Why the National Hispanic University?

A TOTAL UNIVERSITY

From the beginning, The National Hispanic University has defined itself as a Total University. Each educational program has been designed as a stepping-stone for all Hispanic and other students, from preschool through undergraduate school. Along with a diverse faculty and staff, all students act as role models for younger students. This is especially evident in the commencement exercises when five-year-old students from El Nuevo Mundo march in caps and gowns alongside NHU degree students, as do former high school dropouts who have earned their GED (high school equivalency) diplomas. The NHU celebrates each milestone as students move up the education ladder.

According to the census bureau report, 35 million Hispanics live and work in the United States making it the largest minority population in the U.S. Because of family size and continuing immigration, this population is the fastest growing in the country, increasing five times as rapidly as the rest of the population. Yet, Hispanics are also the most poorly educated. Only about 50% of Hispanics under the age of 18 finish high school. Hispanics make up only 5% of the students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, and only one out of ten of them graduate.

NHU’s philosophy of high expectations, academic support, mentoring and role modeling for students in a small classroom setting has helped diverse students overcome the initial barriers to success. More than 80% of the student body has been of Hispanic descent along with African-American, Asian, American Indian and White. NHU promotes peer support and understanding. Similarly, the high percentage of minority faculty and staff provides role models and multilingual assistance, as needed. All students are encouraged to aspire to excellence. Much is expected of them, even before they reach the university level, as can be seen in NHU’s pre-school, middle and high school Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound and Charter School programs.

Other ethnic communities, most notably African-Americans, have found solutions to educational problems by establishing institutions of higher education, which are responsive to their particular needs. These colleges and universities expect students, regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds, to assume leadership positions after graduation and to be active as alumni providing a helping hand to graduates. Woven into the fabric of the student’s university experience are positive role models and support systems that encourage students to seek excellence. NHU has adopted and adapted these characteristics into its own approach.

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 to 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 The NHU. The work of the Bay Area Bilingual Education League (BABEL) directed by Dr. B. Roberto Cruz, the founding President of The 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 2004, 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.

The National Hispanic University awarded $500,000 Endowment Challenge Grant, U.S. Department of Education.

Crystal Cathedral featured The National Hispanic University on the internationally televised Program “The Hour of Power.”

Sobrato Family Foundation established The National Hispanic University Scholarship Fund.

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 Commencement Speech for the NHU graduating class of 1997.

Safeway Food & Drugs, Inc., sponsored First Annual Safeway/NHU Golf Classic and raised $150,000 to help establish first NHU endowment fund.

Dr. Harry McDonald, Director of the NASA/Ames Research Center established a Partnership through an 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 the 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 on December 1998 to train and teach R/3 software to our faculty to promote R/3 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).

NHU signed an agreement with East Side Union HighSchool 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.
Campus Project completed.

Institutional Recognitions and Accreditations

NHU gained full institutional approval as a four-year degree-granting institution from the California State Department of Education, Private Post-Secondary Education 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 received authorization to grant degrees in 1981 from the California State Department of Education, the Council for Private Post-secondary and Vocational Education.

NHU received eligibility to participate in federal assistance programs.

NHU is authorized under Federal law to enroll non-immigrant, 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 and by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools to award Associate Degrees in Business Administration and Liberal Studies, Bachelor’s Degrees in Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Liberal Studies, Certificate Programs for Teacher Preparation, and Certificates in Translation and Interpretation.

NHU received approval by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to offer a program of preparation for the Multiple Subjects Credential.

NHU received state approval for California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) waiver.

NHU received approval by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to offer a program of preparation for the Single Subject Credential.
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 Student Academic Assistance Center (SAAC) 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 will be completed by Fall 2004 and includes a 3-story, 65,000 square foot learning facility, plaza/amphitheatre and athletic field. The new learning facility will have 18 classrooms, 2 science laboratories, 2 computer laboratories, a new SAAC, administrative office space and a library.

University Partnerships

The National Hispanic University maintains several vital partnerships in the Silicon Valley. A key partnership is the 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. The program specifically targets Latino and other under-represented minorities. Students interested in majors not offered by NHU may wish to transfer to SJSU after completing their general education requirements.

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

Academic Programs

NHU offers academic degree programs in Liberal Studies, Business Administration, and Computer Information Systems.

Degree Programs

The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredit these programs.

Business Administration

- Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration

Computer Information Systems

- Associate of Science Degree in Computer Networking
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems

Liberal Studies

- Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with emphasis in:
  - Cross-Cultural Studies
  - Child Development

Note: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Subject Matter Approved Program

Mathematics and Science

- Associate of Science Degree in Math and Science
- Associate of Science Degree in Math and Science with Engineering Emphasis
Credential Programs

The University offers courses to prepare students to meet the requirements set by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) in the following areas:

• Multiple Subject and Single Subject

• Multiple Subject with Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development Emphasis (BCLAD)

• Single Subject in English, Social Science, Mathematics and Science

• CLEAR Credential courses

Note: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Subject Matter Approved Program

Certificate Programs

The University offers courses to prepare students to meet the requirements set by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) in the following areas:

• Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development Emphasis (CLAD)

• Bilingual Cross Cultural Language and Academic Development Emphasis (BCLAD)

Other Certificate Programs offered by the University:

• Translation and Interpretation to prepare interpreters and translators in Spanish-English combination.

Transfer Programs

The University offers articulated courses that are transferable to other universities. Students interested in transferring must complete a minimum of 60 transferable units.