HECUA’s Mission

HECUA provides college students experiential and community-based academic programs that offer pathways to understanding and supporting inter-generational movements for social justice, human rights, decolonization, and environmental sustainability in the U.S. and abroad. Infused with a radical ethic of care and deep respect for the knowledge of communities most impacted by injustice, HECUA’s programs challenge systems of oppression, speak openly of justice, and envision students, teachers, and community members as co-learners and co-creators.

Strategic Goals

Guided by its mission, HECUA will implement the following strategic goals:

1. Advance equity and access across our programs and operations in service to progressive education, equity, and social justice.
2. Strengthen and broaden revenue streams to advance organizational sustainability, student access, and professional development.
3. Advance a robust, equity-minded review, upgrade, and integration of organizational systems, policies, and practices.
4. Expand consortium membership among institutions and organizations that are currently underrepresented, especially community colleges, minority-serving institutions, and tribal colleges.
5. Expand, assess, and champion learner-centered and evidence-based pedagogies, strategies, and programs for promoting diverse ways of knowing and education for freedom and social justice.

Strategic Initiatives

2. Community Accountability: Recruit a Community Advisory Board.
   Invite community participation on Board of Directors.
4. Ethic of care: Review, revise, and amplify our holistic student support curriculum and services.
5. Good Governance: Conduct a comprehensive review and revision of Board of Director’s Governance policies.
Areas of Integrated Work
HECUA will focus its efforts to advance these strategic goals through three cross-cutting areas of work:

- **Building Evidence** that supports the development of best practices within the fields of experiential education, community-based learning, and learning abroad, and demonstrates the value of HEC-UA’s work.  
- **Expanding Capacity** by enhancing faculty and staff professional development, adopting new technological systems, and implementing transparent, equity-minded, culturally-attentive decision-making processes that further the goals of HECUA.  
- **Amplifying Advocacy and Impact** by providing tools and resources that help community partners, faculty, and higher education administrators diminish and eradicate social inequality in the academy and broader society.

Aspirations
HECUA will promote these values and commitments:

- Expand diversity, access, and equity to diminish the reproduction of oppression and social inequality in higher education and the broader society.  
- Align our operations, resource use, and waste-management practices with our ethical ambition to support climate justice and environmental sustainability.  
- Develop pedagogies that emphasize the assets all students bring to college rather than their perceived deficits.  
- Strengthen holistic student support services and ethic of care.  
- Partner with member institutions and broader constituencies in higher education, K–12 education, the arts, social movements, government, and the nonprofit sector to advance local, regional, national, and transnational solidarities.  
- Serve as a leading resource for best practices, strategies, and models that advance experiential education, community-based learning, and learning abroad. Position HECUA at the forefront of efforts to transform higher education.  
- Provide research-based evidence that supports HECUA’s programs and initiatives.  
- Create and support community across HEC-UA’s membership, using our expertise to address shared institutional priorities.  
- Demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness through enhanced collaboration, internal communication, and asset-based work.  
- Inspire broad confidence in and commitment to HECUA’s mission.