latina/o/x, Black, Indigenous, and under-represented students and communities. The series is free and open to the public. In 2020-2021, seven webinars were held with 542 total registrants. In 2021-2022 seven webinars were held with 719 registrants. Seven webinars are scheduled for 2022-2023 and can be viewed on the HSII YouTube Channel.



Servingsness Through Language: Beyond Access...



Enacting Servingsness through Culturally...



What's the Buzz: Servingsness, Humanities...





# HSI Faculty Seed Grant Program

Launched in 2021, the [HSI Faculty Seed Grant Program](#) is offered through Faculty Affairs and HSI Initiatives with funding from Research, Innovation, and Impact (RII). The goal of the fund is to support scholarly research and creative work among early-career faculty that enrich UArizona's designation as an HSI, and advances scholarship that directly impacts Latinx/a/o and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) students and communities, and advances UArizona's Purpose and Values around integrity, compassion, exploration, adaptation, inclusion, and determination.

In 2021, 43 proposals were reviewed by 18 faculty members from across the institution. Seven proposals were awarded funding for AY 2021-2022. In 2022, 10 proposals were received and reviewed by 14 faculty members. Six proposals were awarded funding for AY 2022- 2023. [Click here to view awarded proposals.](#)

# Culturally Responsive Curriculum Development Institute

[The Culturally Responsive Curriculum Development Institute \(CRCDI\)](#) is a week-long, summer immersion focused on training and coaching faculty towards implementation of culturally responsive practices and pedagogy into existing courses of all modalities.

The institute brings together faculty from across the university to thoughtfully redesign an existing course through workshops, discussions, and pedagogical practice. Redesigned courses are guided by models of HSI *servingsness*.

Since launching in June 2021, 36 faculty members from multiple colleges and disciplines have participated in the CRCDI. In total, 40 courses have been redesigned to integrate culturally responsive course design, content, methods, assignments, and assessment. Enrollment in these 40 courses reaches over 6,500 students. When considering that most of these courses will be taught multiple times, the number of students reached by the redesigned courses grows exponentially.



## Collaborators & Supporters

- Office of the Provost
- Faculty Affairs
- Native American Initiatives
- Hispanic Serving Initiatives
- Office of Instruction & Assessment
- Center for University Education Scholarship



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## Latinx Faculty & Staff Association



The Latinx Faculty & Staff Association (LFSA) was established in 2021 and charged with building a sense of community and belonging through the empowerment of the Latinx identity, values and goals. Through voice, support, and service – the LFSA fosters an inclusive workplace in the spirit of culture and the advancement of personal and professional growth. The inaugural LFSA co-chairs are Dr. Lysette Davi, Assistant Director, Honors Global Experience and Ashlee Linares-Gaffer, Associate Professor of Practice, School of Nutritional Sciences and Wellness.

## University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni Club Celebrates 40 Years

The University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni Club celebrated 40 years of Excellence in 2022! They invited alumni, UA friends, and current and future wildcats to attend their 40 years of Excellence event. UAHA is a vibrant, philanthropic fellowship providing financial aid and academic support for UArizona students and future leaders committed to transforming and elevating the Hispanic community. In 2022-2023, UAHA provided \$700,000 in scholarships and their endowment stands at \$1.6 million.



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## Hispanic Heritage Month Football Tailgate

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated September 15th- October 15th. At the University of Arizona we honor the Hispanic culture and know it is filled with diverse and beautiful experiences, identities, and cultures. HSI Initiatives partnered with UA Athletics, the University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni Club and Amazon to host a tailgate filled with food, drinks, music, and community.



## El Día de los Muertos: “Siempre Nos Queremos” Beloved Forever

To celebrate Día de Los Muertos, an interactive art installation was brought from Mexico by “Alfombristas Mexicanos”! The festival included musical performances, folklorico dancers, mariachi, speakers, and a mercado. Thank you to the Co-chairs, Dr. Nadia Alvarez Mexia, Assistant Professor of Practice, Director of Transborder Education Initiatives, & CoDirector, Borderlands Education Center (BEC), W.A. Franke Honors & College of Education and Dr. Sandra Bernal, Lecturer, School of Landscape Architecture.

