



AZ HSI CONSORTIUM

ANNUAL

REPORT

2023



HSI Criteria

Hispanic Serving Institution is a federal designation given by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize institutions that have more than 25% Hispanic undergraduate enrollment. Beyond meeting an enrollment metric, HSIs have a responsibility to bring the designation to life in ways that matter most for all who come to learn and work at HSIs.

HSIs in Arizona

There are currently 571 HSIs, including 21 in Arizona, which are listed below:

- Arizona Christian University, Glendale, AZ**
- Arizona State University Campus Immersion, Tempe, AZ**
- Arizona Western College, Yuma, AZ**
- Central Arizona College, Coolidge, AZ**
- Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Chandler, AZ**
- Cochise County Community College District, Sierra Vista, AZ**
- Estrella Mountain Community College, Avondale, AZ**
- GateWay Community College, Phoenix, AZ**
- Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ**
- Mesa Community College, Mesa, AZ**
- Mohave Community College, Kingman, AZ**
- Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ**
- Ottawa University - Phoenix, AZ**
- Ottawa University - Surprise, AZ**
- Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix, AZ**
- Phoenix College, Phoenix, AZ**
- Pima Community College, Tucson, AZ**
- Rio Salado College, Tempe, AZ**
- Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale, AZ**
- South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ**
- University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ**



Overview

The AZ HSI Consortium was founded in 2021 by Dr. Marla Franco, Vice President of Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives at the University of Arizona and Dr. Rey Rivera, President, Estrella Mountain Community College. The consortium was created as a way to strengthen the individual and collective capacity of Arizona Hispanic Serving Institutions to intentionally support conditions necessary for Latinx student success in Arizona.



Dr. Marla Franco
*Vice President, Hispanic Serving
Institution Initiatives*
University of Arizona



Dr. Rey Rivera
President
Estrella Mountain
Community College

Sponsors

The AZ HSI Consortium launched in 2021 with a \$100,000 planning grant from the Helios Education Foundation. In 2023, the consortium was awarded nearly \$1M from the Helios Education Foundation (2023-2026) and \$3M from the National Science Foundation (Award # 2311013) to strengthen and scale efforts.



Communications

The AZ HSI Consortium has a full suite of communication tools to disseminate opportunities and announcements and highlight collaborations and best practices. Following the AZ HSI Consortium on social media and engaging in the listserv helps cultivate awareness, connection, and engagement.



Twitter followers: **39**
Account opened in April 2023
254.5% increase since June 2023



Instagram followers: **179**
Account opened in April 2023
198.3% increase since June 2023



LinkedIn followers: **236**
Account opened in July 2023
3,833% increase since August 2023



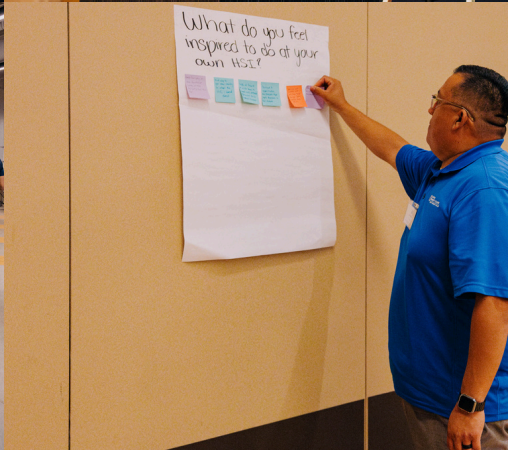
Facebook followers: **48**
Account opened in July 2023
1100% increase since August 2023



Youtube Subscribers: **2**
Videos Uploaded: **1**
Account opened in October 2023



Listserv Subscribers: **315**
[Subscribe here.](#)



AZ HSI Summit



The AZ HSI Consortium hosted the 2nd Annual AZ HSI Summit on **September 11, 2023** at the **University of Arizona**. The summit brought together Arizona HSIs, community partners, and the White House Initiative on Advancing Education Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics. The AZ HSI Summit is an in-person conference for faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community partners to (1) showcase and exchange evidence-based practices that are effectively and intentionally supporting Latinx students, (2) build capacity among faculty & staff to teach and lead at HSIs, and (3) create opportunities for networking and community building across AZ HSIs and Emerging HSIs. The 2023 summit hosted 234 attendees, representing 17 AZ HSIs.



