

# 2023 AZ HSI SUMMIT

September 11, 2023  
University of Arizona



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2nd Annual AZ HSI Summit took place on September 11, 2023 at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. The summit was a one-day, in-person conference for faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community partners aimed at:

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

In this executive summary, you will find information regarding the major components of the AZ HSI Summit, including: presentations, attendees, feedback, and key takeaways.

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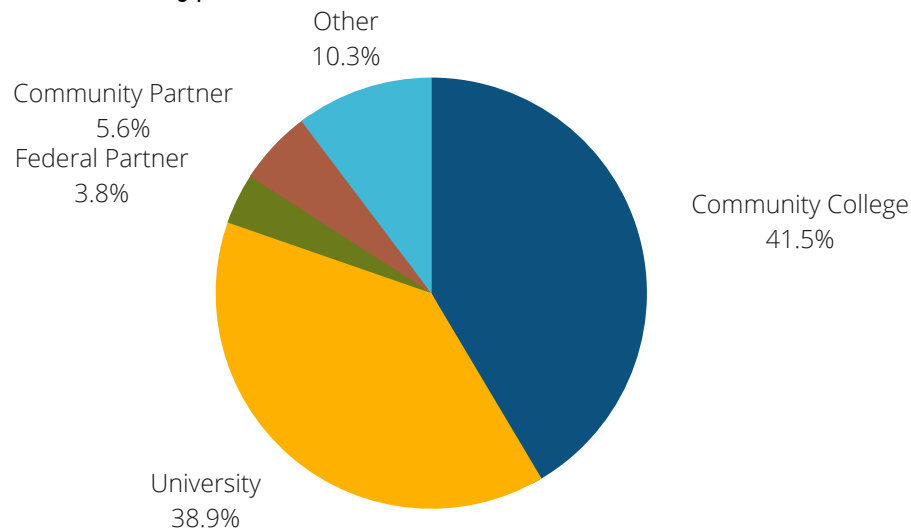
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# ATTENDEES

The 2023 AZ HSI Summit hosted 234 attendees, with nearly comparable representation between university and community college attendees. The following chart is a breakdown of attendees by institutional type.



# PRESENTATIONS

A call for session proposals was developed and widely circulated. The summit planning committee received a total of 40 proposals and 23 presentations were accepted and offered. These one hour sessions offered colleagues across the state the opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise on practices that advance Latinx postsecondary attainment. Below are five examples of presentations accepted. Click [here](#) to view the summit agenda, as well as session abstracts and presenters. Click [here](#) to view session materials.

- Being a Systemic Change Agent and Leader for Hispanic Serving High Schools - Tucson Unified School District
- Échale Ganas, GateWay's Latinx Leadership Institute, GateWay Community College
- Holistically Serving Student Experiences: An Intervention Addressing Equity and Access, Estrella Mountain Community College
- Building from/for Diversity: A Repository for Inclusive Spanish Language - University of Arizona
- Guidance Beyond Prop 308- ScholarshipsA-Z

An HSI Leader Platica (Panel) was facilitated by Dr. Marla Franco, Vice President, HSI Initiatives at the University of Arizona and Co-Founder of AZ HSI Consortium. The panelists were Dr. Steven R. Gonzales, Chancellor for Maricopa County Community College, Stephanie Parra, Executive Director for ALL In Education, and Rich Nickel, President & CEO of Education Forward Arizona. A student panel was also offered during lunch to center voices of students who are attending AZ HSIs.

# PRESENTATIONS

The White House Initiative on Advancing Education Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics attended the summit and hosted two sessions, including welcome remarks and a full session on priorities from the Executive Order on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics. White House representatives and commissioners in attendance included:

- Melody Gonzales, Executive Director. White House Initiative on Advancing Education Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
- Kevin Lima, Deputy Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Education Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
- Emmanuel Caudillo, Management and Program Analyst, White House Initiative on Advancing Education Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
- Maria Reyes, Global Workforce Innovation & Development Manager, Google Cloud
- Adriana O'Hagan, White House Initiative Commissioner
- Evelyn DeJesus, Executive Vice President, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
- Laura Castillo, White House Initiative Commissioner
- Magda Yrizarry, Senior Vice President - Strategic DEI Initiatives and Supplier Diversity, Verizon
- Noel Candelaria, Secretary - Treasurer, NEA
- Cristobal Rodriguez, Associate Provost of Equity-Centered Initiatives in Academic Affairs, Western Michigan University
- Teresa Leyba Ruiz, Senior Vice President, Chief Advocacy and Programs Officer, Education Forward Arizona

You can learn more about the White House Initiatives on Advancing Education Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics [here](#).