### Organizers & Sponsors:

- W.A. Franke Honors College
- College of Education
- College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture
- Borderlands Education Center
- Mexico Consulado en Tucson
- Latinx Faculty and Staff Association
- Faculty Affairs
- Housing & Residential Life
- Galeria Mitotera
- Visit Tucson
- Estrella Bakery
- Student Interns

### Musical Performances:

- Fred Fox School of Music
- Just Arts Fellow '22
- Mellon Fronteridades Grad Fellow '21
- Grupo Folklorico Miztontli
- YWCA “A todo Folklore”
- Las Aguilitas de Davis, Davis Bilingual Elementary



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## Amazon Partnership

A sponsorship from Amazon supported HSI Initiatives in launching a Peer Navigator position to support peer internship and career coaching. Melissa Acuña, a senior majoring with Honors in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law and a former Amazon intern, served as the inaugural Peer Navigator. The Peer Navigator assists other students with learning about internship and employment opportunities with Amazon and how to apply for them.



## Centering Servingness in Alumni Engagement

In September 2022, a panel of UArizona alumni discussed their experiences at UArizona and what they have been up to since graduation. They also discussed the importance of our HSI designation and what it means to be an alumni of an HSI. We had a total of 31 participants join us via Zoom.

Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives

Alumni

**Centering Servingness in Alumni Engagement**

**MODERATOR**

**PANELISTS**

**Rocque Perez**  
Marketing & Communications Strategist, University of Arizona

**Manny Felix**  
Founder & CEO at AZ Cyber Initiative Solutions, Architect at Synack, and Reserve at US Navy c/o 2016

**Christina Mercado-Gonzalez**  
Vice President of Corporate Partnerships at AZ Hispanic Chamber of Commerce c/o 1993

**Nicole Santa Cruz**  
Reporter at ProPublica c/o 2008

**Monday, September 12th from 9:00am- 10:00am PST**

Join us virtually as we engage with University of Arizona alumni. The panelist will discuss their experiences at UArizona and what they have been up to since they graduated. We will also be discussing the importance of our Hispanic Serving Institution and what it means to be an alumni of an HSI.

**RSVP: <https://bit.ly/hsialumni>**



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# COALITION BUILDING

Coalition building with key stakeholders across HSIs is essential to advancing the work collectively, exchanging equity focused practices, accelerating advocacy efforts, and partnering on opportunities of mutual interest. The following were either launched by the University of Arizona or are associated by membership.

## AZ HSI Consortium

Launched in 2021, the [AZ HSI Consortium](#) seeks to strengthen the individual and collective capacity of Arizona HSIs to intentionally support conditions necessary for Latinx student success in Arizona. The AZ HSI Consortium aims to bring together all HSIs throughout Arizona to develop a community of practice and engage collectively in professional development, support the exchange of evidence-based and culturally relevant practices, facilitate successful transfer of Latinx students to Arizona universities, and collaborate across HSIs when seeking funding opportunities and other important partnerships.

The launch of the AZ HSI Consortium was initially informed by an extensive review process led by UArizona HSI Fellows, which involved content analysis and interviews that examined the purpose and structure of HSI consortiums in other states, including California, Texas, Nevada, and Florida. Since its inception, the AZ HSI Consortium launched a webpage and email listserv, established a steering committee and two working groups, secured one-year planning grants from the Helios Education Foundation and the Arizona Community Foundation, and hosted an inaugural state-wide summit for nearly 200 attendees.



# AZ HSI Summit

The inaugural AZ HSI Summit took place on October 7, 2022 at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale, Arizona. The summit was a one-day, in-person conference for faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community partners aimed at:

- Showcasing and exchanging evidence-based practices that effectively and intentionally support Latinx students
- Building capacity among faculty and staff to teach and lead at HSIs
- Creating opportunities for networking and community building across AZ HSIs and Emerging HSIs.

The inaugural AZ HSI Summit received an enthusiastic response with 175 attendees and a waitlist of 78. The summit included Dr. Gina Garcia as the keynote speaker, 20 workshop sessions, a student panel, and a networking session. All session materials, an executive summary, and a highlights video can be found on the website.



# Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities

The University of Arizona and 20 other top U.S. research universities announced the formation of the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities, dedicated to increasing opportunities for a population that has been historically underserved by higher education. Goals by 2030:

- Double the number of Hispanic doctoral students enrolled at our universities, and
- Increase by 20% the Hispanic professoriate in our universities.



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## AZ HSI Evidence-Based Practices

The AZ HSI Consortium sought to create a community-informed process to identify, review, catalogue, highlight, and share evidence-based practices within an HSI context known to effectively move the needle towards greater college access, persistence, retention, transfer, and degree attainment for Latinx students in Arizona. In 2022, the AZ HSI Evidence-Based Practices Committee launched its inaugural nomination process to begin collecting evidence-based practices from HSIs in Arizona. This process will uncover and highlight evidence-based practices that produce positive college student outcomes with special attention to culturally affirming and validating educational environments at Arizona HSIs. Selected practices will be highlighted on the AZ HSI Consortium webpage, social media, and during virtual and in-person programming.