234
attendees



17
AZ HSIs present

Sessions

Each year a call for proposals is launched, inviting institutions, organizations, and faculty, staff, and students to submit a session proposal for the AZ HSI Summit. This year 40 proposals were received, of which 23 were accepted. Ten reviewers from various institutions and organizations participated in the proposal review process. You can find the summit agenda [here](#) and session materials [here](#).



40
proposals
submitted



23
workshops
accepted

Committee

The summit was organized by a 14-member planning committee representing a diverse set of HSIs across Arizona. Two co-chairs and twelve committee members were charged with planning all summit logistics. The committee included:

Co-chairs:

- Karla Cruze-Silva, Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, University of Arizona
- Donna Lopez Martinez, Student Services Director, Maricopa Community College District

Committee Members:

- Cinthia Alvarez, Director of Nursing, Arizona Western College
- Maria Ayon, Dean of Students and Community Engagement, Mohave Community College Lake Havasu Campus
- Michel Contreras, Administrative Specialist Senior, Maricopa Community Colleges
- Antonio Duran, Assistant Professor of Higher and Postsecondary Education, Arizona State University
- Yolanda Gonzales, Program Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Pima Community College
- Hilda Ladner, Associate Vice President for Inclusive Student Mentoring, Programming, and Success, Northern Arizona University
- Nancy Navarro, Program Manager, Office of Leadership & Engagement, Northern Arizona University
- Paulette Nevarez, Graduate Assistant, AZ HSI Consortium
- Minerva Pargas, Chief of Staff, Estrella Mountain Community College
- Rocque Perez, Manager, Communications, Academic Enterprise Communications, Arizona State University
- Edgar Soto, Vice President, Pima Community College Desert Vista and East Campus
- Teresa Toro, Department Chair, Counseling Department, Pueblo High School, Tucson Unified School District



2023 AZ HSI
Summit Video



2023 AZ HSI
Summit Executive Summary

Evidence-Based Practices



The AZ HSI Consortium seeks to highlight Evidence-Based Practices that produce positive student outcomes in culturally affirming environments. In documenting and promoting evidence-based practices we seek to: (1) create a process for determining “what works” at Arizona HSIs, (2) inform education and community leaders on practices that optimize Latinx college student success, (3) highlight and amplify practices producing positive student outcomes within culturally validating environments, and (4) illuminate continued gaps and opportunities for advocacy and investment.

Since 2022, 9 programs/initiatives have been deemed Evidence-Based Practices.

- **New Start, University of Arizona**
- **Rhonda G. Tubbs Tech Toolshed, University of Arizona Libraries**
- **Peer Success Coach Program, Glendale Community College**
- **Knowledge River, University of Arizona**
- **Pima-UAZ STEM Bridge Program, University of Arizona and Pima Community College**
- **LAWtina Mentoring Program, University of Arizona**
- **EXCEL Program, Maricopa Community College**
- **Course-Based Undergraduate Research, Phoenix Community College**
- **Frontera, University of Arizona**

The 2022-2023 cycle consisted of a team of three reviewers across AZ HSIs to evaluate the nominations. Leaders of these evidence-based practices participated in a webinar to highlight the effective and intentionally designed aspects of their efforts. The webinar for 2022- 2023 awardees took place on April 24, 2023. Accepted evidence-based practices were invited to present at the 2023 AZ HSI Summit to highlight their practices and share their experiences in submitting a nomination.



Evidence-Based Practices



The 2023-2024 AZ HSI Evidence-Based Practices call for nominations launched in September 2023. A team of five reviewers from across AZ HSIs engaged in a peer review process to evaluate the nominations. Accepted nominees will participate in a webinar in March 2024 to highlight their program/initiative and will be invited to present at the 2024 AZ HSI Summit.

