



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2026

AZ HSI Consortium Announces 2026–2027 GATE Seed Grant Awardees

The AZ HSI Consortium is proud to announce the recipients of the 2026–2027 GATE Seed Grants. This marks the second cohort of awardees selected for this initiative, supported by funding from the National Science Foundation and the Helios Education Foundation.

The AZ HSI Consortium brings together all 22 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) across Arizona to strengthen both individual and collective capacity to intentionally support the conditions necessary for student success statewide.

The GATE program features two application tracks, STEM and non-STEM, and is designed to support innovative programs and initiatives that advance student success. This year's application cycle drew approximately 14 submissions representing five Arizona HSIs, showcasing both impactful work already underway and promising ideas for future advancement.

A total of \$225,000 in funding has been awarded across nine selected programs. The funding cycle will run from March 2026 through March 2027. In addition to financial support,

awardees will participate in a year-long cohort experience that includes mentorship, regular check-ins, and professional development seminars to help strengthen and sustain their initiatives.

The 2026–2027 GATE Seed Grant awardees are:

- **Design Lab as a Community-Engaged Strategy for Reducing Systemic Barriers for HSI Learners** — *University of Arizona* (PI: Anupam Singh, PhD)
- **ENGINE (Engineering Network for Graduate Industry Navigation & Exploration) Program** — *University of Arizona* (PI: Amanda Bogden, PhD, MS, BS)
- **STEM Launch: Preparing Transfer Students for STEM Success** — *Northern Arizona University* (PI: Lauren Shollenberger, EdD; Co-PIs: Nena Bloom, EdD)
- **Closing Transfer and Degree Completion Gaps of STEM Community College Students by Introducing multidisciplinary CUREs (mCUREs)** — *Phoenix College* (PI: Anna Marti-Subirana, PhD, MA, MS; Co-PIs: Robin Cotter, PhD, Abeer Hamdan, Mas-Gis, MA, PhD & Frank Marfai, PhD)
- **BRIDGE to STEM: A Bridge Program for First-Generation Engineering Students** — *Arizona State University* (PI: Leila Ladani, PhD; Co-PIs: Patrick Phelan, PhD)
- **HSI Education Grant** — *Arizona State University* (PI: Heather Bateman, PhD; Co-PIs: Kelsey Lyberger, PhD & Jessica Boyles, PhD)
- **Multilingual Clinical Learning Collaborative (MCLC)** — *University of Arizona* (PI: Genesis Arizmendi, PhD, CCC-SLP; Co-PIs: Alejandra Zapien-Hidalgo, MD, MPH)
- **Monster Mentors** — *Eastern Arizona College* (PI: Charmaine Chidester, BS; Co-PIs: Tonka Curtis, BA, MA & Karen Preston, BS, MS)

- **Contigo: Peer Mentoring for Resilience and Access** — *Northern Arizona University*
(PI: Leah Mundell, PhD; Co-PIs: Samantha Marin Olmos, Natalia Canaan, & Roxana Cardiel)
- **CRP in STEM: From Culturally Responsive to Culturally Sustaining Practices** —
Pima Community College (PI: Christopher Cabello, PhD, MEd)

The AZ HSI Consortium congratulates all nine awardees and looks forward to the meaningful impact these programs will have over the coming year.

For more information about the AZ HSI Consortium and the GATE program, please contact AZ HSI Consortium at azhsiconsortium@gmail.com.