

Mission and History

The mission of The National Hispanic University (NHU) is to enable Hispanics, other minorities, women, and others to acquire an undergraduate degree or certificate using a multicultural educational experience to obtain a professional career in business, education, or technology.

Goals and Objectives

The National Hispanic University is dedicated to the challenge of meeting the unique requirements of its students. The purpose of providing the opportunity for a multicultural education to qualified individuals is expressed in all phases of the University's operations, from the selection of professors to the design of the curriculum. The undergraduate academic programs provide students with a general education, as well as specialized knowledge in a chosen field. While The National Hispanic University realizes the necessity of offering students a large quantity of available information, it believes that its primary task is to develop students' skills in critical thinking and inquiry.

The fundamental goal of NHU is to help students to acquire a liberal arts based-knowledge, to develop the competencies needed in their chosen professional field, and to gain the attitude of personal responsibility necessary to function effectively as a citizen in an increasingly complex and interdependent world.

University Objectives

To fulfill its mission, The National Hispanic University is committed to the following student learning outcomes:

1. Written Composition
2. Critical Thinking
3. Information Literacy
4. Oral Communication
5. Cultural Competency

As NHU enhances student competency in its five student learning outcomes across the curriculum, students will become critical thinkers who are skilled communicators both in written composition and oral communication, who can also engage in inquiry and research using the most effective methods to access and evaluate information, and who can effectively interact with others in this increasing multicultural and global environment.

History of the University

The National Hispanic University was established in 1981 to serve the needs of Hispanics, women, other minorities and other learners. The late 1960s witnessed the development of equal educational opportunities for Hispanics and other minorities, which became a major issue in higher education. Many Latinos benefited from these initiatives. However, the gap between Hispanics and whites continued to widen. The large influxes of Mexican immigrants with limited English skills, the elimination of "race-based" admissions, and the lack of educational achievement in K-12 are key reasons why Latinos and other minorities continue to lag behind whites and others in higher education completions.

The 1980s were heralded as the "decade of Hispanics." It was at this time that The National Hispanic University was founded. It came to be after extensive research of the success rate and high quality of education provided by historically black colleges and universities that graduated (and still do today) almost half of the African American professionals in American society. In 1980, research on 118 black colleges found that although they only enrolled 17-19% of college eligible students, they awarded 50% of the baccalaureate degrees earned by African American students in 1980, (American Council on Education, "Minorities in Higher Education", report, 1980). NHU believed that a small private independent college could make a difference in the graduation of Hispanic professionals in education, technology, and business.

It is within this context that The National Hispanic University shaped its mission: "To enable Hispanics, other minorities, women, and others to acquire an undergraduate degree or certificate using a multicultural educational experience to obtain a professional career in business, education, or technology."

NHU recognized in its origins that Hispanic learners needed something different. They needed an educational system that acknowledged their learning needs. This was the starting point for NHU. The work of the Bay Area Bilingual Education League (BABEL) directed by Dr. B. Roberto Cruz, the founding President of NHU and its academic visionary for 22 years, helped shape the framework for the different types of Hispanic learners.

This framework coupled with the research conducted on Historically Black Colleges and Universities identified high expectations, role models and academic support systems, as effective strategies to graduate African American students. This became the foundation by which The National Hispanic University was established.

In many ways, the understanding of Hispanic learning needs and the development of role models, high expectations, and academic support systems were implemented before they gained recognition by traditional higher education institutions. NHU initiated these strategies with the hope that other institutions would learn from NHU's experience. The late Dr. B. Roberto Cruz, shared these concepts nationally in 1990 at an American Association of Higher Education Conference in New York. Now as we are approaching 2010, it is clear that many private and public institutions interested in serving Hispanics and other learners are beginning to embrace the strategies NHU initiated.

Institutional Recognition and Accreditations

NHU gained full institutional approval as a four-year degree granting institution from the California State Department of Education, Private Post-Secondary Educational Division in 1985.

NHU is recognized as a four-year, post secondary institution by the United States Department of Education and is listed in the Higher Education Publication (HEP).

NHU is authorized under Federal Law to enroll nonimmigrant, international students.

The National Hispanic University is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

NHU has approval from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to grant Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credentials (English, Math, Science, Social Science, P.E., Art, and Spanish) and BCLAD/CLAD Certificates.

NHU has an approved Elementary Subject Matter Program. NHU is accredited by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) to issue the Multiple Subject Credential, the Mild to Moderate Education Specialist, and the Single Subject Credential in Art, English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, Social Science, and Spanish. In addition, the Clear Credential and CTEL/CLAD certificate has also been approved by the CCTC.

University Facilities

When founded in 1981, The National Hispanic University was housed in a two-room building on East 14th Street in Oakland. The facility provided space for 155 students, 12 staff, and adjunct faculty. In September 1990, the Oakland campus moved to 262 Grand Avenue, Oakland, in a larger and safer facility. Simultaneously, as the result of a Board of Trustees recommendation and in keeping with the goal of offering post-secondary education to more Hispanics, NHU opened its San Jose campus on East Gish Road. San Jose was chosen as a site because it is home to the third largest Hispanic population in California, and tenth largest in the Nation. In the fall of 1994, NHU relocated to its current 11-acre campus on Story Road in East San Jose.

The existing San Jose campus consists of administrative, faculty, and student services offices, classrooms of varied sizes, an auditorium, a library, and a student lounge. The Center for College Success (CCS) provides academic support to students in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and study skills. In addition, the university also houses computer laboratories.

The new campus construction was completed by Fall 2004 which includes a 3-story, 65,000 square foot learning facility, plaza/amphitheatre and athletic field. The new learning facility has 18 classrooms, 2 science laboratories, 3 computer laboratories, a new CCS, administrative office space and a library.

University Educational Partnerships

The National Hispanic University maintains several vital partnerships in the Silicon Valley. A key partnership is NHU/SJSU partnership. This is an articulation agreement between the two universities establishing joint enrollment opportunities and collaborative programs and services designed to prepare future leaders in business, computers and bilingual education in the Silicon Valley. Students interested in majors not offered by NHU may petition to transfer to SJSU after completing their general education requirements.

We have partnerships with San Jose City College, Evergreen Valley College, Foothill and DeAnza College District. Furthermore, we have sustained partnerships with NASA/Ames, Santa Clara County Office of Education and with several community serving non-profits and corporate entities.