



DATE: October 17, 2025

TO: Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

FROM: Chancellor Ronald P. Gerhard, CLPCCD
President Jamal Cooks, Chabot College
President Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College

SUBJECT: CLPCCD Communication – Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI)

Chabot College and Las Positas College are proud to be federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). This recognition affirms and celebrates the vital role we play in supporting our diverse student populations.

Through HSI funding, we have been able to expand student services, develop innovative equity initiatives, and strengthen programs that directly benefit historically underserved communities. HSIs help increase enrollment and retention rates among Latino/a/x and first-generation students but they also enhance the college experience and promote academic success for all students.

As proud members of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), we are part of a national network of more than 500 colleges and universities advocating for equitable access and sustained federal investment in HSIs. Our membership ensures that our collective voices are represented in Washington, D.C., alongside institutions that serve the majority of Latino/a/x college students in the nation.

Background

Earlier this year, a lawsuit was filed in the Eastern District of Tennessee, *Tennessee and Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. U.S. Department of Education*, challenging the constitutionality of the federal Hispanic-Serving Institutions program. The U.S. Department of Justice has declined to defend the HSI program in court.

In response, HACU, together with LatinoJustice PRLDEF, filed a motion to intervene to ensure that HSIs and the students they serve have a voice in defending the program.

On October 11, 2025, the U.S. District Court granted HACU's motion to intervene, marking a major victory for HSIs nationwide. This decision ensures that HSI programs will have an advocate in court to defend their constitutionality and vital role in advancing educational opportunities.

What This Means for Us

At this time, there are no changes to our current HSI designations. Both Chabot College and Las Positas College continue to benefit from federal grants that support:

- Student success initiatives and equity programs
- Faculty and staff professional development
- Institutional capacity building and innovation

LPC's current Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V Part A) grant has been discontinued by the Department of Education and is scheduled to end on September 30, 2026.

However, this case carries broader implications for all Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) and Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs). It also comes at a time when the U.S. Department of Education is reassessing discretionary MSI grant programs, raising concerns about potential funding changes in future cycles.

California is home to more than 170 HSIs, more than any other state. Our state's colleges and universities, including ours, rely on these funds to advance student equity, close achievement gaps, and strengthen pathways into the workforce and four-year universities.

Moving Forward

While legal and policy challenges like this can create uncertainty, I want to emphasize that our district remains firmly committed to serving all our students and preserving the progress we've made in advancing equitable outcomes.

Through our membership in HACU, and in coordination with colleagues across the nation, we will continue to advocate for the preservation of HSI programs and the opportunities they create for our students and communities.

As this situation evolves, we will keep you informed and provide updates on any potential impacts to our colleges or to the California Community Colleges system more broadly.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued dedication to our students and our mission.

Stay updated on staff and student communications by visiting www.clpccd.org/communications.