



Broadening Participation in Computing: Leveraging, Scaling, and Adapting CAHSI Initiatives (SACI)

Dr. Miguel Alonso Jr., PI, Miami Dade College

Dr. Danmary S. Albertini, Co-PI, Miami Dade College

Dr. Rocio Guillen-Castrillo, Co-PI, California State University – San Marcos

Dr. Andres Figueroa, Co-PI, University of Texas at El Paso

Scaling and Adapting CAHSI Initiatives (SACI) is an effort to adapt, scale, and leverage five CAHSI initiatives to further bridge the gap that exists between Hispanics and other underrepresented groups and their pursuit of computing degrees. The SACI partners, consisting of Miami Dade College, California State at San Marcos, and The University of Texas Pan-American, will adapt and implement proven best practices from CAHSI in five areas:

- **CS-0:** a new introductory course showcasing computer graphics, animation, and other high-interest applications, such as App Development for the iPhone/Android Platforms, designed to attract students and prepare them for majors in computing fields
- **PLTL:** A peer-led team learning structure to provide academic support and motivation for students to persist in computing disciplines
- **ARG:** An affinity research group model to promote undergraduate retention and success through early research experiences
- **MENTORING:** Faculty and peer mentoring to improve student retention and success
- **WORKSHOPS:** Outreach workshops to stimulate interest in careers in computing at the high school and early undergraduate levels and to disseminate project research and evaluation findings

To ensure its success, SACI will leverage additional valuable support from CAHSI, including the training of junior underrepresented faculty members at the partner institutions in the implementation of CAHSI initiatives and the services of the CAHSI Advisory Board.

This project seeks (1) to leverage the educational and research strengths of CAHSI institutions and (2) to create long-term contributions to research, significantly impacting the advancement of computing. The CAHSI initiatives will be adapted and integrated across two critical educational transitions in SACI's scope: high school to college, and undergraduate to graduate study. While the CAHSI institutions have made significant progress in introducing research experiences during the early undergraduate years at the research university level, "teaching" institutions, such as MDC, CSUSM, and UTPA, face unique challenges in doing so. As a result, research opportunities for undergraduate students at these institutions remain limited. SACI will create and demonstrate the success of a model that scales and adapts CAHSI initiatives to teaching institutions, serving to promote student interest and success in computing fields.