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# POST SUMMIT SURVEY

A survey was distributed to summit attendees to better understand their satisfaction with the summit and to gather input to improve future summits and inform developing priorities of the consortium. A total of 35 attendees completed the survey. Key Insights include:

- 97.1% of respondents are interested in attending future AZ HSI Summits
- 97.1% of respondents would recommend the AZ HSI Summit to colleagues

## 85.7%

of respondents strongly agreed/agreed that their understanding of HSI's was strengthened as a result of attending the summit

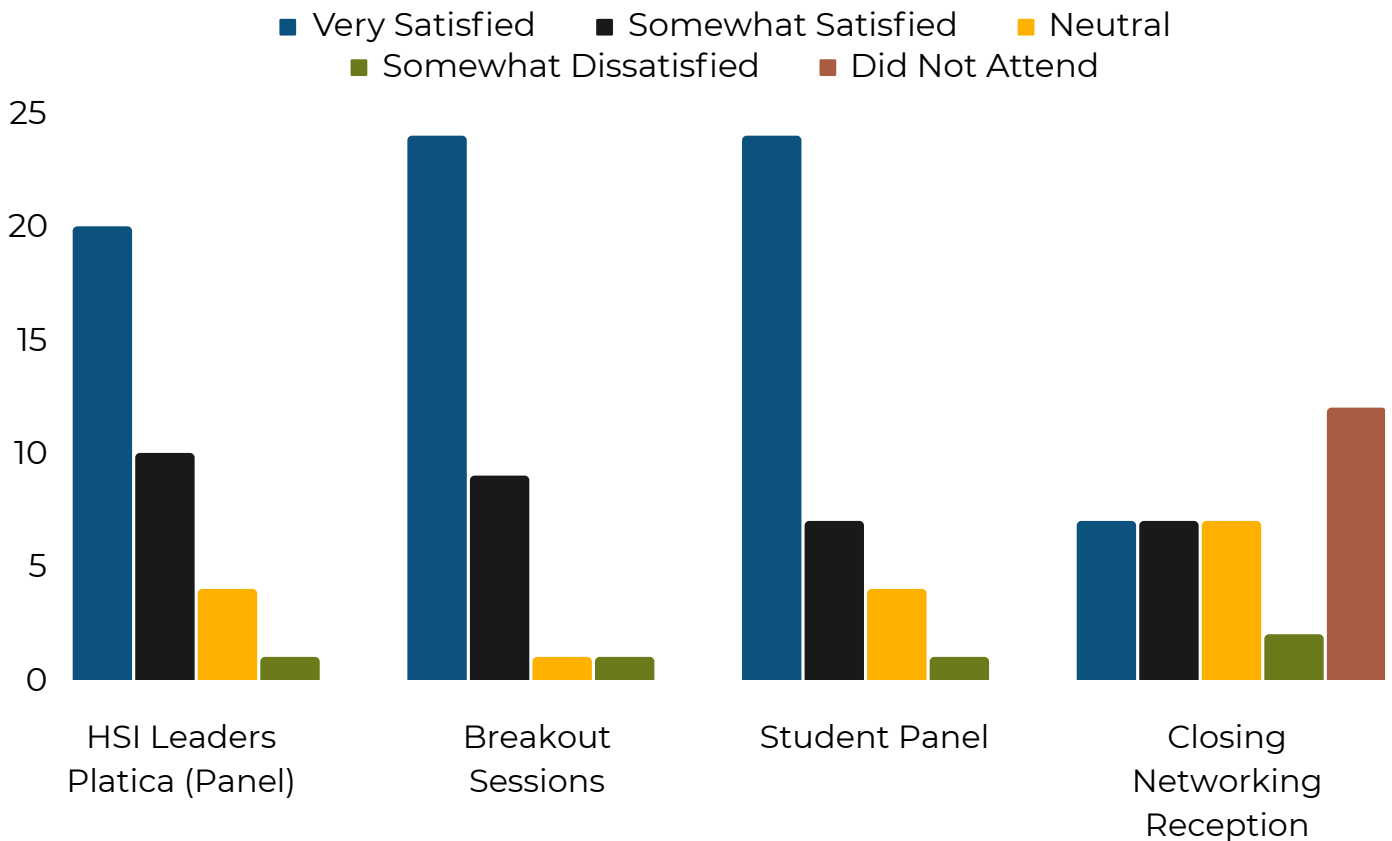
## 97.2%

of respondents strongly agreed/agreed that the summit provided them with the opportunity to learn from others' efforts

Respondents were overwhelmingly satisfied with their experience at the summit, expressing high satisfaction with the student panel and breakout sessions.

