



HSI “Avanzando” Student Council
Developing Hispanic Serving Institution (DHSI) Grant
Award #: P031S220005

DHSI Grant Overview

The U.S. Department of Education’s Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program awarded Concordia University Irvine a \$3 million grant, the largest federal grant in the university’s history. Concordia’s grant-winning initiative is titled "Avanzando: Access and Success" and will enhance support services for undergraduate Hispanic students. The HSI grant will help Concordia meet the needs of its growing Hispanic population. Concordia is committed to advancing access and success for all students, and to supporting all students’ overall well-being as the university seeks to help them develop as wise, honorable, cultivated citizens.

In Fall 2019, Concordia’s undergraduate student body was over 25% Hispanic for the first time, and the undergraduate Hispanic population has continued to grow since then. To better support these students, the “Avanzando: Access and Success” program includes comprehensive strategies to improve Hispanic student retention (Access) and graduation rates (Success).

The HSI grant provides funding over the next five years. Concordia’s HSI grant-funded activities include:

- Increase enrollment and early success of Hispanic students and other targeted populations, such as first-generation and low-income students, by developing a community outreach program and creating a sense of “belonging” on campus.
- Increase retention and graduation rates for Hispanic students and other targeted populations through expanded student services in academic advising, tutoring services and career & vocation services.
- Establish a Student Council that will help provide feedback on social engagement strategies to increase Hispanic and low-income students’ sense of “belonging.”

The HSI “Avanzando” Student Council will:

- Provide feedback on the implementation of the “Avanzado” HSI Grant
- Be ambassadors of the HSI Grant program and activities
- Gain understanding of HSI Grant objectives and goals
- Provide leadership and insight into the HSI Program budget and activities

Goal

- In 2027, our goal is to see Hispanic and low-income students report a greater sense of “belonging” on campus.

Time Commitment

- One academic year with the opportunity to renew on a yearly basis
- One student will serve on the Executive Grant Committee
- Estimated time spent on this: 3-5 hours per month

Timeline

- December 2023: Applications open
- January 2024: Orientation
- February 2024: Hispanic Leadership Conference support: recruit and train volunteers
- March 2024: Hispanic Leadership Conference: represent and lead activities
- April 2024: Graduation Celebration