



AZ HSI CONSORTIUM

### Land Acknowledgement

Northern Arizona University sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, on homelands sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

### Reconocimiento de Terreno

Northern Arizona University se encuentra en la base de San Francisco Peaks, en terreno sagrado para nativos americanos en toda la región. Honramos a sus generaciones pasadas, presentes y futuras, que han vivido aquí durante milenios y siempre llamarán a este lugar su hogar.



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2024 - December 2024

# 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 at Estrella Mountain Community College. The AZ HSI Consortium aims to bring together all HSIs across Arizona to develop a community of practice to engage collectively in professional development, support the exchange of evidence-based and intentional practices, facilitate successful transfer of students to Arizona universities, and collaborate across HSIs when seeking funding opportunities and other important partnerships.



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



**Dr. Rey Rivera**  
President  
Estrella Mountain Community College



# 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.



## AZ HSIs

There are currently 600 HSIs, including 21 in Arizona enrolling approximately 91,322 undergraduate Hispanic students. AZ HSIs are listed below:

### Institutions:

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  
Eastern Arizona College, Thatcher, 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 - 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



# AZ HSI Summit

The 3rd Annual AZ HSI Summit took place on **October 04, 2024** at **Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ**. The summit is 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 2024 Summit Program and an executive summary can be found on the [website](#).



207 attendees &  
268 registrants



24 presentations  
accepted



32 proposals were  
submitted



17 travel stipends  
totaling \$5,770  
were awarded to  
students, staff, and  
faculty



Networking  
reception with 13  
AZ HSIs in  
attendance



7 Presidents and 1  
Chancellor present



17 AZ HSIs present



6 students  
represented  
5 AZ HSIs



9 community  
organizations and  
federal partners joined

“

“When it comes to HSIs, institutions must also remember to involve familia in the higher education process as Hispanic and Latine is mainly a collectivist culture... things are done as a familia.”

”



**Learn more about the Summit**



TWELVE PROGRAMS  
RECOGNIZED SINCE 2022



## 2023-2024 CYCLE

7

AWARDEES

5

AZ HSIs Represented

## 2024-2025 CYCLE

3

AWARDEES

2

AZ HSIs Represented



Learn more about  
Evidence-Based  
Practices

# Evidence-Based Practices

The AZ HSI Consortium seeks to highlight Evidence-Based Practices that produce positive student outcomes and validating educational 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 college student success, (3) highlight and amplify practices producing positive student outcomes within positive learning environments, and (4) illuminate continued gaps and opportunities for investment.

## PAST AWARDEES

- 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 Colleges
- Course-Based Undergraduate Research, Phoenix Community College
- Frontera, University of Arizona

## CURRENT AWARDEES

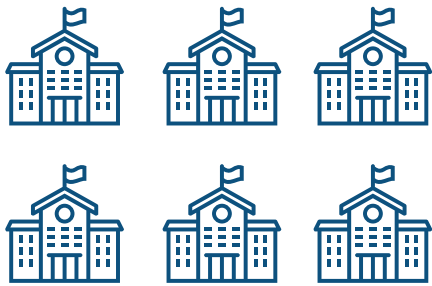
- West Valley (WV) Pathways to Teaching Grow Your Own (GYO) Partnership, Northern Arizona University
- Blue Chip Leadership Experience, University of Arizona
- Project Outreach FAMILIA (Forwarding Academic Mechanisms Integral to Learning in the Academy), University of Arizona

“This program has had so many amazing staff and students over the last 25 years, and this selection is a reflection of all of their hard work and contributions.”

# AZ HSI Webinars

A webinar series was launched to maintain year-round engagement across the AZ HSI Consortium and to highlight the individual and collective capacity of Arizona HSIs to intentionally support conditions necessary for student success in Arizona. This series invited individuals from across Arizona to share insights about their programs and initiatives. The webinars were accessible to all and included follow-up recordings and slides. In total, nine webinars were offered.

## Key Details:



**6 AZ HSIs featured**



**Youtube Views**



**out-of-state  
registrants**



**Total Registrants**



**Check out  
our webinars**

# AZ HSI GATE Funding Opportunities

In 2024, the AZ HSI Consortium launched the AZ HSI GATE funding opportunities aimed to support individuals and teams from AZ HSIs in leading efforts that align with the consortium's aims and in direct response to one of the two funding tracks.



## Track 1

Awards will support projects at Arizona HSIs that identify barriers to and within higher education for learners, engage in institutional problem solving, implement solutions that support learner success, and document how change at Arizona HSIs was implemented.

## Track 2

Awards will support projects at Arizona HSIs that stimulate and support change and research that enriches our understanding in broadening participation in STEM at HSIs.

