

NATIONAL HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS (HSI) WEEK SEPTEMBER 11-17, 2023



National HSIs Week takes place during National Latine/a/o Heritage Month, celebrated September 15-October 15, 2023. Since, 1992, the [Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities \(HACU\)](#) has led the effort to formally recognize campuses with high Latine/a/o enrollment as federally designated HSIs and to leverage federal appropriations to support institutions that serve Latine/a/o students. HSIs are encouraged to observe the week with campus activities to heighten awareness of the important role HSIs play in improving access to education and advancing equity for traditionally underserved students.

Goal

- To heighten awareness of the important role HSIs play in improving access to education and advancing racial equity for Latine/a/o and historically minoritized students.
- Empower students to develop advocacy, activism, and social justice.
- Create an affirming space for representation, inclusion, and belonging that honors the bi-cultural and bilingual assets our students bring to our campus community.

Sept
08

8:30 AM-12:30 PM
VC ASC

2nd Annual HSI Summit Our Journey of Metamorphosis: Emergent HSI Leadership Through Pride, Corazón, & Joy

Keynote: [Wil Del Pilar, Ph.D.](#), Senior Vice President, [The Education Trust](#)

Building upon the knowledge, strategies, best practices, and asset-based approaches from our inaugural summit, this learning event will continue to enact our capacity to intentionally center and serve our Latine and historically marginalized students. Join colleagues as we explore how becoming a more intentional HSI leads to transforming our campus to be more racially just. The summit will join us in collectively planning to build existing assets and resources to enact servingness. This in-person event is for VC employees. **Advance registration is requested for this event. Link to register: bit.ly/hsisummit2023.** Sponsored by: [Project S:AIL in STEM](#)

Sept
11

9:00 AM-10:15 AM
VC Guthrie Hall

Cultivating Empathy and Resiliency: Healing Trauma Through Ally and Kinship

Presented by: [Ali Cortes, M.A., LMFT](#), Founder, [Bienestar Latinx](#)

This session will establish safe and brave space within ourselves (breathing and mindfulness, identify resiliency within ourselves and each other, and connect with allies in our healing and leadership journey. Sponsored by: [Project S:AIL in STEM](#)

11:00 AM-12:00
PM
VC Guthrie Hall

Defining Your Identity-Understanding the Ancient Sunstone of the Aztec Calendar

Presented by: [James \(Jaime\) Vega](#), Learning Resource Faculty and Retired Counselor Ventura College. The indigenous sunstone is a tool to help you realize your full potential in life and with career options. Participants will learn about the day they were born, also known as "TonaLi", and receive a handout. Sponsored by: [Project S:AIL in STEM](#)

Sept

12

11:00 AM-12:00
PM
Zoom

Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) Meet and Greet

AHSIE supports the work of the nation's emerging and designated HSIs as they seek to provide quality and timely educational opportunities to Latine/a/o and other underserved populations. Learn about AHSIE and the benefits of becoming a member. Meet and greet AHSIE's President Paloma Vargas, Ph.D. Learn about AHSIE's vision, mission, and strategic plan for the organization. Free Zoom event open to everyone! **Link to register:** tinyurl.com/AHSIEMeet

3:00-4:00 PM
VC STEM Harbor
(SCI 223)

(STEM) Mangonadas y Matemáticas (Mangonadas and Mathematics)

Presented by: [Ryan Petitfils, M.S.](#), Faculty Mathematics

Professor Petitfils will share his experience visiting Guatemala, improving his Spanish speaking and learning more about the Mayan culture and the Mayan Number System.

Students-link to register: bit.ly/SAILevents. Sponsored by: [Project S:AIL in STEM](#)

6:00-7:30 PM
VC STEM Harbor
(SCI 223)

(STEM) Salsa y Científicos (Salsa and Scientists)

Enjoy chips and salsa with invited STEM speakers from Ventura County. Speakers will share their personal, academic, and professional journey in STEM including the *consejos* (advice), mentors, programs, and networking that supported their journey, as well as best practices for navigator barriers and challenges along the way. **Students-link to register:** bit.ly/SAILevents. Sponsored by: [MESA](#)

Sept

13

11:00 AM
VC CSC Quad

11:00 AM-2:00
PM
VC Cafeteria and
CSC Quad

Pirate Sweet Treats

Join us for free sweet treats. Meet ASVC and Student Services leaders. Sponsored by: [ASVC](#) and [Student Affairs](#)



Social Justice and Belonging: Spoken Word and Testimonios (Storytelling)

Presented by: [Daniella Graves, Ph.D.](#), Faculty Sociology, [Mariana Branda-Gherardi, M.A.](#), Faculty Sociology, [Rocio Hernández, Ed.D.](#), Counseling Faculty and Coordinator CalWorks, [Rubisela Gamboa, M.A.](#), Faculty Chicano/a Studies, [Francisco Fuentes, Jr., Ph.D.](#), Faculty Chicano/a Studies, and [Vincent Jimenez](#), Communications Assistant Welcome Center and VC alum

