

# HETS Connection | Volume 12: Issue 1

## MARCH 2016

### Message from the Chair



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to another edition of HETS Newsletter. HETS started the year, with many challenges, exciting events and alliances. This issue demonstrates the progress made by our organization as we continue to make strides in advancing educational opportunities for Hispanic students.

The HETS Online Journal continues to serve as a vehicle for state-of-the-art articles about the use of technology in the teaching and learning of our student population. During April 2016, we will publish a no less interesting issue. We invite you to visit [HETS Online Journal](#) and review the fall issue of its Sixth Volume and look forward to read the Spring Issue in few weeks. Please help us to disseminate this peer reviewed publication now that has been added to EBSCO and Cengage databases.

The HETS Best Practices Showcase that took place on January 14-15 was a resounding success. Our keynote speaker, John Sener, addressed representatives from over 40 academic institutions from US and abroad. We were able to enjoy over 30 best practices presentations on the use of technology to teach our students. Finally, over 200 seniors from public and private high schools in PR participated in an Academic Fair.

We continue to grow as an organization. Our membership now includes the American University of Puerto Rico and Lighthouse Translations. Our corporate partners are invaluable in helping us connect with the business community. I believe that we can use our membership as a mechanism to amplify the message that our population is deserving of the most advanced technological advancements. It is my hope that we can continue to leverage our advantage of being a consortium to continue to attract government and private funding

As you can see, as usual there is much that is taking place within HETS, and there is much more to do!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I welcome you to this issue of the HETS Connection, enjoy!

**Manuel J. Fernós, Esq.**  
*Chairman of the HETS Board of Directors, and*  
**President, Inter American University of Puerto Rico**

## Latests from HETS:

In this issue you will find a sampling of what we are doing and relevant news related to our members:

### HETS Welcomes New Institutional and Corporate Members.

HETS also rejoices by extending its connection in Puerto Rico, and Missouri by welcoming American University of Puerto Rico, Southeast Missouri State University and corporate member Lighthouse Translations. We are delighted that they accepted our invitation to join our consortium. Below a brief profile of each for your consideration.



Founded in 1873, Southeast Missouri State University provides a comprehensive education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and practical experience. By emphasizing student-centered and experiential learning, the University prepares individuals to participate responsibly in a global and technologically advanced world. Internships and real-world learning are offered in all majors. By anticipating the skills and knowledge the marketplace will need, we ensure that our students are ready to launch extraordinary careers. With an enrollment of 12,000 students, the University is an ideal size to take advantage of critical learning and extracurricular opportunities. The main campus is located in Cape Girardeau. Other campuses include Kennett, Malden, Sikeston, and the River Campus. More than 30 online degree programs are also offered. Recently appointed, President, Dr. Carlos Vargas-Aburto, immediately accepted HETS invitation to join the consortium and participated of the winter's Board Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



American University of Puerto Rico, University of America, emerged as post-secondary educational institution in 1963. In 1978 the institution became a four-year college and took the name of American College of Puerto Rico. In 1982 received the accreditation of all its programs and certification the *Consejo de Educación de Puerto Rico* who visited them along with the Middle States Association and the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools. Between 1986 to 1988 the institution was re-accredited by three agencies and was given permission to change its name to American University of Puerto Rico coinciding with the celebration its 25th anniversary. In 1997 created the Bachelor's and associate degree of Criminal Justice. In 2001 began offering master's degree in Criminal Justice, followed by others in the areas of education and business administration. Eventually the University is preparing to enter post-graduate studies.



In addition, Lighthouse Translations joined HETS as a corporate member. This company had provided simultaneous translation services during HETS Best Practices Showcase and decided that they also wanted to be part of our initiatives for the benefit of our members. Lighthouse has been offering accurate professional and accurate conference interpreting and translation services since 2003. They have more than twelve years of combined experience in event planning and project management that we bring to the area of Conference Interpretation. For more information about

Lighthouse Translations please visit their website: [www.lighthouseonline.com](http://www.lighthouseonline.com). Welcome to our newest members!

## HETS Appoints Coordinator of Student Support Services.



For 23 years of service, HETS has been promoting its services to enhance student's success and opportunities in Higher Education. To complement and strengthen this efforts, HETS hired Ms. Karen Rivera Díaz as Coordinator of Student Support Services on January, 2016, based on her experience and expertise. We feel incredibly privileged to welcome Karen to our family!

For 12 years Ms. Rivera Díaz held positions related to the area of student services in higher education institutions. She was mentor of the *Universidad del Este* (Carolina) student council for three years. She has also has been speaker on subjects related to student leadership and has led restructuring processes of student services at the institutions she has worked. Karen has a Business Administration master's degree from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico and is currently in the process of doctoral dissertation, in the area of human resources, at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico.

Among Ms. Rivera's tasks, we can highlight the promotion of HETS student services available at its Virtual Plaza, and identify new services aimed to enrich the Student Placita area. Ms. Rivera will be working with the HETS staff and Student Advisory Committee to develop new initiatives for the benefit of the student community at our member institutions. In addition, she already started to contact our members in Puerto Rico to schedule tailored presentations and hands on training depending of the needs and requests of each institution.

