



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### 2026 HETS BEST PRACTICES SHOWCASE

Celebrating Innovation in Access, Online Learning and Technology Integration  
to Promote Hispanic Student Success in Higher Education

**February 12 and 13, 2026** (In person at *Universidad Ana G. Méndez*, Carolina Campus, Puerto Rico)

#### 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 **February 12 and 13, 2026** at **Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Carolina Campus**, Puerto Rico, the HETS Best Practices Showcase (BPS) will present four major tracks focused on Access, Innovation, Online Learning and Technology Integration in Higher Education, and a track by students for students with innovative projects using technology.

#### In person modality

During this **2026 Best Practices Showcase**, presenters and participants will have the opportunity to attend in-person and meet colleagues and students from institutions and organizations. 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 an abstract for inclusion in the BPS Conference Proceedings if their proposals are accepted. This will allow HETS BPS presenters to share a summary of 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, including Artificial Intelligence. 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:

##### Track 1: 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.

### **Track 2: Innovation (Faculty and Administrators)**

This track is intended to showcase innovative practices that strategically use technology to promote or enhance regular programs or activities that have been adapted or transform educational activities or services to serve students, including student mobility initiatives. Some examples include:

- Projects that use technology tools and resources to increase access to Higher Education and increase student flexibility.
- Projects that demonstrate how your institution designs and integrates innovative strategies.
- Best practices focused on inclusion strategies, and facilitating broader access to disadvantaged populations, including the technology-assessment gap.
- Projects that demonstrate how the top leaders or administrators at your institution adapt their services and offerings to support and increase student retention and completion.
- Initiatives to create, modify or enhance support services to promote student mobility and a higher level of motivation among students.
- Projects that demonstrate how your institutions manage/promote student mobility.
- Best practices using technology to deal with student motivation and engagement in academic experiences abroad.

### **Track 3: 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 manages/assures the integration of new technologies like artificial intelligence, 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, 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. Some examples of the projects we are looking for are:

- 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 multicultural life in your 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 your 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 capstone.
- Projects that provide students with opportunities for hands-on, or active learning experiences national or international while using advanced technologies.
- Projects focused on entrepreneurial initiatives mediated by technology.
- Projects using analytics to develop new initiatives in your academic or extracurricular experiences.

### Process to submit your proposal:

Submit a short proposal using the electronic platform available at: [HETS 2026 Best Practices Showcase Submissions](#).

Be ready to include the following information:

- Track
- Modality (in-person)
- Name(s) of the presenter(s), up to three presenters
- Institution | Organization
- Department (if apply)
- 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 in which will be presented (Spanish or English)
- Indicate if you are interested in submitting an abstract 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; 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.
- 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. The allotted time will be determined and announced after the proposals are received.

The deadline for submitting your proposal is **November 10, 2025**, and the expected date to notify the status of your proposal is **November 20, 2025**.

### 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 56 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. Used specific examples, evidence, or indicators to demonstrate success or potential success.
7. Quality of the proposal.
8. 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 in the nominated tracks.

**Date and location:** February 12 and 13, 2026, at **Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Carolina Campus**, Puerto Rico.

**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** (in person modality)

### Faculty, administrators and general public:

- **Presenters:** \$150 (both days) / \$100 (one day)
- **Participant HETS Members special rate:** \$200 (both days) / \$150 (one day)
- **Participants Regular Fees:** \$250 (both days) / \$175 (one day)

### Students:

- **Student presenters:** \$50 (both days) / \$30 (one day)
- **Student participant HETS Members:** \$75 (both days) / \$50 (one day)
- **Student participant regular fees:** \$100.00 (both days) / \$75.00 (one day)

\*These fees include access to all the presentations, meals indicated on the agenda, and networking opportunities. HETS Member institutions participants can use the pre-paid spaces for this event. For more information about this, please contact the HETS Staff by email: [info@hets.org](mailto:info@hets.org) or phone at (787) 250-1912 ext. 2373.

### Lodging

The Hotel selected for lodging in San Juan, Puerto Rico **will be announced soon**. For your convenience, room reservations will be made through the HETS Office with a group rate per night negotiated, including taxes. Ground transportation will be provided to participants from the Hotel to the Conference venue and vice versa.

### Proposed Schedule

1<sup>st</sup> Day – Thursday, February 12, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM (AST PR Time)	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM (AST PR Time)	Opening Plenary Session – Panel speakers (TBC)
Transition to Breakout Presentations	
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Breakout Presentations
12:30 PM. - 1:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Lunch
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Breakout Presentations
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Closed Session - Board of Directors Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Day – Friday, February 13, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM (AST PR Time)	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM (AST PR Time)	Plenary Session with Showcase Track Winners
Transition to Breakout Presentations	
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Breakout Presentations
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Closed Session - Board of Directors Meeting ( <i>Guayabera</i> Day)
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Lunch
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (AST PR Time)	Breakout Presentations
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM (AST PR Time)	Closing Reception