

ARTICLE: 2015 Central & Northern California Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) Community College Summit

By Ronald F. Jimenez, SDC Chair and Dr. Alicia Meza, SDC Member

On Tuesday February 17th 2015 Ronald F. Jimenez and Dr. Alicia Meza attended the *Central and Northern California Community College Summit* held at the University of California, Davis (UCD). Attending were approximately **150** active and retired community college professors, counselors, social workers and interested parties. The main goal for this summit was to review the accomplishments and needs of the Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI's) in the region.

HSI is a term used to refer to a Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 federally funded program. It is designed to assist United States colleges or universities that attempt to assist first generation, and low-income Hispanic students. There are over 250 institutions that have been designated HIS.

The Department of Education offers large grants to institutions defined as HIS. Funds may be used for many academic purposes. They include: faculty development, administrative management, improvement of academic programs, and curriculum development. In addition, funds may be allocated for scientific or laboratory equipment, renovation of instructional facilities, joint use of facilities, academic tutoring, counseling programs, and student support services. Thus, the prospect of serving youth in their struggle to become fully prepared can very well be met by utilizing what HSI has to offer.

The Summit Welcome included various dignitaries from UCD and a National Director of Rural Development. The General Session featured Deborah A. Santiago whose presentation included positive comments on the effectiveness of some institutional practices in the success of various programs throughout the nation. Ms Santiago stressed the need for HIS recipients to be cognizant of the goal to prepare our Leaders of Today and Tomorrow.

Report of “Latinos in K-12 and Transition to Higher Education”

“Latinos in K-12 Transition to Higher Education” was one of the workshop sessions attended by Alicia Meza. Yolo County Superintendent Jesse Ortiz facilitated the session for a three member panel. The panelist included Maria Armstrong, Superintendent, Woodland JUSD, Jose Banda-Superintendent SCUSD, Jessie Ortiz-Yolo County Superintendent of Schools, Cireno Rodriguez-School Trustee Woodland JUSD.

There was a discussion on the current overall statistics of students in California and the Hispanic students potential to pursue a Higher Education. In addition, mention was made of Woodland District's process in providing students with professional guidance in order to cope with the aspect of dual attendance while attending their High School and obtaining credits at Sacramento City College. WJUSD high school counselors provide students with support and assist in maneuvering through registration, class selection, and financial concerns.

Report of the HS Grant Funded Colleges, Title V Grant: Creating New Dreams & Traditions in STEM

Below is a brief of the breakaway session attended by Ronald F. Jimenez. The presenters were from Reedley Community College, in Fresno, CA and Madera Community College Center. Main facilitator was Diana Topia-Wright, Ed.D. Director of Grant Funded Programs:

Title V, Part A of the Higher Education Act, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1101-11-1d; 1103-1103g)

Program Description:

The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students. These grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

Applicant Information:

Institutions must be designated as an eligible institution of higher education in order to apply for the Title V program and must meet the program-specific requirements to be defined as an HSI.

To be designated as an eligible institution of higher education, an institution must apply for and receive designation through an application process. Please refer to the most recent Application for Designation as an Eligible Institution. You may contact the program office if you have questions regarding eligibility.

HSI Designation:

The U.S. Department of Education and the HSI Division do not officially grant an institution an HSI designation. Institutions are considered HSIs based on their grant award status for the duration of their grant award, which is five years. The Department defines an HSI as an institution of higher education that has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application.

Types of Projects:

Funds may be used for activities such as: scientific or laboratory equipment for teaching; construction or renovation of instructional facilities; faculty development; purchase of educational materials; academic tutoring or counseling programs; funds and administrative management; joint use of facilities; endowment funds; distance learning academic instruction; teacher education; and student support services.

NOTE: The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) amended Section 503(b) of the Higher Education Act to include among the authorized activities under the HSI Program: activities to improve student services, including innovative and customized instruction courses designed to retain students and move the students into core courses; articulation agreements and student support programs designed to facilitate the transfer of students from two-year to four-year institutions; and providing education, counseling services, and financial information designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students and their families.

The HEOA also amended the authorized activities to use the term "distance education technologies" in place of "distance learning academic instruction capabilities."

Additional Information:

Five-year individual development grants, five-year cooperative arrangement development grants, and one-year planning grants may be awarded.

NOTE: The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program is NOT a scholarship or fellow.

About Reedley College STEM

What is STEM? On the surface it stands for Science Technology Engineering and Math but look deeper and you will find exciting and inspiring career opportunities that promote economic and environmental sustainability, creativity, and change. In order to prepare students for global competitiveness in the STEM areas Reedley College has launched a grant funded program designed to help students successfully transfer to a 4-year college or university.

This program goal is to increase Hispanic student enrollment in STEM courses; and ultimately for them to transfer to university and graduate in a STEM related fields. **Goal 1:** Increase the number of Reedley College Students who are awarded degrees in STEM fields. **Goal 2:** Increase STEM degrees earned by Hispanic students. **Goal 3:** Increase the number of RC students and RC Hispanic transferring in STEM fields. **Goal 4:** Develop new transfer programs in emerging STEM fields and articulate curriculum with four-year colleges and universities. To accomplish this, Reedley College HSI STEM grant proposal focuses on:

- 1) New STEM Program Development and Articulation for Transfer
- 2) Strengthening of Existing STEM Programs and Labs & Improving Articulation
- 3) Academic and Student Services Support for STEM
- 4) STEM Outreach to Hispanic Communities and Feeder Schools
- 5) Enabling More Data-based Decision-Making Competitive Priority

The school will hold its STEM Conference in April 2015 and invited any high school robotics team to participate in their event. I informed Reedley College of the United Latino's partnership and efforts with the Science Engineering School (S.E.S.) within its Student Development Council's focus area relating to STEM.