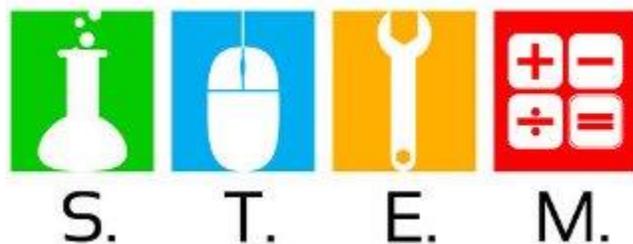


May 15, 2017



Congress Enacts NSF HSI Grant Program

On May 4, funding for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant program supporting undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) was approved by the 115th Congress as part of the final [Fiscal Year 2017 Omnibus spending bill](#). This new funding has been a key goal of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) for many years.

The [Commerce-Justice-Science portion](#) (see page 44) of the appropriations bill "*...also directs NSF to establish an Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) program at no less than \$15,000,000 as authorized in 42 U.S.C. 1862o-12. The agreement encourages NSF to use this program to build capacity at institutions of higher education that typically do not receive high levels of NSF grant funding.*"

[Click here](#) for HACU's statement and [click here](#) for additional information on the Advocacy Center.

FY2017 Federal Budget & Appropriations

Congress has approved and the president has signed a final budget agreement (omnibus) for the remainder of FY 2017. Even though there are only 5 months left in the current Fiscal Year, very few non-defense discretionary related programs received a small increase that agencies will now have to spend before the end of September 30, 2017.

HSIs related programs were level funded from FY 2016 into FY 2017:

- Title V-Part A: \$107.8 M
- Title V-Part B: \$9.7 M
- Title III-Part F: \$93.1 M
- USDA: \$9.2 million

A big win for students and institutions of higher education was the reinstatement of the [year-round Pell](#) or 2nd Pell or summer Pell. The Omnibus language will allow an estimated 1 million students to receive a second grant in a given year so they can attend school during summer in addition to two other academic sessions.

FY2018 Federal Budget

The administration is expected to present to Congress its final FY 2018 budget request by the week of May 22, 2017. If the initial release of the FY 2018 "[skinny budget](#)" is any indication, the submission is likely to encounter some significant push back, from many members of the majority and minority parties, to the many controversial proposed cuts to a variety of programs that enjoy strong bi-partisan support. HACU's GR team will be ready to react and communicate as necessary once the budget information is made public.

BRIDGE Act Update

On April 26, 2017, HACU hosted the "Act on the DREAM" Summit which convened a select group of about 40 leaders of national higher education organizations and other national immigration specific stakeholders to discuss the establishment of a coalition in support of the [BRIDGE Act](#) (S. 128 & H.R. 496) and the subsequent passage of the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act).

If you are aware of specific resources for DREAMers, HACU encourages you to email them to dcgr@hacu.net, to help in the development of the resources webpage the organization has created to assist institutions that enroll DREAMers and DACA recipients. You can find additional information by [clicking here](#). We will also post a post-summit report on HACU's [Advocacy Center](#) in the next couple weeks.

New HSI Data Available

HACU and Excelencia in Education have announced the 2015-16 academic year saw continued and concentrated growth in the number of Latinos attending college. As a result, there is an increase in the number of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in the United States. In general, HSIs have 25% or more Latino full-time equivalent enrollment. In 2015-16, 14% of all institutions of higher education or 472 HSIs enrolled 64% of all Latino undergraduates.

We encourage you to check out the new data:

- [HSIs by Congressional Districts 2015-16](#)
- [Emerging HSIs by Congressional Districts 2015-16](#)
- [HACU's 2017 Fact Sheet](#)
- [HACU's Press Release Announcing the New HSI Data](#)

Forward this Washington Update to a colleague or friend. Encourage them to [sign-up](#) and join the [Advocacy Center](#) to lend their voice of support for HSIs and Latino students.