

## Mission

NHU provides a post-secondary education for Hispanics and others grounded in cultural respect, biliteracy, and diversity for engaged students who will become local, national, and global community leaders. Our mission is that every NHU student will graduate.

## Values

- **Familia:** NHU believes in *familia*, a signature approach that applies a unique combination of cooperative learning and mutual assistance among students, faculty, and community/business partners in a personal and culturally relevant environment. The interactions with responsive and caring professors, staff, and community members help to create a caring and supportive environment with a high degree of authenticity in all interactions.
- **Inclusiveness:** NHU cherishes multiple perspectives and embraces diversity in support of our common mission, which is the cornerstone of access to quality education for our students.
- **Quality and Excellence:** NHU pursues superior performance in teaching, learning, service, and research.
- **Service:** NHU prepares students to be of service to their communities and society at large.
- **Integrity:** NHU lives honestly and ethically according to our shared values.

## Goals and Objectives

NHU 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 NHU 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 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 Outcomes

To fulfill its mission, NHU is committed to the following student learning outcomes:

- Written Composition
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Oral Communication
- 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**

NHU 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 influx 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 NHU 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. 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 NHU 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 the late 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 NHU 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. 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 2012, 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); 985 Atlantic Avenue, #100 - Alameda, CA 94501 - (510) 748-9001, [www.wascsenior.org](http://www.wascsenior.org).

The National Hispanic University has approval from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) to recommend qualified candidates for the Multiple Subject, Single Subject (English, Math, Science, Social Science, PE, Art, and Spanish), Mild to Moderate Education Specialist Teaching Credentials and BCLAD/CLAD Certificates. 1900 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95811-4213; 1-888-921-2682; [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov).

NHU has state approval for the Multiple Subject California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) waiver.

## **University Facilities**

When founded in 1981, NHU 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, a larger and safer facility.

Simultaneously, NHU opened its San Jose campus on East Gish Road as the result of a Board of Trustees recommendation and in keeping with the goal of offering post-secondary education to more Hispanics. San Jose was chosen 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 and includes a three-story, 65,000-square-foot learning facility, plaza/amphitheatre, and athletic field. The new learning facility has 18 classrooms, two science laboratories, three computer laboratories, a new CCS, administrative office space, and a library.

## **University Educational Partnerships**

NHU maintains several vital partnerships in Silicon Valley, including a key partnership with San Jose State University (SJSU). This articulation agreement establishes 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.

NHU has partnerships with San Jose City College, Evergreen Valley College, Foothill College, and DeAnza College, Cabrillo College, and Mission College. NHU also has sustained partnerships with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center, Santa Clara County Office of Education, and with several community serving non-profits and corporate entities.

## **University Assessment Plan**

NHU has selected five University-wide student learning outcomes that will be phased in over a four-year period: Written Composition, Critical Thinking, Information Literacy, Oral Communication, and Cultural Competency. The university established a four-year timetable to collect assessment data for these learning outcomes. The first assessment cycle started during the 2008-2009 academic year and will end by the 2011-2012 academic year. In addition, each academic program has an assessment plan to collect assessment data over 5-year cycles for their program learning outcomes.