

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 objectives:

1. Providing academically rigorous programs that promote critical thinking and problem solving skills;
2. Practicing and advocating cultural pluralism that respects and appreciates diversity as a model for interaction in the classroom, university and society;
3. Providing service learning and community-based experiences that will help students become productive professionals and responsible citizens;
4. Developing in its students the capacity to become lifelong learners;
5. Providing and promoting quality services as part of the co-curricular learning experience to effectively meet the diverse needs of, and to support students in pursuit of their stated educational objective;

6. Maintaining a planning and evaluation system that engages the university community in a cycle of inquiry, assessment, and feedback to support NHU's decision making process, high academic quality, and institutional effectiveness.

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. In California, the University of California and the California State Universities established a number of programs to promote access t for Latinos to higher education. These programs, most notably Student Affirmative Action for the University of California system, Educational Opportunity Programs in the California State University system and Colleges, attempted to address the burgeoning numbers of minorities who needed higher education. Many Latinos benefited from these initiatives in the 1970s and 1980s. 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, the lack of educational achievement in K-12 and the population explosion of Hispanics in the last twenty years are key reasons why Hispanics 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 enter 2005, it is clear that many private and public institutions interested in serving Hispanics and other learners are beginning to embrace the strategies NHU initiated.

Historic Milestones of NHU

- 1981** Established as an independent, non-profit, four-year institution of Higher education. Received authorization to grant degrees from California State Department of Education.
- 1983** Graduated the first class of allied health professionals with Associate of Arts Degrees.
- 1985** Granted full institutional approval as a degree granting institution from California State Department of Education Office of Private Post-Secondary Education.
- 1986** Graduated the first class with the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration.
- 1988** Developed an articulation agreement with California State University, Hayward, which provided for mutual acceptance of credits at the undergraduate level in Liberal Studies, as well as collaborative faculty, professional development and

student matriculation. Recognized by the United States Department of Education as a four-year, post-secondary educational institution in the U.S. eligible to participate in various federal assistance programs, including Pell Grants. Granted Master’s degrees to the first class of the Master’s in Business Administration Program.

- 1989** Senator Alan Cranston recognized the accomplishments of NHU in the Congressional Record.
- 1990** Established Upward Bound Program in Oakland for economically disadvantaged high school youth. Expansion of The National Hispanic University to San Jose. Received a commitment from IBM Corporation to develop and implement a five-year program to provide equipment to support the administrative requirements of NHU along with a computer laboratory in support of a degree program in Computer Science/Information Systems.
- 1991** Expanded Student Services through Cooperative Education. Established a model Translation Studies certificate program and center in the language combination of English and Spanish. Established an Educational Talent Search Program in San Jose to impact middle school and high school students from low-income backgrounds.
- 1992** Received the Community Service Award from National Society of Hispanic MBA’s. Merged the Oakland campus into the San Jose campus.
- 1993** Received accreditation from the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown to promote Hispanic entrepreneurship through education.
- 1994** Relocated to a 10.8-acre campus in San Jose.
- 1995** Approved as CLAD/BCLAD Teacher Credentialing Institution by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). Established an Endowment Board headed by Herbert M. Baum, CEO, Quaker State Oil Corporation. Granted re-approval as a Degree Granting Institution