A committee consisting of one chair and twelve committee members were part of the 2023-2024 EBP committee cycle. The members are listed below:

Chair

- Karla Cruze-Silva, Associate Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, University of Arizona

Committee Members

- Sarah Kyte, Senior Research Scientist, Student Success & Retention Innovation, University of Arizona
- Mara Lopez, Associate Director, Research, Center for Broadening Participation in STEM, Arizona State University
- Roxanne Murphy, Director, Postsecondary Attainment, Arizona Board of Regents
- Paulette Nevarez, Graduate Assistant, AZ HSI Consortium
- Felicia Ramirez-Perez, Dean of Enrollment Services, Chandler Gilbert Community College
- Grace Smith Kaus, Director, Postsecondary Success Initiative, Helios Educational Foundation
- Anne Suzuki, Dean of Student Development, Chandler Gilbert Community College
- Winona Thirion, Dean of Student Affairs, Scottsdale Community College
- Arturo Torres, Education Abroad Advisor, Northern Arizona University
- Cynthia Villareal, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Northern Arizona University
- C.J. Wurster, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Phoenix College
- Jeff Zetino, Director of Policy and Research, ALL in Education

You can find more information on AZ HSI Evidence-Based Practices [here](#).

HSI Grants Development Institute



In November 2023, HSI Initiatives held its 3rd annual HSI Grants Development Institute at The University of Arizona, which was open to all AZ HSIs. The purpose of this full-day institute was to: (1) generate awareness of HSI related funding opportunities; (2) strengthen understanding of HSI models and frameworks; and (3) cultivate potential networks among those with shared equity-focused interests for pursuing HSI funding opportunities.



57
attendees



7
AZ HSIs
present



70%
of registrants indicated
they had never applied for
an HSI grant

AZ HSIs in attendance:

- Mesa Community College
- Northern Arizona University
- Pima Community College
- Cochise College
- Northern Arizona University - Yuma
- Gateway Community College



Conference Presentations



2023 AZ HSI Summit

The AZ HSI Consortium had the opportunity to host a workshop at the 2023 AZ HSI Summit. This workshop provided an overview of the 2023-2024 AZ HSI Evidence-Based Practices Nomination Process and highlighted the 2022-2023 Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Awardees. . This session engaged approximately 60 attendees. During the presentation, a panel discussion was facilitated with EBP Awardees, including New Start and the University of Arizona Libraries Rhonda G. Tubbs Tech Toolshed. In documenting and promoting evidence-based practices the AZ HSI Consortium seeks to: (1) create a process for determining “what works” for Arizona HSIs, (2) inform education and community leaders on practices that optimize Latinx college student success, (3) highlight and amplify practices producing positive student outcomes within culturally validating environments, and (4) illuminate continued gaps and opportunities for advocacy and investment.



President’s Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics



The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics hosted a public meeting at Arizona State University on September 12, 2023. The AZ HSI Consortium Co-Founder, Dr. Marla Franco, was invited to serve on a panel focused on Building Hispanic-Thriving Campuses to Foster Student Success. Dr. Marla Franco highlighted the work of the AZ HSI Consortium and offered it as a model to consider supporting other states and regions across the nation that seek to build HSI coalitions. The panel discussion was moderated by Melody Gonzalez, Executive Director of The White House Hispanic Initiative.

Conference Presentations



Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

The AZ HSI Consortium had the opportunity to attend and present at HACU's 37th Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Educators in three states, including Arizona, Colorado, and Texas, addressed the need for HSIs to work together to increase student success. Presenters highlighted the history, structure, and priorities of three state-based consortiums, including the AZ HSI Consortium, the Colorado HSI Consortium, and the Texas HSI Consortium. Presenters also focused on the success and obstacles to alliance building. This session engaged approximately 75 attendees. The AZ HSI Consortium was represented by the following presenters:



- Karla Cruze-Silva, Director, HSI Initiatives, University of Arizona
- Marla Franco, Vice President, HSI Initiatives, University of Arizona
- Donna Lopez Martinez, Student Services Director, Maricopa Community Colleges
- Hilda Ladner, Associate Vice President, Inclusive Student Mentoring, Programming, and Success, Northern Arizona University

Institution Highlight

Phoenix College Seal of Excelencia Recipient!



Phoenix College became the first community college in Arizona to receive the Seal of Excelencia in September 2023!

"The seal recognizes Phoenix College's high level of commitment and effort to serve Latino students including specific transfer strategies, featured programs and implementing the First Year Experience (FYE) course. Phoenix College is one of 9 institutions across the United States certified in 2023!"

Congratulations Phoenix College!



AZ HSI CONSORTIUM

Interested in supporting
the AZ HSI Consortium?



Interested in partnering?
azhsiconsortium@gmail.com

