



January 8, 2018

Dear College and University Leaders:

On behalf of the Texas Hispanic-Serving Institutions Consortium (TxHSIC) and the officers of the Consortium, we are writing to provide you with updates about our current work and plans for the future. As you may know, the TxHSIC is a non-profit organization that works with the 83 Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the state, as well as all interested colleges and universities in Texas. Since our beginnings in 2005, we had been able to conduct annual conferences for our institutions that provide current information on external funding opportunities in support of our faculty, students, and institutional capacity building at HSIs. Our 2018 annual Conference will be held this year on March 21-23, at Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas. The host hotel is the La Quinta Airport in Laredo.

This year we applied and have been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to host a special conference to gather input on STEM Education needs in Texas (award # 1759134). The abstract can be found online at the NSF website with Principal Investigator, Dr. Nora Garza, Laredo Community College, Co-PIs, Dr. Agnes Flores, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Dr. Hoonandara Goonatilake, Texas A&M International University and Dr. Selina Mireles, University of Texas. The title is PROMISE: Providing Resources and Opportunities for Minorities in STEM Education. As a result of that funding we will be able to defray the cost of attending by providing one double room for each institution for two days. Meals will be provided free for two representatives from each member institution. Registration is **free for two representatives** of institutions that have paid their membership fee for this 2018 year. If you are not a current member, then there is a \$50 conference registration fee per person which will need to be paid by a check or money order.

Your institution's annual membership fee also helps the Consortium award several scholarships annually to students from 2-year and 4-year member institutions that have representatives in attendance at the Conference. To find out if your institution is a member and to view institution scholarships awarded this past year, visit our webpage located at www.txhsic.wordpress.com.

We have enclosed the membership form for the TxHSIC that provides details about payment of the annual membership fee (\$300 per institution). Membership fees can be paid with federal dollars under EDGAR 200.454 and 34 CFR Part 606.10(14). There is strength in numbers, as we have seen over the last decade of the Consortium's work. We have seen numerous successful joint grant proposals to federal, state, and local funders that have grown out

of the networking, conversations, and planning that takes place at our annual Conferences and through the meaningful connections that are built around our common interests. Please join us by submitting a new membership or by renewing your institutional membership.

Finally, you may be interested to know some national statistics that have been published by the Hispanic-Serving Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) at www.hacu.net. Across the nation there are currently 472 HSIs that meet the federal criterion for this designation, and together these institutions enroll 2,713,354 students. Those of us in Texas at HSIs are part of this national picture, where 64% of all Hispanic students are enrolled in HSIs. Thank you for your work in advancing access, success, and opportunities for students and faculty at your institution, and for participating in the work of the Texas Hispanic-Serving Institutions Consortium.

Sincerely yours,

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