- from the California State Department of Education.
- 1996** Launched education initiative, “A contract with Hispanic America: Rebuilding Broken Dreams,” featuring nationally renowned Rev. Robert A. Schuller, Randolph A. Hearst, Frank Bennack, Jr. and Dr. Armando Rodriguez.
- The National Hispanic University awarded \$500,000 Endowment Challenge Grant, U.S. Department of Education.
- Sobrato Family Foundation established The National Hispanic University Scholarship Fund.
- The Hearst Foundation awarded The National Hispanic University \$400,000 general support grant.
- 1997** Re-accredited through December 31, 1999 by the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools.
- President Robert L. Caret (SJSU) and President Roberto Cruz (NHU) established a partnership and articulation agreement for joint degree programs to prepare the future workforce.
- Established a \$750,000 endowment fund for long-term stability.
- Dr. Robert L. Caret (SJSU) delivers the 1997 NHU Commencement Speech.
- Safeway Food & Drugs, Inc. sponsored First Annual Safeway/NHU Golf Classic and raised \$150,000 to help establish first NHU endowment fund. education and collaborative research opportunities that will bring more
- Dr. Harry McDonald, Director of the NASA/Ames Research Center established a Partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding with the University for education and collaborative research opportunities that will bring more Hispanics into the aerospace and technology fields.
- Several top Silicon Valley and national corporate leaders were elected to NHU Board of Trustees: John Sobrato Sr., CEO, Sobrato Development Companies; James Gallagher, President, Westinghouse; Joe Parisi, President, Therma Inc.; L.L. Vic Victorino, Executive Vice President, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space.
- 1998** Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) granted candidacy for accreditation to NHU on June 25, 1998. NHU signed a partnership agreement with San Jose/Evergreen Valley College District on October 27, 1998 to increase the number of Latino students transferring from a community college to a four-year University. NHU prepared more Latino bilingual teachers in Northern California than any other four-year institution. SAP Labs approved a \$71,000 grant to NHU 1998 to train and teach R/3 software to our faculty to promote R/3 on December software in the curriculum.
- Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space printed 5,000 copies of new 1998-2000 NHU Catalogue.
- ADOBE donated computer furniture (tables and chairs) for new computer lab.
- NEC Foundation of America approved a \$10,000 grant to NHU on October 30, 1998 to initiate Project Hope (Hispanic Opportunities in Higher Education).
- 1999** NHU signed an agreement with East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) to prepare 100 Latino students for college admission with guaranteed enrollment in the fall of 1999.
- Sobrato Development Companies renewed the \$50,000 Sobrato Family Scholarship on March 1, 1999.
- Frito-Lay donated \$20,000 to NHU to establish an Internship Program for employees, February 1999.
- SGI constructed SGI Lab at NHU with 12 computer stations. By fall 1999, 12 additional computer stations were donated and upgraded with new hardware and software, together with a maintenance contract and a training program for our faculty, February 1999.
- Frito-Lay agreed to help NHU with a public relations campaign to promote joint degree programs.

NHU received a \$500,000 grant over 3 years from the National Security Agency (NSA) to establish a Matematicos (mathematicians) Pipeline Project.

Lockheed Martin and Rudolph & Sletten established Scholarship/Internship Programs for Latino students in 1999 in support of Project HOPE, March 1999.

SJSU/NHU partnership was expanded. Library, cross registration, joint career placement, and distance learning agreements reached.

Mayor Ron Gonzalez is NHU 1999 Commencement Speaker on June 5.

NASA/Ames Research Center approved a part-time webmaster to upgrade NHU's web page and outreach via Internet, May 1999.

2000 Completed a successful WASC Midterm Review.

Approved for Continuance of the Multiple Subject Credential Program with California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Launched fundraising campaign to purchase the 11-acre campus.

Applied Materials, Inc. awards The National Hispanic University a 3-year, \$600,000 grant to strengthen the Computer Science degree program and develop the new LCPA charter high school.

2001 Purchased the 11-acre San Jose campus.

Received Title V funding of \$1.9 million over 5 years.
Doubled the full-time teaching faculty.

Established the Latino College Preparatory Academy, a public Charter High School.

Launched capital campaign to build a new campus.

2002 Received NASA/AMES grants to develop Mathematics/Science and Teacher Education Programs.

Granted WASC accreditation.

2003 Obtained capital for construction of new building.

Ground breaking of new 65,000 square foot building.

2004 Re-accredited through 2008 by ACICS.

The Applied Materials foundation awards a 2-year, \$400,000 grant to strengthen the

Science program at the National Hispanic University.

Opened Sobrato Hall.

2005 Approximately 200 new students started their first year at NHU. This is the largest freshman class at NHU.

NHU received 600,000 from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Graduated first LCPA class.

LCPA granted WASC Accreditation.

WASC approved NHU's Institutional Proposal.

Successful Scholarship fund-raising events.

2006 NHU's 25th year anniversary

NHU received 300,000 from the Department of Energy for Mathematics and Science initiatives

LCPA received the Irvine Grant