## Up to \$200,000

Total Funding  
Awarded

17

Applications  
Received

9

GATE  
Awardees



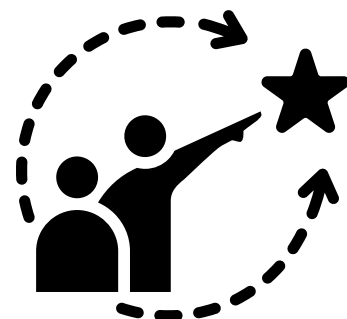
More information about the GATE  
Funding Opportunities



# AZ HSI GATE Funding Awardees

## Mentorship

Awardees will be intentionally matched with a mentor who is an expert in their proposed project and an advocate for postsecondary success. Through mentorship, awardees will receive guidance to address challenges, collaborate on impactful solutions, and strengthen their capacity to drive meaningful, long-term change. The mentors represent **three** AZ HSIs and **one** community organization that support HSIs across the country.



## Awardee Institutions:



9 Projects Awarded



AZ HSIs  
Represented



Virtual Kick-Off:  
January 2025

# HSI Grants Development Institute



On November 22, 2024, UA HSII held its 4th annual HSI Grants Development Institute, hosted by HSI partner, Pima Community College. The purpose of this full-day institute is to: 1) generate awareness of HSI related funding opportunities; 2) strengthen understanding of HSI models and frameworks; and 3) cultivate networks among those with shared interests for pursuing HSI funding opportunities. This year was the first time that participants from HSIs outside of AZ were able to attend. Demand was high, with a waitlist of up to 50 people. This work was supported by the National Science Foundation, awards #2336054 & #2311013.



**78**  
attendees



**9**  
AZ HSIs  
present



**78%**  
of registrants indicated  
they had never applied for  
an HSI grant

AZ HSIs in attendance:

- Arizona State University
- Central Arizona College
- Eastern Arizona College
- GateWay Community College
- Northern Arizona University
- Pima Community College
- Scottsdale Community College
- South Mountain Community College
- University of Arizona

“

I really enjoyed meeting other people in the HSI space and learning more about the opportunities available. As a junior member at an institution that has a small grants office, it would take me a long time on my own to acquire the information I gained at the workshop.

”

# Curriculum Development Institute

Launched in 2021, the Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), is a week-long summer immersion focused on training and coaching faculty and instructors towards implementation of effective teaching practices into existing courses of all modalities, including distance and online learning environments.

**52**

**Faculty  
Participants**

**140**

**Courses Redesigned  
Since 2021**

**6**

**Stipends Provided to  
STEM/Math Faculty**

**26,000**

**Students Reached  
in 2024**

**53%**

**of courses representing  
STEM in 2024**

**In 2024, 17 participants came from regional HSIs & community partners, including:**

- Coconino Community College
- Pima Community College
- Estrella Mountain Community College
- Mesa Community College
- Northern Arizona University
- Northern Arizona University - Yuma
- Salt Lake City Community College
- Rio Rico High School
- Sahuarita High School





# AZ HSI Book Club Plática



During the AZ HSI Summit and HSI Grants Development Institute, Dr. Gina Garcia and Ann Kimball's, "Transforming HSIs for Equity and Justice: A Practitioner's Workbook" was distributed to participants. The AZ HSI Book Club Plática was launched to motivate practitioners to utilize the workbook. This initiative will concentrate on strategies for facilitating book club discussions that inspire action and offer templates to create book club pláticas at AZ HSIs.

82

Expressed Interest

28

Registrants

320

Books Distributed

11

AZ HSIs Attended

## HSI Consortium Conexión Dinner

inside  
track

During HACU's 38th Annual Conference, the consortium collaborated with InsideTrack to host the HSI Consortium Conexión Dinner on November 2nd. Leaders and directors from HSI consortiums were invited to a conversation and input-gathering session that centered on developing tools to advance HSI consortia nationally. In total, 25 attendees represented various institutions and community organizations.

Critical conversations were facilitated and revolved around three key questions. A thematic analysis will be conducted based on the responses gathered. A six-month HSI Consortium Conexión convening will occur in Spring 2025 open to all who attended the dinner to share insights collected from the thematic analysis.

*"...strengthening partnerships between the AZ HSI Consortium and local efforts could enhance support for Hispanic students by sharing best practices for student engagement, developing joint programs for higher education access, and creating pathways for students to pursue opportunities in Arizona. " - HSI Consortium Conexión Dinner Attendee*



3

Community Organizations Present

11

States Represented

# Conference Presentations

## Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators

The AZ HSI Consortium had the opportunity to attend and present at the 16th Annual AHSIE Best Practices Conference in Monterrey, California. The consortium partnered with the Colorado HSI Consortium and came together to present on "State-Based HSI Consortiums: Models for Developing Communities of Practice to Amplify Impact." The AZ HSI Consortium was represented by the following presenters:

- Karla Silva, Director, HSI Initiatives, UArizona
- Marla Franco, Vice President, HSI Initiatives, UArizona



