CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

for the

COMPUTING ALLIANCE OF HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS

THIS AGREEMENT, is entered into as of May 1, 2005, between the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions identified herein as California State University, Dominguez Hills; California State University, San Bernardino; Florida International University; Regents of New Mexico State University; Texas A&M, Corpus Christi; University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez; University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras; University of Texas at El Paso; University of Houston - Downtown; University of Texas at San Antonio; hereinafter referred to singly as AMember@ and collectively as the AMembers@.

> **WHEREAS**, the Members each have research and educational programs in Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering (CISE) areas; and

> **WHEREAS**, the Members each wish to participate in and contribute to an increase in the number of Hispanics who pursue and complete baccalaureate and advanced degrees in computing areas and who enter and advance in academe.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, do mutually agree as follows.

BACKGROUND

The latest population projections and immigration trends indicate that the greatest growth among minority groups is projected for Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders [NSF04-317]. However, the number of Hispanics who choose Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering areas as their field of study is not comparable to the rate of Hispanic population growth. NSF's Strategic Plan FY 2003-2008 recognizes the importance of fully engaging people from under-represented groups and institutions in order to maintain our nation's global leadership in computing.

The NSF report, Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering [NSF04-317], states that minorities are expected to be more than half (52%) of the resident college-age (18-24 years old) population of the United States by 2050. According to the 2002-2003 Taulbee Survey, Hispanics constitute 1.2% and Native Indians/Alaskan Natives are 0.2% of total enrollment in Ph.D. programs in Computer Science & Computer Engineering. Many of the funded programs have made a difference in the number of students graduating in baccalaureate programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) areas, but the full impact from bridging to doctorate programs will not be seen for at least ten years.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

In order to alleviate this lack, a consortium of Hispanic Serving Institutions and organizations has formed the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions for the purpose of establishing a working relationship to:

- provide direction for initiatives that address the under-representation of Hispanics in computing;

- create a coordinated effort that identifies and promotes innovative approaches in computing;

- increase the number of Hispanic students who complete advanced degrees;

- develop Hispanics, including those in the professorate, to assume future leadership roles in computing; and

- disseminate best practices among the participating institutions and organizations.

In addition, each Member will exert its best efforts to:

- foster a community that can share resources;

- establish collaborations in research, service, and education; and

- provide support to meet the goals of the Alliance.

The Alliance's core purpose is the creation of a unified voice to consolidate the strengths, resources, and concerns of the alliance institutions to address recruitment, retention, and advancement of Hispanics in academic programs and in academe.

The core purpose provides the fundamental reason for the Alliance's existence and serves to guide and inspire the organization. It is designed to be broad and enduring.

The goals of the Alliance align with those of NSF as stated in its Strategic Plan FY2003-2008. Adequately addressing the participation of Hispanics in the science and engineering workforce requires a long-term and sustained investment as well as direction that the Alliance can provide. The overarching goal of the Alliance is to increase the number of Hispanic students who complete degrees in computing and who enter academic careers. By working as a group, it is intended that the efforts of the Hispanic Serving Institutions will be more deliberate, focused, and effective.

MEMBERS

The initial Alliance is comprised of the institutions that have historically been funded through the National Science Foundation Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering, Minority Institution Infrastructure (MII) program to develop research infrastructure and build human capital, in particular in the area of recruitment and retention of Hispanics at all educational levels. The founding institutions of the Alliance have a successful record of collaboration, and include:

California State University, Dominguez Hills

California State University, San Bernardino

Florida International University

New Mexico State University

Texas A&, Corpus Christi

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

University of Texas El Paso

University of Houston - Downtown

University of Texas, San Antonio

New Members may be added or current membership assigned under such terms and conditions as agreed upon by a majority of the current Members.

MAJOR COMPONENTS

The objectives of the Alliance divide into four interrelated areas

- Student Development

    the Members will commit to identifying undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing careers in Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering and will work to provide them a secure pathway through the undergraduate and graduate program. Student exchanges, both in regular semester and summer, will be encouraged.
- Faculty Development

    the Members will encourage joint faculty/staff appointments, internships, and exchanges at respective institutions, including partner R1 institutions (e.g., adjunct faculty, summer faculty, visiting staff scientists). These faculty/staff appointments, internships, and/or exchanges may or may not be salaried.

- Joint Research

    the Members will develop and/or enhance collaborative research programs and projects. Joint efforts will be undertaken to seek external funding in partnership. The results of the research will be disseminated publicly by publishing in appropriate forums.

- Public Educational Programs

   the Members will work as collaborators in the development and evaluation of relevant curricula and research programs at the collaborator=s institutions in the field of Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering . The Members will collaborate in the development and/or enhancement of courses, short courses, lectures, and workshops in an effort to promote public awareness.

The Alliance believes that to make a difference in the number of Hispanics who choose careers and assume leadership roles in computing requires the recruitment, retention, and advancement of Hispanic faculty into leadership positions, as well as the development of competitive research programs at Hispanic Serving Institutions. This is supported by the National Science Board (NSB) report on broadening participation in science and engineering research and education [NSB-04-41] that states that the percentages of tenure-track faculty at post-secondary institutions is significantly lower than the percentage of students from underrepresented minority groups at these institutions, and that low numbers of underrepresented minority science and engineering faculty impede the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students in science and engineering programs.

The public goals center on the education, awareness, and advocacy of the roles of Hispanic Serving Institutions and the need to support student, faculty, and research initiatives. Change requires promotion of knowledge and understanding of the issues and challenges that face Hispanic students, faculty, and institutions. This requires coordination with existing organizations' lobbying efforts and support of congressional delegations.

TERM

This agreement shall extend from May 1, 2005 through April 30, 2010 unless renewed in writing prior to the end date.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Member will perform its responsibilities in connection with the Agreement at no cost to any other Member. This Agreement shall not apply to, limit, or restrict activities related to any other affiliation.

AMENDMENTS

Any change in the terms of this Agreement will be valid only if the modification is made in writing and signed by the original signatories or their designees.

TERMINATION

Any Member may terminate their participation in this affiliation for any reason upon 30 days written notice to the other Members.

RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES

The Members agree that they are independent of one another in performance of all services hereunder. No Member is authorized to act as agent for any other Member for any purpose and will not on behalf of the other enter into any contract, warranty, or representation as to any matter. No Member will be bound by the acts or conduct of any other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have through duly authorized officials executed this Agreement effective as of the day and year indicted in the first paragraph.

Consortium Agreement for the
Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions

**Authorized Official for
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez**

(signature)   June 3, 2005

Name: Dr. Jorge Iván Vélez Arocho   Date

Title: Chancellor