Should you want to coordinate a visit to your campus and take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Ms. Rivera via email: [consultant@hets.org](mailto:consultant@hets.org) or directly to the HETS office at 787-250-1912 extensions 2372 or 2373. We hope to continue offering you quality services and continue moving forward to the accomplishment of our mission.

## Available the videos of the presentations from the 2016 Best Practices Showcase.



The videos access of most Best Practices are available on this website at the 2016 Best Practices Showcase [Conference at a Glance](#) page for the benefit of those who didn't have the opportunity to attend. Celebrated in **January 14 and 15, 2016** [the HETS Best Practices](#) Showcase highlighted and celebrated the outstanding work of its member institutions focused on **three main tracks: Access and Student Mobility, Retention and Assessment** in Higher Education always with special emphasis on Hispanic students.

The 2016 Best Practices Showcase was officially opened by a [plenary session by John Sener](#), Founder & CKO, Sener Knowledge, LLC. During the second day, a special [Track Winner's Panel](#) took place. On this occasion, it was moderated by René Sainz from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, and HETS active collaborator. The panel was composed of: **Assessment: Carlos Guevara**, Hostos Community College, CUNY; **Retention: Dr. Doris Vilma Rodríguez**, EDP University and **Access: Karla González**, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. For more details, visit [2016 Best Practices Showcase](#).



## 2014-2015 Annual Report: another year filled with accomplishments for HETS.



HETS recently published and shared the print and electronic version of its [2014-2015 Annual Report](#), a product that showcases the yearly accomplishments of this organization and the results of the collaboration among its more than 40 members. Year 2014-2015 was the third year of implementation of HETS Strategic Plan. HETS strategically focuses on services and opportunities that use technology to increase Hispanics' access to Higher Education, optimize the retention of Hispanic students, and support the establishment of a solid culture of assessment at the post-secondary level.

“It has been an honor to collaborate with our members, partners, and collaborators once more. This year's efforts surpassed our plans and expectations. We were able to continue impacting multiple

constituencies from our member institutions, including students”, expressed the Executive Director of the Consortium, Yubelkys Montalvo. During year 2014-2015, HETS celebrated its Virtual Best Practices Showcase. In total, the event gathered 119 participants from 25 institutions. In addition to the VBPS, HETS organized this year its first ever Student Leadership Showcase, which allowed the organization to directly reach out to and impact students. The event also helped identify leadership from student organizations and innovative student projects. Overall, HETS connected with more than 734 students from over 20 institutions.

HETS also continued to offer online professional development opportunities in Spanish and English. These included its signature online certification on the Integration of New Technologies in Higher Education. Also, HETS organized several educational events in collaboration with member institutions and corporate partners. These included the HETS Information Technology Showcase, the Nursing Programs event, the Cengage Learning event, and the Student Support Services event.

The provision of online services and support through web strategies, online resources, and dissemination through social networks was another significant strategy during the 2014-2015 year. The Virtual Plaza, in particular, includes resources for students, faculty, and institutional administrators and hosts the Testing and Education Reference Center (TERC) and the Career Transition service. In addition, HETS offered free access to the National Geographic virtual library in February 2015, thanks to the existing alliance with Cengage Learning. Another popular service to HETS members is the HETS Online Journal. In 2014-2015, two issues were distributed and made available online.

These accomplishments, among others, are highlighted in the 2014-2015 Annual Report. In addition, for the first time, HETS dedicates a section of its Annual Report to recognize several of the leaders who are not part of the Consortium any longer because of their decision to enter into retirement, but who helped build what the HETS Consortium is today. Throughout its history of more than 20 years, HETS has been privileged to gather an outstanding number of renowned educational leaders. Many of these leaders have guided the organization’s steps since its inception, as founding fathers, while others have joined along the way, leaving significant contributions.

The 2014-2015 is currently available in the [Publications section](#) of the HETS web portal ([www.hets.org](http://www.hets.org)). For more information about this publication or HETS initiatives, you may contact the HETS office at 787-250-1912, extensions 2372, 2373.

# The 2016 Best Practices Showcase Gathered More Than 40 Institutions of Puerto Rico and United States.



HETS “Celebrated Technology Innovation for Hispanic Success in Higher Education” with its Best Practices Showcase, which took place Thursday, January 14, to Friday, January 15, 2016 at *Universidad del Este* in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The event allowed the Consortium to bring together more than 40 of its member institutions in Puerto Rico and United States to share innovative projects and best practices. This was the fourth time that HETS was able to have this event for the benefit of attendees

from different Higher Education institutions.

This year, the Conference featured local and national speakers and showcased more than 30 best practices related to Access and Student Mobility, Retention and Assessment. The conference opened with the keynote speaker, **John Sener**, Founder and CKO of Sener Knowledge LLC. who shared with the participant an interesting discussion related to the improvement of learning and teaching leading to positive change in education, learning, and society. The also author of the book *The Seven Futures of American Education: Improving Learning & Teaching in a Screen-Captured World*, related his research to the conference tracks.