## Invited Presentations

- Scottsdale Community College: Strengthening Belonging as a Hispanic Serving Institution (January 2024)
- Paradise Valley Community College: Faculty and Staff Development as HSI Capacity Building Strategies (January 2024)
- Latinx Studies Association Conference: HSI Administrator Panel (April 2024)
- Mount Mary University's Latinas Access to Higher Education Summit (June 2024)
- U.S. President's Hispanic Advisory Commission Meeting: Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity (July 2024)
- Arizona Western College's Horizon Symposium: Living Up to the Promise of Access: How Practicing Excelencia Advances Student Success (November 2024)
- Mohave Community College: Enacting Servingness: Moving from Awareness to Action at HSIs (December 2024)



# AZ HSI Consortium Stakeholders' Meeting

The consortium gathered presidents and senior leaders virtually in November 2024 to discuss and provide updates on its initiatives. This meeting aimed to gather input on needs and opportunities to enhance and support their efforts as HSIs. Bringing together HSI presidents allows for coordinated strategic planning to address common challenges, advocate for policy changes, and align efforts to improve student success and institutional effectiveness.

20

Attendees

20

AZ HSI Presidents  
Present

20

Institutions  
Represented

## Institution Highlight

### Pima Community College Awarded Seal of Excelencia!



Pima Community College was awarded the Seal of Excelencia in 2024. Pima Community College is one of 46 colleges and universities to have earned the Seal of Excelencia since its inception in 2019 and one of four Seal certified institutions in Arizona

Congratulations Pima Community College!

## Communications

The AZ HSI Consortium offers various communication tools to share opportunities, announcements, and showcase collaborations. Engaging on social media and through the listserv fosters awareness, connection, and engagement.

### Growth in Percentages (since 2024)

500%

Youtube

83%

Listserv

92%

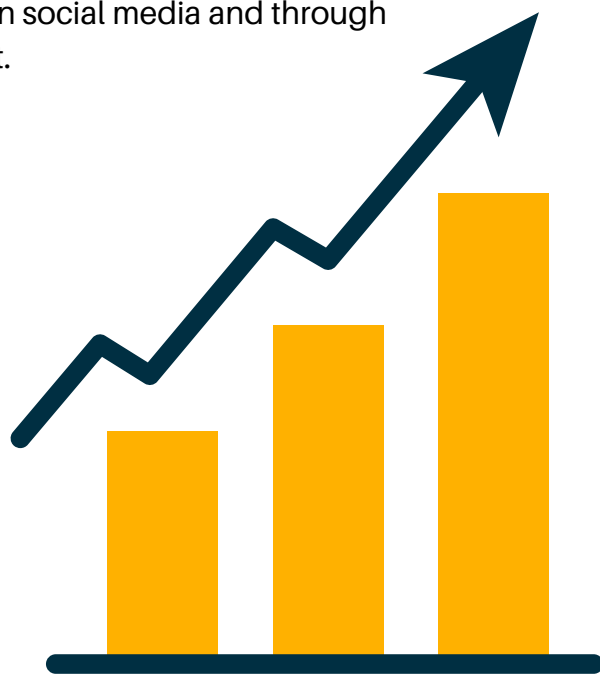
Facebook

72%

Instagram

167%

LinkedIn





# HSI Research Center Director

Dr. Mara Lopez joined the team in May 2024 as the inaugural HSI Research Center Director.



Dr. Mara Nohemi Lopez is the inaugural Director of the HSI Research Center at the University of Arizona. Prior to this, she worked as the Associate Director of Research at the Center for Broadening Participation in STEM at Arizona State University (ASU). She earned a doctorate in education from ASU with an emphasis on leadership and innovation, an MA in Organizational Leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University, and a BA in Psychology from San Diego State University.

She has worked in research for over 17 years on NIH, NSF, DoD, and DoE grants. Funded by the NSF and the Helios Education Foundation, Dr. Lopez is charged with leading efforts for the AZ HSI Consortium and supports collaborative programs engaging researchers, educators, and stakeholders to address key challenges and opportunities for HSIs and Emerging HSIs. This work informs advocacy aimed at fostering conditions that support student success in Arizona and nationwide.

# Sponsors

The AZ HSI Consortium is possible thanks to federal and foundation funding sources.



Award #2311013



Consider making a donation to support the work of the AZ HSI Consortium.



## Contact Us



[azhsiconsortium@gmail.com](mailto:azhsiconsortium@gmail.com)

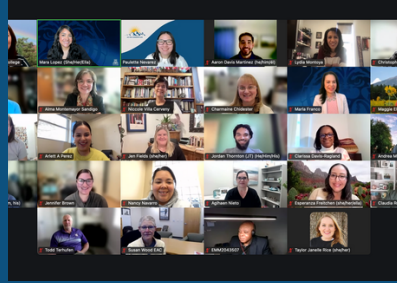


[hsi.arizona.edu/az-hsi-consortium](http://hsi.arizona.edu/az-hsi-consortium)



@azhsiconsortium





THE AZ HSI CONSORTIUM  
COMMUNITY IS STRONG.

THANKS TO ALL WHO  
HELPED MAKE THIS A  
SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

**THANK YOU!**

