

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2027 Virtual HETS Best Practices Showcase

**Celebrating Innovation, Student Mobility, Online Learning and Technology Integration,
Promoting Student Success in Higher Education
February 11 to 26, 2027**

Introduction

The Hispanic Educational Technology Services Consortium (HETS) would like to highlight and celebrate the outstanding work of its member institutions, meaningfully and strategically using technology to achieve Hispanic and all student success. Taking place from **February 11 to 26, 2027**, the **Virtual HETS Best Practices Showcase will focus on four main tracks: Innovation, Student Mobility, Online Learning and Technology Integration in Higher Education**, and a **Student Track** to share innovative projects. This **event will be a combination of live and asynchronous online presentations** with forums to interact with presenters and participants. This is your opportunity to showcase your institution's impact, gain regional recognition, and connect with peers who are transforming higher education across Puerto Rico, the U.S. mainland, and Latin América. We warmly invite faculty, administrators, and students to submit a proposal and share your story.

HETS has defined a “best practice” as an innovative approach or strategy that, with the effective use of technology, has proven to **promote student success, improve student retention and completion, and provide opportunities for student mobility and viable, effective, and efficient approaches for Online Learning and Technology Integration in Higher Education**. Overall, it will be a showcase of innovative technology strategies in Higher Education focused on improving student outcomes by enhancing retention, college completion, and successful learning outcomes.

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

Artificial Intelligence continues to reshape teaching, learning, and student services across our institutions. We strongly encourage proposals that explore the responsible and innovative use of Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies within any of the four tracks below.

Conference Proceedings

This year, we will invite presenters to submit an abstract for inclusion in the Virtual BPS Conference Proceedings if their proposals are accepted. This will allow HETS VBPS presenters to share their work in an Open Access research repository containing the permanent records of the research generated. This is a valuable opportunity to strengthen your academic portfolio and contribute to the growing body of research on technology-enhanced student success.

Showcase Tracks

Track 1: Innovation

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 transformed into distance education offerings to serve students. Some examples include:

- Hispanic-focused projects that use Artificial Intelligence, technology tools, and resources to increase access to Higher Education and increase student flexibility.
- 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.
- Institutional strategies for the responsible governance of Artificial Intelligence in teaching, learning, and academic policy, including academic integrity, faculty autonomy, and compliance.

Track 2: Student Mobility

This track is intended to showcase innovative practices that strategically use technology to support, drive, and optimize student mobility opportunities, and to promote the effective development and implementation of collaboration efforts through technology. Some examples include:

- 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 assess students' performance in student mobility initiatives and its features and effectiveness
- Best practices using technology to deal with student motivation and engagement in academic experiences abroad
- Implementation of technology-based remediation, counseling, tutoring, or mentoring services in English, Spanish, or Bilingual

Track 3: Online Learning /Technology Integration

This track is intended to showcase innovative practices that strategically use technology to support, drive, and optimize courses or programs, and to promote effective development and design through technology for online teaching and learning. We seek presentations with one of the following topics:

- Projects that demonstrate how your institution promotes quality in the online environment and its focus on closing the student learning deficit gap
- Projects that demonstrate how your institution trains faculty and administrators to design online courses and offer Virtual Learning
- Projects that demonstrate how your institution manages/assures the integration of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, interactive tools for discussion used in classrooms and online, digital publication, and mobile Learning, among other technologies
- Projects that promote AI literacy and digital ethics among faculty and students, preparing the campus community to use these tools responsibly and effectively.

Track 4: 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 in any academic area and/or extracurricular initiatives. We seek presentations on the following topics. This is your chance to be recognized among your peers across the region, build your professional portfolio, and connect with future collaborators and employers.

- 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 their campus environment to optimize student engagement
- Projects that demonstrate the usefulness of new technologies like Artificial Intelligence, mobile technology, social media, lecture capture, and cloud services, among others, to increase their academic performance
- Enhance student leadership through technology-based initiatives that increase engagement in online and face-to-face activities and in academic experiences abroad.
- Projects and/or project proposals for integrating virtual 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

Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate submitted proposals based on the following criteria. Each area will be rated on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = non-satisfactory; 5 = outstanding), for a maximum of 40 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 used to achieve the goals in performance in online or traditional environments.
3. Demonstrated benefits 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
7. Quality of the proposal
8. Lessons learned

Evaluation Committee

Evaluation Committee members are selected from HETS Member Institutions, based on their expertise with the nominated track to validate their peers' proposals.

