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.

Philosophy

The philosophy of The National Hispanic University is well grounded in theories and principles of such scholars as Sabine Ulibarri, Juan Aragon, Tomas Arciniega and Vincent Tinto all leaders in multicultural and higher education.

“Language is culture; it carries with it traditions, customs, the very life of a people. You cannot separate one from the other. To love one is to love the other; to hate one is to hate the other.” “If one wants to destroy a people, take away their language and their culture will soon disappear.” (Ulibarri)

According to Ulibarri, every individual in our classroom and society is different. Teachers cannot assume that all students learn alike. To be effective, teachers must understand and respect differences in students not as deficiencies or handicaps but as assets, which students bring to school.

Aragon wrote about a “filtration” system that exists in our U.S. society. He compares our U.S. system to a large number of ethnic ponds with different types of fish (Italian, Polish, African-American, Hispanic, etc.) and a mainstream of Anglo fish into which all ponds feed. Aragon contends that extended from each of the ponds to the mainstream is a giant filtration system. For fishes from each of the ponds to “get into the mainstream,” they first must go through the “filter” and lose their language and culture.

Next, the color of their skin must be of light complexion; otherwise, the fish must remain in their “pond” or barrio (ghetto). Aragon states that most of the European ethnic ponds are now empty. While some of the African, Hispanic and Asian “fish” have gone through the filtration system into the mainstream, a majority of these fishes have not been accepted due to their differences; thus, separate ponds outside the mainstream still exist in our society.

Aragon emphasizes that a truly pluralistic society would welcome all different types of fish (people) and respect their differences without forcing them to pass through some filtration system. While all would communicate in a common language, they would not be forced to lose their native language and culture. He feels that the diversity of fish would enrich our mainstream, make it more economically competitive and bring about better understanding.

Arciniega, a more contemporary scholar who retired as President of California State University, Bakersfield, expresses similar views towards the importance of pluralism in our educational system from kindergarten through college. He cites the current demographic changes in our society, which show the increasing number of minorities, immigrants and women who will constitute our future work force, to emphasize the importance of multicultural pluralism in our educational system.