## HSI Honors Consortium

In October 2022, the W.A. Franke Honors College and HSI Initiatives launched a national HSI Honors Consortium. The consortium is a cooperative community of over 100 Honors Colleges and Programs at HSIs designed to support the exchange of relevant pedagogical practices, professional development, networking opportunities, information and resources, as well as stimulate potential collaboration for pursuing federal and foundation funding opportunities and other important partnerships. The HSI-Honors Consortium is centered on servingness as an educational, pedagogical, and cultural practice to develop a community that engages collectively in supporting the diversity of Latinx and Latin American student success.





# HSII GRANTS & RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

HSI related Grants & Research Development enables UArizona to thoughtfully and equitably expand and enhance academic offerings, programs and services, and institutional capacity to better serve students from diverse backgrounds.

Receiving HSI designation from the Department of Education does not provide additional assured funding. Instead, institutions who apply and are granted HSI status are eligible to compete for funding opportunities available to HSIs and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

In January 2022, UArizona implemented a tracking mechanism through UAccess Research to track HSI related proposal activity. These data represent the number of proposals submitted in 2022 that advance our commitment to grants and research development as an HSI. Proposals include those that responded to funding opportunities that were for: 1) HSIs only; 2) Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) only; or 3) any funding opportunity that intentionally involves minority students and/or communities/populations.



Proposers who indicate that their proposal is HSI related.

\*153 proposals still pending a decision as of December 2022

## HSI Relief Funds

Between 2020-2022, UArizona awarded more than \$10M in HSI Emergency Relief Funds by the U.S. Department of Education between 2020-2022.

Considerable support was directed at:

- Mental Health & Wellness Resources
- Tech Lending Program
- UA Campus Pantry
- Retention and Degree Completion Initiatives
- Reducing Students' Outstanding Balances



# HSI Grants Development Institute

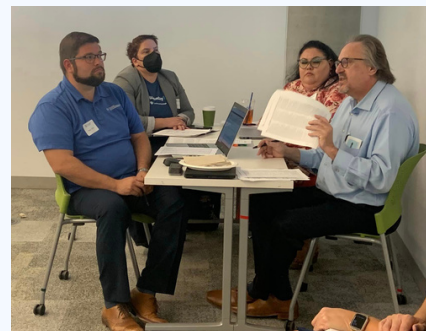
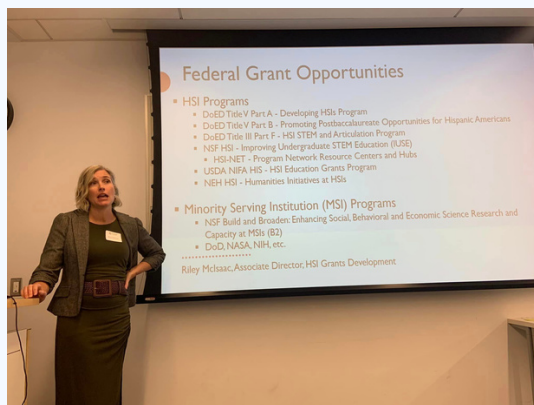
In November 2022, in partnership with Faculty Affairs and Research, Innovation & Impact (RII), HSI held its 2nd annual full-day HSI Grants Development Institute (GDI). The institute's goals are to:

- Generate awareness of HSI federal and foundation funding opportunities
- Strengthen understanding of HSI frameworks essential to informing an intentional design of proposed activities and associated research
- Cultivate potential networks among those with shared equity-focused interests for pursuing future HSI funding opportunities

After a successful inaugural event in 2021 and growing wide-spread interest, the 2022 institute was opened to faculty and staff from other Arizona HSIs. Thirty-five participants attended in 2022, with 25 UArizona faculty and staff from 12 different colleges and units across campus and 10 from non-UArizona HSIs (Estrella Mountain Community College, Pima Community College, Cochise College, Maricopa Community College District, and Paradise Valley Community College).

Post-institute survey respondents indicated that as a result of attending the institute they agreed\* with the following:

- 94%: I have a greater awareness of HSI & HSI-related funding opportunities
- 100%: I understand the importance of cultivating relationships with others and other HSIs long before pursuing a grant opportunity
- 100%: I would recommend the HSI Grants Development Institute to others



\*Somewhat agree or Strongly Agree



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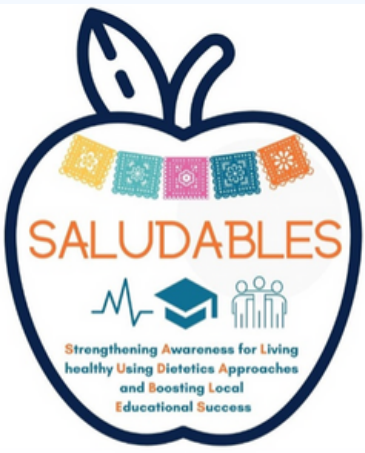
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## 2022 Spotlight: Awarded HSI Related Grants

Select grant funded projects below highlight diversity of funding agencies, affiliation of Principal Investigators, and project aims. Collaboration on social media highlights of awarded project can be requested.



