

Dear Faculty,

Our commitment to equity guides every decision we make, including those that affect our teaching, our research enterprise, and our workplace. As you may recall from our [April 15 community conversation on research](#) and [April 21 town hall](#), our status as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) has changed in the last couple of months. We are no longer legally an HSI because of a slight enrollment dip among our Hispanic students to 24.8% in fall 2020, caused in large part by the pandemic. The situation is similar for our Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) federal designation, which calls for an undergraduate enrollment that is at least 10% Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander. Our AANAPI student population is currently about 9.9%.

I'd like to explain what this means for our faculty and researchers and outline our priorities as a university moving forward.

### **The Impact on Our Researchers; Not Eligible to Apply for HSI-Designated Grants**

This change in federal designation status means that our faculty and researchers will not be eligible for fiscal year 2022 (i.e. Oct. 1, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2023). HSI-designated grants. If we regrow our enrollment for fall 2022 to the federal HSI eligibility mark of 25%, however, we could once again receive federal designation as an HSI as early as fiscal year 2024. Our faculty would then again become eligible to apply for HSI-designated grants.

### **What Does This Mean for You Now?**

- Research administrators should not submit grants that have HSI or AANAPISI eligibility requirements and should educate principal investigators (PIs) and co-PIs to this end.
- PIs and co-PIs should not represent CU Denver|Anschutz as having fiscal year 2022 HSI or AANAPISI eligibility to colleagues at other institutions who may be looking for collaborators with such designations.
- Because of our current situation, we do not expect to be eligible for other Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) grants at this time, though there are nuances for how each agency program determines eligibility.

If you have questions about our eligibility for a broader MSI grant, please contact Terry Hughes, DEI grant director, at [terence.hughes@ucdenver.edu](mailto:terence.hughes@ucdenver.edu). He will contact the sponsoring agency or funder to learn which method they use to determine eligibility.

### **Our Efforts to Mitigate a Status Change & Commitment to Serving Our Hispanic Community**

In March 2022, when we received the first signal that a federal agency may not accept us as eligible for fiscal year 2022 HSI designation, we unsuccessfully explored ways to maintain our HSI status. We are committed to earning back our HSI status and determined to enhance our enrollment of Latinx students through focused retention and recruitment, among other strategies, to better serve our community. We remain deeply committed to our strategic goals of closing the opportunity gap for all underserved populations and making CU Denver a campus that serves and supports all, especially our Hispanic and Latinx students, faculty, and staff.

We appreciate your patience and support as we work through these changes. For more information about our current and near-future status as an HSI and MSI, please see a list of [FAQs](#).

Go Lynx!

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Provost

