



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

January 2025 - December 2025



OVERVIEW

The AZ HSI Consortium was founded in 2021 by Dr. Marla Franco, Special Advisor, HSI 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
Special Advisor, HSI Initiatives
University of Arizona



Dr. Rey Rivera
President
Estrella Mountain Community College



HSI CRITERIA

Hispanic Serving Institution is a federal designation granted 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 615 HSIs, including 21 in Arizona, enrolling approximately 95,387 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 4th Annual AZ HSI Summit occurred on **October 24, 2025**, at Arizona Western College in Yuma, Arizona, preceded by a pre-summit networking reception the evening prior. Together, these events created space for connection, learning, and collaboration among faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community partners from across the country, the state of Arizona, AZ HSIs and Emerging HSIs.

Focused on showcasing evidence-based practices, building institutional capacity, and strengthening cross-institutional relationships, the summit continues to function as a strong community of practice grounded in shared learning and collective action to advance student success. Highlights included a student panel amplifying student voices and experiences, a performance by a local youth folklórico group, and a keynote address from Stephanie Parra, Executive Director of All In Education.

The 2025 Summit Program and an executive summary can be found on the [website](#).



167 attendees



26 presentations



42 proposals



5 student panelists
from 3 AZ HSIs



17 travel stipends,
awarded up to \$5,300



15 AZ HSIs present



AZ HSI EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

The AZ HSI Consortium seeks to highlight Evidence-Based Practices that produce positive student outcomes and validate educational environments. In documenting and promoting evidence-based practices, we seek to:

- Create a process for determining “what works” at Arizona HSIs
- Inform education and community leaders on practices that optimize college student success
- Highlight and amplify practices producing positive student outcomes within positive learning environments
- Illuminate the continued gaps and opportunities for investment

16

**AWARDEES
SINCE 2022**

4

**CYCLES
SINCE 2022**

7

**NOMINATIONS
RECEIVED
IN 2025**

6

**AZ HSIs
REPRESENTED
SINCE 2022**

A technical webinar was hosted in Fall 2025 and uploaded to our YouTube channel.

76

REGISTRANTS

The consortium welcomed our new EBP co-chair.



David Arellano, Ed.D.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Onboarding
Pima Community College

2025-2026 AWARDEES:

- **Food and Nutrition Stakeholders (FANS)**, Arizona Western College & University of Arizona
- **Joaquin Bustoz Math-Science Honors Program**, Arizona State University
- **Upward Bound TRIO**, University of Arizona
- **College Academy for Parents (CAP)**, 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 GATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Overview

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.

The second cycle of GATE opened in late Fall 2025. The project period runs from February 2026 to February 2027.



14 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Funding Tracks

1. Awards will fund projects at Arizona HSIs to identify barriers to higher education, engage in problem-solving, implement solutions for learner success, and document the changes made.
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.



**5 AZ HSIs REPRESENTED
IN APPLICATIONS**



9 PROJECTS AWARDED

A technical webinar was hosted late Fall 2025 and subsequently posted on our YouTube Channel.

\$225,000 Awarded

43

REGISTRANTS

AWARDED INSTITUTIONS



AZ HSI WEBINARS

To strengthen year-round connection and shared learning, the AZ HSI Consortium launched a webinar series highlighting the individual and collective capacity of Arizona's HSIs to support student success. The series created a virtual community of practice, inviting leaders from across the state to share programs, strategies, and lessons learned. Each webinar is open access and accompanied by recordings and slides to promote ongoing engagement and knowledge sharing.



8 WEBINARS



3 AZ HSIs
presented



613 Total
registrants



17 AZ HSIs
Engaged



481 Views on
Youtube



5 STEM
WEBINARS

Communications and Engagement

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 Jan 2025)

