



Office of the President

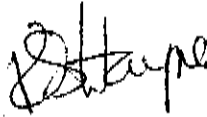

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 4, 2005

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Karen S. Haynes, President 
Gerardo M. González, Chair, HSI Task Force 

SUBJECT: HSI Initiative

Since 2004, Cal State San Marcos has been ranked among the “Top 100” universities in the nation that confer bachelor’s degrees to the largest number of Hispanics. During the past few years our campus has experienced a steady increase in the enrollment of Hispanic students. Currently, 21% of the total undergraduate full-time student enrollment is Hispanic. The vast majority of our students are from the San Diego region. Moreover, Hispanics comprise 28% of the population in the region. Thus, the enrollment of Hispanic students will most likely continue to grow. The significance of these demographic trends is that once our campus achieves 25% Hispanic undergraduate full-time student enrollment, we will be eligible to apply for certain federal programs which would benefit the entire campus community.

For these reasons, as announced at our university convocation in August, one of our campus accomplishments for the past year was “assembling a task force to ensure that we are positioned to compete for federal institutional development funds when our enrollment growth qualifies us for status as a Title V Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI).” In the coming academic year, the two main strategic priorities are “Educational Equity” and “Academic Excellence”. As a community of students, faculty, and staff, we at Cal State San Marcos are committed to respecting and modeling the diversity of our region within a context of social justice. Together, we strive for educational equity, academic excellence, and a fair and open environment for the exchange of ideas.

A diverse group of faculty, staff, student, and community representatives constitute our campus HSI Task Force. The task force aims to communicate the benefits of HSI status for the entire campus and to explore ways for our campus to reach HSI status. During the past year the task force conducted a series of well-received informational presentations to key campus and community groups. The Academic Senate and Associated Students, Inc. endorsed resolutions supporting the efforts to attain HSI status. This year, the HSI Task Force will explore various strategies to achieve HSI status, such as broadening recruitment and retention activities, strengthening partnerships with high schools, increasing outreach and visibility in under-served communities, and promoting a learning environment that is responsive to students of diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, the task force will consult with an advisory group of campus and community members.

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Once HSI status is certified by federal agencies, a university is eligible to compete for federal funds that are accessible to Hispanic-Serving Institutions. These federal funds are available to faculty, staff, and students to improve campus programs that benefit all students. For example, CSU Bakersfield received two Title V grants totaling more than \$1 million to enhance faculty development through diversity training, to expand multicultural library resources and internship opportunities, and to develop cooperative curriculum agreements to improve access for Hispanic and other low-income students.

Acquiring HSI status is a CSU system-wide activity. A total of ten campuses in the CSU system qualify for HSI status: Pomona, Bakersfield, Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Monterey Bay, Northridge, San Bernardino and Stanislaus. Campus statistics indicate that Cal State San Marcos is already close to qualifying for HSI status. Last year 21 percent of Cal State San Marcos undergraduate students (by FTE) self-declared as Hispanic.

Attached is a brochure developed by the task force that summarizes the facts and benefits of HSI eligibility. As we move forward with this initiative, we look to the campus community to assist us in developing and implementing strategies to reach HSI status. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact HSI Task Force Chair Dr. Gerardo M. González at 750-4094.

/KSH:GMG:cla

Copy: Task Force members:

David Barsky, Associate Vice President, Academic Programs
Carolina Cardenas, Director, University Outreach
Marc DeGuzman, President, ASI, Inc.
Nathan Evans, Director, Admissions and Recruitment
Bill de la Fuente, Hispanic Advisory Council
Soheila Jorjani, Professor, College of Business Administration
Lorena Meza, Senior Director, Learning Assistance Services
Susan Mitchell, Associate Vice President, Student Academic Support Services
Tracey Richardson, President, African American Faculty and Staff Association
Jorge Riquelme, Assistant Professor, College of Arts & Sciences
Lourdes Shahamiri, Catalog and Curriculum Coordinator

Advisory Group members:

Tomás Arciniega, President Emeritus of Bakersfield
Darren Bush, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management Services
Glen Brodowsky, Professor, College of Business Administration
Rick Moore, Director of Communications
Juan Necochea, Professor, College of Education
Victor Rocha, Director, Office of Biomedical Research and Training

Attachment: HSI Brochure