Graph 1 summarizes respondents' level of satisfaction with aspects of the summit, including keynote speaker, breakout sessions, student panel, and closing networking reception.

GRAPH 1



# OPEN-END QUESTIONS

Attendees were also asked open-ended questions on the summit survey regarding key takeaways, future summit topics, and recommendations for improving the summit. Each question is presented below with a summary of themes.

## SUMMIT IMPROVEMENTS

A majority of respondents highlighted the need for an increase in the diversity of workshop session topics. Respondents suggested implementing additional networking opportunities at the networking reception to help increase attendance. Respondents also recommended improvements to summit logistics, including full session abstracts in the printed programs.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Participants were asked to describe one key takeaway from their experience at the AZ HSI Summit. Select responses are shared below:

- *“That as a community, we are able to make change and are able to support our future Hispanic students by providing cultural experiences along with their education.”*
- *“Even not being in a leadership position, I feel empowered to enact change through HSI activities and initiatives.”*
- *“The sessions I attended were so practical and easy to apply. I love learning about takeaways that can be easily implemented.”*

Responses suggest that colleagues were challenged to think critically about their own practices for advancing Latinx student success. Responses also conveyed the need for ongoing connection and exchange of best practices.





# FUTURE SUMMIT TOPICS

The final open-ended question asked respondents about HSI-related topics they would like to see future summits address. Responses varied with suggested topics focused on the following:

- Recruiting and retaining Latinx faculty and instructors at 2-year and 4-year institutions
- Navigating resistance when advocating for HSI initiatives
- Concrete practices that can be utilized to strengthen student support and community in HSIs
- State level legislation that affects HSIs/Latinx students and community
- Liberation of Hispanic/Latinx communities from white supremacy within higher education institutions

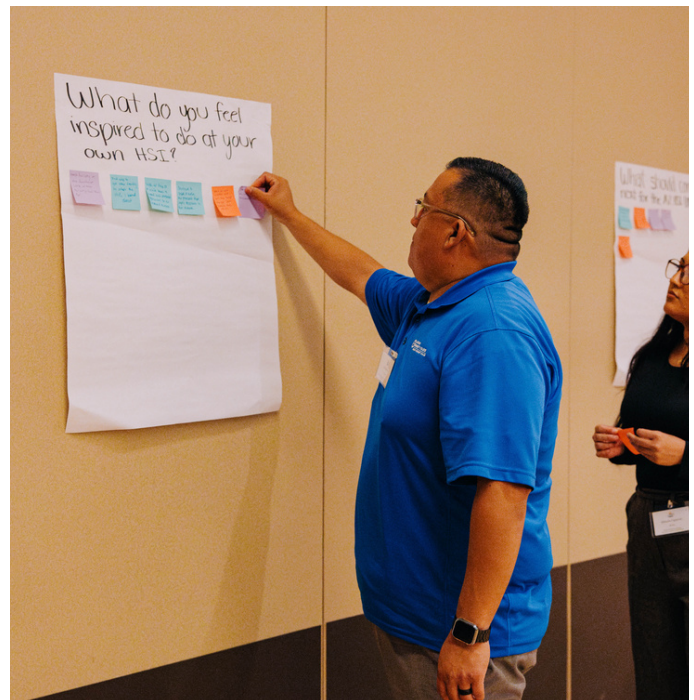
## AZ HSI SUMMIT CLOSING ACTIVITY

During the AZ HSI Summit Closing session, participants were asked the following two questions:

1. What should come next for the AZ HSI Consortium?
2. What do you feel inspired to do at your own HSI?

Six large easel post-its were placed around the room, three for each question. Participants were then given smaller sticky notes to write their thoughts and stick to the large easel post-its. The post-it notes were collected and analyzed, resulting in the top 3 themes for each question.

1. What should come next for the AZ HSI Consortium?
  - a. *Hosting professional development workshops or conferences for HSIs throughout the year.*
  - b. *Creating more opportunities for HSIs to learn about funding.*
  - c. *Providing more opportunities for HSI networking throughout the year.*
2. What do you feel inspired to do at your own HSI?
  - a. *Implement culturally responsive practices*
  - b. *Create and promote resource centers within their institutions*
  - c. *Create stronger connections with students and programs*



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