HETS would like to highlight and celebrate the outstanding work of its member institutions in meaningfully and strategically using technology to achieve Hispanic student success. Taking place in January 16 and 17, the 2014 HETS Best Practices Showcase will focus on three main tracks: retention, assessment of student learning by standards and by competencies, and Distance Learning, in Higher Education with mission-driven emphasis on Hispanics students.

HETS has defined a “best practice” as an innovative approach or strategy that, with the effective use of technology, has proven to increase recruitment, promote student success, improve student retention and completion, and provide institutions with viable, effective, and efficient approaches to assessment.

Overall, it will be a celebration of innovative technology strategies in Higher Education focused on impacting the Hispanic student population by enhancing retention, college completion, and successful learning outcomes.

Certainly, HETS member institutions are experts in dealing with the Hispanic population and finding ways to provide them with opportunities to succeed, and we want to open a space for them to share this expertise. Once again, attendees will be not only able to learn from the showcased works, but also find solutions to many common issues and even establish new possibilities for collaboration with other institutions and potential partners.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Academic leaders, staff administrators, faculty, technology staff, instructional designers, counselors, student support staff, investigators, corporate representatives related to technology and education, students, and general public.
SHOWCASE TRACKS

Presentations and sessions will be divided into three general tracks or focus areas:

Retention
This track is intended to showcase innovative practices that strategically use technology to support, drive, and optimize retention of Hispanic students. Proposed projects should be able to demonstrate how their approach has had a significant impact on their success in supporting and increasing Hispanic student retention. Programs or strategies that have been spread across all levels of the institutions, use systems to track retention indicators, and prioritize early interventions are strongly encouraged.

Assessment
The HETS Consortium recognizes the significance of establishing a solid assessment culture and applying effective and efficient assessment tools to demonstrate the accomplishment of the overall institutional goals of its members and the achievement of student learning success. This track is aimed at promoting the effective development and implementation of assessment efforts through the innovative and strategic use of technology. It considers projects that innovatively and strategically use technology to track, measure, support, and assess student learning. HETS is also interested in projects that demonstrate the effective use of technology to assess overall institutional impact. Selected project will be able to demonstrate the use of technology tools and instruments to: 1) evidence institutional goal achievement and student outcomes; 2) track student learning success through multiple specific indicators; and/or 3) identify precise courses of action for improvement.

Distance Learning
This track is intended to showcase innovative practices that strategically use technology to support, drive, and optimize online courses or programs, and promoting the effective development and design through the innovative and strategic use of technology in Distance Learning.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate submitted projects on the basis of the following criteria. Each area will be rated on a scale from 1 to 7 (1 = non-satisfactory; 7 = outstanding), for a maximum of 63 points.

1. Level of innovation
2. Meaningful use of technology – demonstrates not only how technologies were put in place but also how effectively those technologies were use in achieving the goals of the project
3. Demonstrated benefit to overall student success and institutional effectiveness
4. Use of specific examples, evidence, or indicators to demonstrate project success
5. Usefulness and replicable initiatives
6. Well-planned, systematic, and cost effective project
7. Quality of the proposal
8. Hispanic focus
9. Lessons learned
The HETS Best Practices Showcase will take place January 16 and 17, 2014 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Additional details on specific location, registration fees, as well as the final program, will be available shortly.

Submit your proposal electronically at www.hets.org. Make sure to take into account the above mentioned evaluation criteria when writing your proposal. Presentations of up to three presenters will be considered. Allotted time for presentation will be of 45 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for participants’ questions. The deadline to submit your proposal is October 8, 2013, and the expected date to notify the status of your proposal is October 23, 2013.

DATE AND LOCATION

The HETS Best Practices Showcase will take place January 16 and 17, 2014 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Additional details on specific location, registration fees, as well as the final program, will be available shortly.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

1st DAY
Thursday, January 16, 2014
7:30-8:45 am
Registration
& Continental Breakfast
8:45-9:15 am
Welcome and Greetings
9:15-10:30 am
Opening Plenary Session
10:30-11:00 am
Coffee Break
11:45 am -12:00 pm
Breakout Presentations
12:00-1:30 pm
Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 pm
Breakout Presentations
2:30 - 3:30 pm
Breakout Presentations
3:30 - 4:00 pm
Coffee Break
4:00-5:00 pm
Breakout Presentations
1:30 - 5:00 pm
Closed Session – Board of Directors Meeting

2nd DAY
Friday, January 17, 2014
7:30-9:00 am
Registration
& Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:00 am
Keynote Speaker
10:00-11:00 am
Breakout Presentations
11:00-11:30 am
Coffee Break
11:30 am -12:30 pm
Breakout Presentations
12:30-1:45 pm
Award Lunch
1:45 - 3:30 pm
Breakout Presentations
3:30 - 4:00 pm
Closing Reception

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