



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2024 HETS BEST PRACTICES SHOWCASE

Celebrating Innovation in Access, Retention and Online Learning and Technology Integration
to Promote Hispanic Student Success in Higher Education
January 11 and 12, 2024 (In person modality)

Introduction

The Hispanic Educational Technology Services Consortium (HETS) would like to highlight and celebrate the outstanding work of its member institutions that meaningfully and strategically use technology to achieve Hispanic student success. Taking place, in person modality, on January 11 and 12 2024, the HETS Best Practices Showcase (BPS) will present four major tracks focused on Access, Retention, and Online Learning and Technology Integration in Higher Education, and a track by students for students.

In person modality

During this 2024 Best Practices Showcase, presenters and participants will have the opportunity to attend in-person. The Conference's main purpose is to find solutions to many common issues and even establish new possibilities for collaboration with other institutions and potential partners.

Conference Proceedings

This year, we will invite presenters to submit a paper for inclusion in the BPS Conference Proceedings if their proposals are accepted. This will allow HETS BPS presenters to share their work. The BPS Conference Proceedings is an Open Access research repository containing the permanent records of the research generated.

Showcase Tracks

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 for Online Learning and Technology Integration in Higher Education. Certainly, HETS member institutions are experts in dealing with the Hispanic population and in finding ways to provide them with opportunities to succeed. We want to open a space to share this expertise on the following tracks:

Access (Faculty and Administrators)

This track targets innovative projects that focus on increasing Hispanics’ access to higher education and internationalization initiatives. The project is expected to have had success in demonstrating ways to facilitate Hispanics’ understanding and awareness regarding available opportunities to access and succeed in Higher Education. Some examples include:

- Hispanic-focused projects that use technology tools and resources to increase access to Higher Education and increase student success and mobility.
- Creative technology initiatives developed to help overcome Hispanics' barriers to Higher Education and facilitate college entry.
- Best practices focused on inclusion strategies and facilitating broader access to disadvantaged populations, including the technology-assessment gap.
- Best practices that showcase positive aspects of diversity and multicultural life in your current campus environment.

- Best practices in addressing the internationalization of the curriculum for both face-to-face and distance education.

Retention (Faculty and Administrators)

This track is intended to showcase innovative practices that strategically use technology to support, drive, and optimize retention of Hispanic students in online courses and promoting the effective development and implementation of assessment efforts through the innovative and strategic use of technology in distance learning. It considers projects that use technology to track, measure, support, and assess Hispanic student learning success and projects that demonstrate how their approach has had a significant impact on their success, especially in supporting and increasing Hispanic student retention in online courses or programs. Some examples include:

- Projects that demonstrate how your institution adapts student support services to promote a higher level of motivation among students in the online environment.
- Projects that demonstrate how your institutions manage/perform student assessment in distance education.
- Best practices using technology to assess student's performance in online environments, and its features and effectiveness.
- Strategic use of technology to manage/deal/support student body diversity in distance education and cultural shock avoidance in the online environment.
- Projects that demonstrate how your institution promotes educational excellence and rigor in the online environment.
- Projects that demonstrate the usefulness of new technologies like mobile technology and social media, tablets, and lecture capture, among others, to increase retention among Hispanics.
- Best practices using technology to deal with student motivation and engagement in online and face-to-face environments.
- Implementation of technology-based remediation, counseling, tutoring, or mentoring services in English, Spanish or both.

Online Learning and Technology Integration (Faculty and Administrators)

This track is intended to showcase innovative practices that strategically use technology to support, drive, and optimize online courses or programs and promote effective development and design through the innovative and strategic use of technology in distance learning. We seek presentations focused on at least one of the following topics:

- Projects that demonstrate how your institution designs and integrates innovative strategies.
- Projects that demonstrate how your institution manages/assure the integration of new technologies like tablets and smartphones, interactive tools for discussion used in classrooms and online, digital publication and learning experience, Cloud Services, design and delivery of online and hybrid programs or M learning, among others.
- Projects and/or project proposals for integrating virtual reality, augmented reality, and other advanced technologies focusing on demonstrations of how these are integrated into the curriculum and used.
- Projects that demonstrate how virtual environments can adapt: personalized approaches to learning online, instructional design and teaching strategies to accommodate for social and cultural diversity, or projects

that provide students with opportunities for hands-on, active learning experiences while using advanced technologies.

- Projects and initiatives focused on transforming the institution by adapting the “entrepreneurial paradigm” mediated by technology innovations like "Hubs and Incubators."
- Project proposals and current initiatives to implement artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies.
- Projects using analytics as a source of students' learning assessment processes and assessment and development of existing or new virtual academic programs.