### Project SALUDABLES

Project SALUDABLES (Strengthening Awareness for Living Healthy Using Dietetics Approaches and Boosting Local Educational Success) will address health and educational disparities in the Southwest border region by increasing interest in nutrition and health careers and creating a clear educational pathway for students in Yuma and Imperial counties.

- \$983,112 awarded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture HSI Education Grants program
- Collaborative project: UArizona, Arizona Western College, and Imperial Valley College (all HSIs)
- Principal Investigator: Ashlee Linares-Gaffer, Associate Professor of Practice, School of Nutritional Science & Wellness

### Project PHIRE

Project PHIRE (Place-based Culturally Responsive Health Informatics Research Education) brings together expertise from data science, systems science and engineering, health informatics, and public health and infuses regional assets and needs from the community into the training and curricula. The PHIRE training program will recruit and prepare a diverse pool of 60 undergraduate students to conduct scientific research in health informatics with an inherent focus on addressing health disparities and public health needs.

- \$571,905 grant funded by the National Library of Medicine, at the National Institutes of Health
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Vignesh Subbian, Biomedical Engineering and Systems & Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering





## 2022 Spotlight: Awarded HSI Related Grants



### Project Outreach FAMILIA

Project Outreach FAMILIA (Forwarding Academic Mechanisms Integral to Learning In the Academy) aims to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income students entering higher education and earning college degrees. A core element includes the launch of a culturally-responsive pre-calculus dual enrollment course developed by Dr. Guadalupe Lozano and team in partnership with several TUSD schools and Pima Community College.

- \$3,000,000 awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, Title V Program
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Cindy Trejo, Project Director, Outreach FAMILIA

### "Digital Borderlands" Project

The goal of the "Digital Borderlands" project (Aligning Library Services with Data-Intensive Humanities Research: Modeling Support for Open Scholarship through Data Storytelling and Digital Publishing on the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands) is to produce and disseminate new, open-access humanities scholarship on the U.S.-Mexico borderlands by integrating library services into a collaborative research process that emphasizes data-intensive, digital storytelling.

- \$750,000 awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon
- Principal Investigator: Shan Sutton, University Libraries Project



### ¿Quantum Qué? Project

¿Quantum Qué? (Collaborative Research: HSI Implementation and Evaluation Project: Transfer Students' Success in Quantum Information Science and Engineering) targets first and second year community college students to increase Quantum Information Science and Engineering (QISE) awareness and facilitate transfer into four UArizona undergraduate QISE majors. This culturally responsive transfer program includes summer research experiences, faculty mentor training, peer and faculty student mentoring, and advising mapping.

- \$999,999 awarded by the National Science Foundation's (NSF) HSI Improving Undergraduate STEM Education program
- Collaborative project: UArizona and Pima Community College (both HSIs)
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Allison Huff, Family & Consumer Sciences



# Meet Our Team



**Marla Franco, PhD**  
Vice President,  
HSI Initiatives



**Monique Beltran**  
Administrative Associate,  
HSI Initiatives



**Karla Cruze-Silva, PhD**  
Associate Director,  
HSI Initiatives



**Riley McIsaac**  
Associate Director,  
Grants Development



**Judy Marquez Kiyama, PhD**  
Associate Vice Provost,  
Faculty Development,  
Office of the Provost



**Erica Zamora**  
Graduate Assistant,  
AZ HSI Consortium



**Melissa Acuña**  
Peer Navigator,  
HSI Initiatives



**Aimée A. Chávez**  
Student Assistant,  
HSI Initiatives

## About Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives

The University of Arizona was federally designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution in spring 2018, having reached the 25% undergraduate Hispanic enrollment requirement. UArizona was the first four-year public university in the state of Arizona to become an HSI and one of 21 R1 HSIs across the nation.

- To partner with HSI initiatives, please email us at [ua-hsi@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ua-hsi@email.arizona.edu)
- To stay up-to-date with HSII, please join our listserv.

[JOIN LISTSERV](#)

- To support the mission of HSII, please consider giving donating.

[DONATE HERE](#)



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