In addition, as part of the Conference’s program more than [30 best practices](#) were shared with attendees related to the use of new technologies (such as gamification) in the classroom, new tools used to support present and online students, technologies to enhance students’ engagement and success, assessment processes, effective metrics to monitor online retention and integration of social media to the academic atmosphere among others. The videos of all presentations will be available soon at the event page in our website and also at the HETS You Tube Channel.

As a value added to participants, **Dr. Juan “Tito” Meléndez** and **Ms. Yahaira Torres**, professor and doctorate student of the University of Puerto Rico respectively, presented the results of their research about theory and practice of online education in Puerto Rico. Also during the conference two panel of experts, where showcased including one with the winners of each track; **Dr. Doris Vilma Rodriguez** from EDP University (retention track winner), **Karla González** from University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras (access track winner and conference’s highest score), and from Hostos Community College, **Carlos Guevara** and **Wilfredo Rodriguez** (assessment tack winners).



As part of the event, HETS will also had its academic fair on Thursday, January 14, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

The fair was held at the main lobby of *Universidad del Este*. Students and professionals interested in learning more about academic offerings to complete a college degree enjoyed free of charge of this Academic Fair. This time the academic fair reunited more than 200 participants including the group of the *Epsilon* 2016 class from the *Luz América Calderón Birriel* High School in Carolina which were the winners of \$400 for being the group with the most participants attending the fair.

HETS would like to recognize the valuable collaboration of Mr. Alberto Maldonado- Ruíz, Esq., Chancellor of *Universidad del Este* in Carolina and his staff who made possible the success of this event and make everyone felt like home. For more information about this event, access the Conference webpage on this website, call the HETS Office at 787- 250-1912, extensions 2372 and 2373, or send an email to [info@hets.org](mailto:info@hets.org).

## Board Members Celebrated its Winter Meeting and The 2016 Best Practices Showcase in San Juan, PR.



The HETS Board of Directors winter session was successfully celebrated in San Juan, PR concurrent with the **2016 Best Practices Showcase**. These events were held at the *Escuela de Hospitalidad y Artes Culinarias José A. “Tony” Santana*, hosted by *Universidad del Este*, AGMUS. Representatives of more than 25 member institutions from Puerto Rico, New York, Texas, Missouri, and California were present at the meeting and agreed on the priority activities for the next semester.

The first session took place on **Thursday January 14**, as part of the series of events scheduled after the Best Practices Showcase Conference opening plenary session. A second session was held on January 15, to discuss initiatives and future plans between HETS Board members and its Corporate Partners. Besides allowing the discussion of the key accomplishments of the organization during the first half of the 2015-2016 academic year, this meeting was crucial in the open discussion of the progress on the approved Strategic Plan of the organization from 2012 through 2017 that focus on **access, retention** and **assessment**.

Among the exiting news shared with the Board of Directors, one was the fact that **Southeast Missouri State University** and **Lighthouse Translations & Interpretations** were welcomed as **new institutional member and corporate partner** respectively that just **joined the HETS Consortium**. Efforts for the first half of this academic year, includes the continuation of **tailored online workshop offerings**, additional tools and services added to the **HETS Virtual Plaza, Online Resources, and alliances**. Also, the newest members of **HETS Student Committee** had the opportunity to present the results of the 2015 Student Leadership Showcase event and provided

their plan for this academic year including new tour and tailored workshops for their peers at HETS member institutions. Board Members began with the preparations for nomination of new candidates for its Executive Committee and as a result was established the nomination committee to begin the process that will lead to the election during their summer's meeting at Lehman College in New York. Board members also had the chance to network and exchange thoughts with representatives from corporate members, who participated in the corporate session.

During the winter meeting, the [HETS Annual Report](#) was shared and distributed among attendees. [Click here](#) to access the PDF version of the [HETS Annual Report for 2014-15](#) for your information and review. We **look forward to continuing strengthening HETS initiatives this year** to foster a greater **collaboration among all of our members, affiliates and widen our partnerships** with other organizations. For more information about HETS projects, please contact the HETS office at 787-250-1912 exts. 2372, 2373 or send an email to: [info@hets.org](mailto:info@hets.org).

## SAVE THESE DATES!

What: [HETS Student Leadership Showcase](#)

When: **April 15, 2016**

Time: **8:00 am- 1:30 pm**

Where: **John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY), New York**



To **register online** visit the event page: [NYC Student Leadership Showcase](#)

What: **[Best Practices to Support the Success of Latino Student- West Coast](#)**

When: **March 24, 2016**

Time: **8:30 am- 3:30 pm**

Where: **California State University, San Marcos, University Student Union, Room 2310**

Event for HETS member institutions from California, hosted by CSUSM and its office of Student Affairs and its vice president Dr. Lorena Meza.



What: **HETS Summer Board Meeting\***

When: **June 28 and 29, 2016**

Where: **Lehman College, Bronx New York**

\*This is a closed meeting for HETS Board members and its representatives. By invitation only.



If you would like to include your institution's news and events on this Newsletter just contact HETS via email at: [info@hets.org](mailto:info@hets.org) or by phone 787-250-1912 extensions 2372, 2373. Thank you for your unwavering support to our initiatives.