Technology Integration (Student Track)

The student track has been created specifically by students for students to share their innovative projects. This track is intended to showcase those projects that strategically use technology to support, drive, and optimize their academic goals and/or extracurricular initiatives. We seek presentations focused on some of the following topics:

- Projects to adapt or complement your institutional student support services to promote a higher level of motivation among your peers.
- Initiatives using technology to showcase positive aspects of diversity and multicultural life in their campus environment to optimize student engagement.
- Projects that demonstrate the usefulness of new technologies like mobile technology and social media, tablets, and lecture capture, Cloud Services, among others, to increase their academic performance.
- Enhance student leadership through initiatives using technology to increase engagement in online and face-to-face activities.
- Projects and/or project proposals for integrating virtual reality, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and other advanced technologies as part of an academic course, student portfolio or a capstone.
- Projects using technology that address social and cultural diversity among students.
- Projects that provide students with opportunities for hands-on, or active learning experiences while using advanced technologies.
- Projects focused on entrepreneurial initiatives mediated by technology.
- Projects using analytics to develop new initiatives in their academic or extracurricular experiences.

Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate projects based on 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 to achieve performance goals in online or traditional environments.
3. Demonstrated benefit to overall student success and institutional effectiveness.
4. Contribution to decision-making and improvement processes.
5. Usefulness and cost-effectiveness.
6. Use of specific examples, evidence, or indicators to demonstrate success or potential success.
7. Quality of the proposal.
8. Focus on Hispanic students.
9. Lessons learned or expected (in case it is a project proposal).

Evaluation Committee

Evaluation Committee members are selected from HETS Member Institutions based on their expertise with the nominated tracks.

Process to submit your proposal:

Submit a short proposal (no more than five pages, double space, using the electronic platform available at: https://hets.org/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=frm_forms_preview&form=bps-2024).

Please include the following information:

- Track
- Modality (in-person or virtual)
- Name(s) of the presenter(s), up to three presenters
- Institution
- Department
- Presenter(s): Faculty and Administrators please indicate your job title(s), and Student(s) your year of study (i.e. sophomore, senior, etc.) academic field at your institution
- Title of your presentation
- Language (Spanish or English) in which it will be presented
- Indicate if you are interested in submitting a paper for inclusion in the BPS Conference Proceedings
- General description of the project, including examples or evidence that shows success and the cost-effectiveness of the initiative; contribution to decision-making and improvement processes; usefulness and cost-effectiveness; Hispanic focus; and lessons learned.
- Description of the technology or technologies used (demonstrate not only how technologies were put in place, but also how effectively those technologies were to achieve performance goals).
- Explain how project results or accomplishments helped the institution or students in the track selected with a Hispanic focus.
- Discuss why this project should be considered a “best practice” and be replicated.
- Highlights on your proposed presentation and lessons learned.
- Brief bio of the presenter(s) – up to 100 words each.

Make sure to consider the above-mentioned evaluation criteria when writing your proposal. The allotted time for presentations, with up to three presenters, will be either 20 or 40 minutes and 10 minutes for participants’ questions. Deadline to submit your proposal is **November 6, 2023**, and the expected date to notify the status of your proposal is **November 14, 2023**.

Date and location

January 11 and 12, 2024, at the Law School, Inter American University of Puerto Rico in San Juan.

Who Should Attend

Academic leaders, distance learning directors, staff administrators, faculty, technology staff, instructional designers, counselors, student support staff, students, investigators, corporate representatives, and the general public.

Registration fees

- Presenters: \$150 (both days) / \$100 (one day only)
- Student presenters: \$50 (both days) / \$30 (one day only)
- Participant HETS Members fees: \$200 (both days) / \$150 (one day only)
- Student participant HETS Members: \$75 (both days) / \$40 (one day only)
- Participants Regular Fees (in-person): \$250 (both days) / \$175 (one day only)

*These fees include the following: access to all the presentations, meals appointed on the agenda, materials, and networking opportunities.

Lodging

The Condado Plaza Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Room reservations will be made through the HETS Office (group rate \$219.00 plus taxes per night). Ground transportation will be provided to participants from the Hotel to the Conference venue and vice versa.

Proposed Schedule

1st Day – Thursday, January 11, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Greetings
9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session - TBC
10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.	Breakout Presentations
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Breakout Presentations
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Closed Session - Board of Directors Meeting

2nd Day – Friday, January 12, 2024

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Plenary Session (Track winners)
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Breakout Presentations
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Closed Session - Board of Directors Meeting (<i>Guayabera Day</i>)
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Presentations
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Closing Reception