Learning Resources

Time and location: 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, CSC Quad

- [Library](#): Highlighting [Latine/a/o](#), [Black/African American](#), [Indigenous](#), and [LGBTQ+](#) authors, [social justice movements](#), and [histories](#)
- [Chicano/a Studies](#) and [M.E.Ch.A](#)
- [Basic Needs](#) and [Dreamers Resource Center](#)

Spoken Word

Time and location: 11:00-11:45 AM, CSC Quad

Presented by: [Vincent Jimenez](#)

Join leader Vincent Jimenez for a session on spoken word

Book Talk Diverse Experiences of Latinas in Higher Education: Chingonas on their Own Terms

Presented by: [Rocio Hernández, Ed.D.](#) and [Daniella Graves, Ph.D.](#)

Time and location: 12:00-1:00 PM, CSC Cafeteria

Join Drs. Hernández and Graves for an exclusive book talk on their recent publication. By sharing the collective experiences of Latinas in higher education, this book provides a diverse range of empowering testimonios from Chingonas living on their own terms, who are defining professionalism for themselves.

Social Justice, Empowerment, and Activism

Time and location: 1:00-2:00 PM, CSC Cafeteria

Presented by: [Mariana Branda-Gherardi, M.A.](#)

Join faculty from Sociology and Chicano/a Studies for an empowering session on getting involved with social justice and activist movements.

**Sept
14**

8:30-10:00 AM
VC Guthrie Hall

Employee Appreciation Agua Fresca, Pan Dulce, y Fruta

This is a VC employee appreciation event.

10:00 AM-12:00
PM
VC ASC Chalk
Board

Constitution Day, Voting, and Know Your Rights

Sponsored by: [ASVC](#)



11:00 AM-12:00
PM
VC SSC

Representation Matters in the Workforce. Tell your Story!

Presented by: [Karent Rodriguez, Career Counselor](#)

You have a story to tell but do you know how to tell it? In this session you will learn how to identify your strengths, confidently speak on your multicultural wealth and how to articulate your career goals to help you shine as you interview and network. Sponsored by: [Career Center](#)

**Sept
15**

#findoutfriday: Self-guided HSI Learning and Reflection

¿Qué pasa, HSIs? Podcast

Hosted by [Dr. Gina Ann Garcia](#), this podcast explores the history and evolution of HSIs, culturally relevant and liberatory practices in HSIs, current and emerging research with HSIs, and the policies that shape servingness. Learn more: www.ginaanngarcia.com/podcast.

Excelencia in Education

Excelencia in Education accelerates Latino student success in higher education by promoting student achievement, conducting analysis to inform educational policies, and advancing institutional practices.

USC Race and Equity Center for California Community Colleges

Building Capacity for Equity and Servingness across California's Hispanic-Serving Community Colleges [report](#).

**Sept
22**

8:30 AM-12:00
PM
VC ASC

Semillas de Crecimiento: Student HSI Leadership, Advocacy, and Activism

Keynote: [Monique Limón, M.A.](#), Senator, [California 19th District](#)

Students are invited to be at the center of Ventura College's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) identity, centering a holistic, collaborative, and strategic approach to our campus wide effort to become an intentional HSI. This inaugural event will develop and empower students to feel a sense of ownership in curating our campus' HSI identity and initiatives and will increase their knowledge of HSI servingness. As central members of the VC community, participants will contribute to the development of VC's capacity to better serve its students, particularly those from Latine/a/o and historically marginalized backgrounds. This is an in person event for VC students. **Advance registration is requested for this event. Link to register: bit.ly/studenthsisummit.** Sponsored by: [Project S:AIL in STEM](#) and [ASVC](#)

VENTURA COLLEGE EAST CAMPUS



**Sept
11-15**

Identity, Belonging, and Community Building: Student Pictures and Art Pieces

Students are invited to participate in art activities and games which encourage a sense of belonging and community building within the VC East Campus. To culminate the week long celebration of Hispanic identities and the variety of identities served by the Ventura College East Campus a *comida y postre* is scheduled on Thursday, September 14th at 12:00 PM. Sponsored by: [Ventura College East Campus](#)

**Sept
12**

12:30 PM until
supplies last
VCEC Lobby

Pirate Sweet Treats

Join us for free sweet treats. Meet ASVC and Student Services leaders. Sponsored by: [ASVC](#)



Share your HSI stories and how you're celebrating National HSI Week on social media! Tag @HACUNews #hsis #hsisweek.

Tag @vc_hsystem_sail #somoshi #wearehsi #hsistem #hsipiratepride



For HSI Week questions contact:
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