Process to submit your proposal

Submit a short proposal (no more than four pages long) using the electronic platform available at [a link that will be shared including the](#) following information:

- Track

- Name and your position at your institution
- Institution
- Department
- Language: the proposal can be submitted and presented (if selected) in English or Spanish
- Title and general description of the project including (up to 300 words):
 - Demonstrated benefit to overall student success and/or institutional effectiveness
 - Contribution to decision-making and improvement processes
 - Usefulness and cost-effectiveness
 - Use of specific examples, evidence, or indicators to demonstrate success
 - Lessons learned
- Description of the technology or technologies used (up to 200 words)
- Explain your project results or accomplishments based on the topic or track selected (up to 300 words)
- Discuss why this project should be considered a “best practice” (up to 200 words)
- Highlights of your proposed presentation and outcomes (up to 300 words)
- Brief bio of the presenter(s) – (up to 200 words each) profile photo is optional, but highly recommended

Make sure to consider the above-mentioned **evaluation criteria** when writing your proposal. The deadline to submit your proposal is **November 20, 2026**, and the **expected date to notify the applicants of the status** of their proposal is **December 7, 2026**. **Presentations of up to two presenters will be considered**. **Allotted time for live presentations will be 20 minutes for presentation and up to 10 minutes for participants’ questions**. **Allotted time for upload/asynchronous presentations will be up to 30 minutes** and participants’ questions will be submitted by email to HETS staff to share it with the presenters.

Live online presentations:

The **highest scored presentations (two per track)** will be presented live during the track winners’ sessions. These presentations will be recorded to have them accessible to all participants after the session. The presenter is responsible for technical requirements and coordinating tests prior the presentation to guaranty the connection to HETS platform. These presentations will be selected based on the total evaluation scores.

Asynchronous presentations:

The remaining selected **presentations** will be uploaded in asynchronous format at the designated virtual area and will be available from the opening and live sessions on February 11 to February 26, 2027. The presenter is responsible for recording a video in .mp4 format **to send to the HETS Staff for upload by January 22, 2027**, along with the PowerPoint presentation in PDF format. The video **will be up to 20 minutes** long. Participants will have the option to view the presentation online or download it to view offline.

Date and Location

The 2027 Virtual HETS Best Practices Showcase will take place **February 11 to 26, 2027, online**, and will be a **combination of live and asynchronous presentations**.

Who Should Participate

Presidents, Academic leaders, Distance Learning Directors, Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, Vice Presidents of Student Affairs or Deans, faculty, students, technology staff, investigators, corporate representatives related to technology and education, and the public in general.

If you are shaping the academic experience at your institution, whether through teaching, leadership, technology, or research, we want to hear your story.

Registration Fees

- **Faculty and Administrators** from HETS Members: **\$50 (all tracks)** (need to register with their institutional email account)
- **Students** from HETS member institutions are **free of charge**.
- **Non Member Fee: \$100.00** (all tracks)

Proposed Schedule per week February 11 to 26, 2027

1st Week – February 11 and 12, 2027

February 11, 2027	<i>Live Opening Presentation</i>	2:00 – 3:30 pm (AST/ PR Time) 1:00 - 2:30 pm (EST)
February 12, 2027	<i>Live Track Winners Presentations</i>	9:30 - 10:30 am (AST/ PR Time) 8:30 - 9:30 am (EST)
Asynchronous presentations will be uploaded and available from February 11 to 26, 2027		

2nd week – February 15 to 19, 2027

February 16, 2027	Track 1: Innovation (two highest scored presentations)	2:00 – 3:00 pm (AST/ PR Time) 1:00 - 2:00 pm (EST)
February 17, 2027	Track 2: Student Mobility (two highest scored presentations)	2:00 – 3:00 pm (AST/ PR Time) 1:00 - 2:00 pm (EST)
February 18, 2027	Track 3: Online Learning/Technology Integration (two highest scored presentations)	2:00 – 3:00 pm (AST/ PR Time) 1:00 - 2:00 pm (EST)
February 19, 2027	Track 4: Student Track (two highest scored presentations)	2:00 – 3:00 pm (AST/ PR Time) 1:00 - 2:00 pm (EST)
Live presentations will be recorded and upload it at the platform to be accessible with the rest of asynchronous presentations.		

3rd week – February 22 to 26, 2027

All presentations recordings will be available at the platform and accessible.

Additional details and the **Virtual Best Practices Showcase Program** will be available **by January 2027**.

Don't miss the **opportunity to showcase your work**, gain regional **recognition**, strengthen **your professional portfolio**, and help **shape the future** of student success across HETS member institutions. We look forward to celebrating your achievements!

For more information, contact the HETS staff at **(787) 250-1912** ext. 2372, info@hets.org or visit hets.org