Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Scholars Program

Mitzi Cardona – National Program Lead, Portfolio Management- Hispanic Serving Institutions
Hispanics/Latinos in the US

- 1/5 people in the US identified as Hispanic Latino in 2022
- As of 2019, nearly 42 million people spoke Spanish at home
  - Other than English, Spanish is spoken by more people than all other languages combined
  - In 2018, less than 6% of active physicians identified as Hispanic Latino
- 1 in every 4 children, 25.7% (18.8 million), in the United States were of Hispanic origin in 2020

- The Hispanic Latino population is growing rapidly, and yet the American health and health care systems do not consistently provide high-quality, culturally competent care. With the underrepresentation of Hispanic Latino health professionals, advocacy for empathetic, language-concordant and culturally-concordant care remains an urgent priority as inequities and poor health outcomes in underserved, Hispanic Latino communities grow. The call for empathic care encompasses grasping the lived experience of Hispanic Latino individuals who may not speak Spanish.
Hispanics/Latinos in the US

“The U.S. Latino population reached 62.5 million in 2021, accounting for 19% of the U.S. population—up from 13% in 2000. Since then, Latinos have been the largest contributor to U.S. population growth, accounting for 54% of the growth. By 2060, the Latino population is projected to increase to 111.2 million, or 28% of the U.S. population.”

“A Mosaic, Not a Monolith: A Profile of the U.S. Latino Population, 2000-2020.” by Jie Zong
Hispanic/Latino’s Role in STEM & Healthcare Diversity

Only about 6% of U.S. Medical Doctors are Hispanic/Latino

And

9.6% of U.S. Researchers are Hispanic/Latino
HSIs Role in STEM & Healthcare Diversity

Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) serve Hispanic students by promoting a racially diverse student body, fostering a positive and open campus, and providing student services that are specifically designed to help Hispanic students. These institutions continue to contribute significantly to preparing our future diverse workforce.

HSI represent about 13% of all post-secondary institutions in the US.

BUT EDUCATE

2/3 of all Hispanic/Latino College Students

More than 74% of full-time students at four-year HSIs graduated within six years, while the federal graduation rate is less than 43%.
• Building on the success and roadmap of the AHA’s HBCU Scholars Program, the Hispanic Serving Institutions Scholars Program aims to develop a pipeline of diverse researchers and healthcare professionals by providing HSI undergraduate students with academic and career-enriching resources, including scholarships and mentoring.

• Scholars learn about health disparities in Hispanic/Latino communities, how cultural sensitivity can provide safe and reassuring clinical spaces, and how inclusivity is essential in science.

• The program partners with 18 Hispanic Serving Institutions and includes a cohort of 30 students.
Mentorship
Scholars participate in an academic year of career mentorship to increase each student’s awareness of their potential impact on the understanding and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Leadership
Scholars engage in a virtual leadership and professional development series to enhance critical skill sets needed to position them for success beyond graduation.

Annual Convenings
Scholars attend the AHA’s Scientific Sessions and present their research at an annual Spring Symposium. Both events provide the students with opportunities for further career sampling, soft skills training, and professional networking.
Impact & Reach

**Miami/Ft. Lauderdale**
Miami Dade College- West and Padron Campuses
Florida International University
Florida State University- Gainesville

**New York:**
The City College of New York (CUNY)
Hostos Community College

**New Jersey**
William Paterson University
Montclair University
Rutgers University- Newark

**Chicago**
City Colleges of Chicago - Wilbur Wright College
City Colleges of Chicago-Harold Washington

**Puerto Rico**
University of Puerto Rico- Mayagüez
University of Puerto Rico- Rio Piedras
University of Puerto Rico: Carolina
University of Puerto Rico: Aguadilla
University of Puerto Rico: Ponce

**Houston**
University of Houston
University of Houston Downtown

**Los Angeles**
California State University Dominguez Hills
California State University Long Beach
California State University San Marcos
HSI Scholars Program
Welcome Scholar Dinners

Hosted 7 In-person Kickoffs
LA
Miami
PR
Chicago
New Jersey
New York
Houston
We have a seat at the table, we have a voice, and we are the future of Medical care. I think before going to the sessions, there was doubt in myself that this is what I was meant to do, or I wasn’t good enough and this event opened my eyes to the possibilities. - HSI Scholar Quote
Sara Ocasio Gari

HSI Scholars Program Alumni 2021
HSI Scholars Program

APPLY for the HSI Program

Who is Eligible:

• A Latino/Latina student attending a Hispanic Serving Institution seeking a professional degree in the biomedical and health sciences (Nursing, Public & Community Health, Nutrition)

• Currently enrolled in a Hispanic Serving Institute as a sophomore, junior, or senior in an undergraduate program or a second-year student at a Hispanic Serving Community College with a GPA of at least 3.2

• Complete the application, short essay (500-word count), and submit a headshot color photograph by deadline, on our application portal: https://ahacomunityfunding.fluxx.io/portal

• Students will have to create an account on Flux to apply on the portal.

FLUXX Portal- Apply Here:
HSI Scholars Program

Benefits of the HSI Program

Benefits:

- Formalized mentorship with a local Researcher
- A stipend ($7,000 per student)
- Attendance at our National AHA Scientific Sessions and the Research Symposium (all expenses paid for in addition to the stipend).
- Experience and connection with AHA’s healthcare network that is ongoing and could lead to career opportunities.
- Professional Development- Monthly virtual sessions

Application Link:

- [https://ahacommunityfunding.fluxx.io/portal](https://ahacommunityfunding.fluxx.io/portal)
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Next Steps – Program Timeline

- **Application Cycle Opens:** Monday, March 18, 2024
- **Application Cycle Closes:** Friday, May 10, 2024
- **Application Interviews/Reviews:** May 13 - June 21, 2024
- **Scholars Selected and Informed:** July 15, 2024
- **Program Start Date:** September 16, 2024
- **Program End Date:** April 2025
Learn more about our Program

Program Website

HSI Scholars Program | American Heart Association
Q & A

Thank you

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