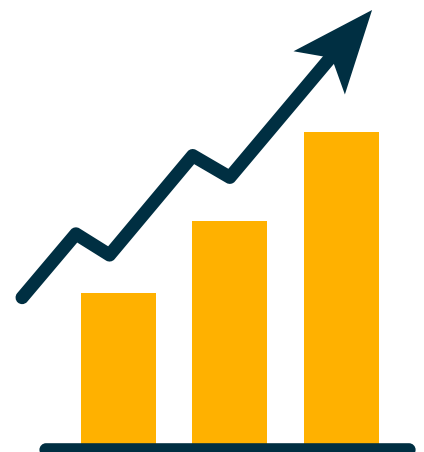
17%
Youtube

84%
Listserv

23%
Facebook

44%
Instagram

20%
LinkedIn



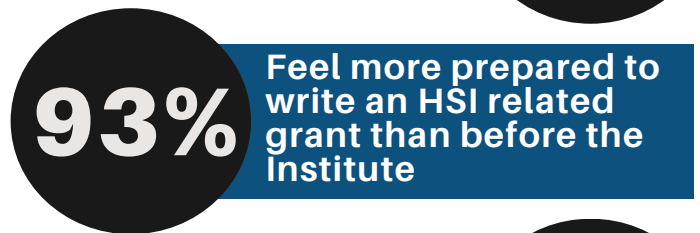
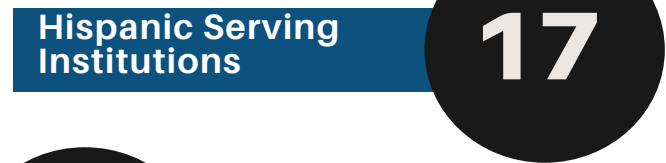


HSI GRANTS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

On Dec. 5 2025, HSI Initiatives held its 5th annual HSI Grants Development Institute, hosted at partnering HSI, 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
3. Cultivate networks among those with shared interests for pursuing HSI funding opportunities.

To respond to rapidly changing national priorities, the emphasis of this year's Institute was to provide participants with timely, actionable insights for navigating the current national grant climate.



“My greatest takeaway from participating in the Institute was gaining a strategic understanding of how to intentionally design grant proposals that center HSI identity, institutional capacity, and student success.”



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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.

55

2025 Participants

4

AZ HSIs Present

191

Faculty Participants since 2021

78K

Students reached since 2021

6

STEM Faculty Sponsored

58%

Participants in the 2025 Institute representing STEM programs/courses

PRE-SUMMIT: EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

Prior to the 2025 AZ HSI Summit, CDI leaders convened a pre-conference workshop, generously sponsored by the Lumina Foundation. This five-hour convening brought participants together for learning and dialogue around STEM pedagogy, effective practices across HSIs, and asset-based approaches that uplift institutional and student strengths.

28

Total Participants

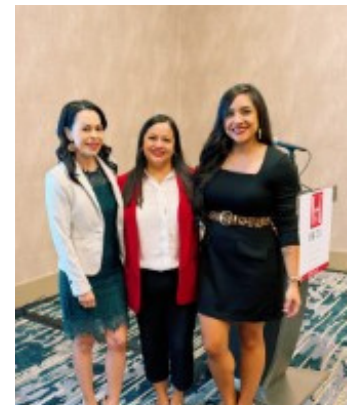


Lumina
FOUNDATION



Invited Presentations

- Rutgers-Newark University: University of Arizona Site Visit; Building Institutional & State-Based HSI Capacity (February 2025)
- Alliance of HSI Educators Conference (March 2025)
- University of Texas Rio Grand Valley: University of Arizona Site Visit; Building Institutional & State-Based HSI Capacity (March 2025)
- Washington State HSI Summit: The AZ HSI Consortium: A Blueprint for State-Based HSI Coalition Building (May 2025)
- Riverside City College: The AZ HSI Consortium: A Blueprint for State-Based HSI Coalition Building (August 2025)
- Colorado HSI Summit: The AZ HSI Consortium: A Blueprint for State-Based HSI Coalition Building (September 2025)
- Excelencia in Education and Helios Education Foundation: Advancing Student Success in Higher Education in AZ: Growing Talent for our Country's Future (October 2025)
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU): Creating a State-Based Process to Identify Evidence-Based Practices at HSIs (November 2025)



Institution Highlight

University of Arizona and Arizona State University Recertified Seal of Excelencia!

The University of Arizona originally received the Seal of Excelencia in 2019 as part of the inaugural recognition. The university was recertified in 2022 and again in 2025, honored as an “Intentionally Thriving Institution,” a distinction shared with only seven other universities. Congratulations to the University of Arizona!



We proudly celebrate Arizona State University for its sustained national leadership in advancing student success. ASU also first earned the Seal of Excelencia in 2019 as part of the inaugural cohort, was recertified in 2022, and again in 2025. ASU was also honored as an “Intentionally Thriving Institution”, reaffirming its institution-wide commitment to impact. Congratulations to Arizona State University!

MEET THE TEAM



Mara López, EdD

Director
HSI Research



Paulette Nevarez

Graduate Assistant
AZ HSI Consortium



Andrea Salgado

Student Ambassador
AZ HSI Consortium

We proudly recognize our committee members and volunteers from **19** of Arizona's **21** Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Their collaboration and generous investment of time are vital to our progress and exemplify the strength of our Consortium as an effective community of practice. We are grateful for the dedication they bring to this shared work.

Join the AZ HSI Consortium [listserv](#) to learn more!



Sponsors

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



Award #2311013



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azhsiconsortium@gmail.com



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