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Antillean Takes a Bold Step Toward Expanding Graduate Education

Antillean Adventist University (Antillean) is thrilled to unveil an exciting new initiative, broadening graduate opportunities through distance learning. Funded by Title V Part B, "Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans" (P031M240020), this groundbreaking project aims to transform graduate education by enhancing program quality, expanding academic options, and creating new opportunities for underrepresented communities, including Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students.

Breaking Barriers and Unlocking Potential

This initiative goes beyond traditional goals, tackling some of the biggest challenges faced by graduate students today. With a focus on two transformative priorities, Antillean is setting the stage for success:

- **Supporting the Whole Student:** Antillean understands that graduate students need more than academic rigor to thrive. A broad range of tailored support services will address students' social, emotional and academic needs; ensuring they have the necessary resources and skills to achieve success.
- **Opening Doors to Education and Opportunity:** Accessibility and affordability are front and center. This initiative aims to make graduate education accessible to all while providing students with the essential resources to excel both academically and professionally.

Driving Change with Clear Goals

At its core, this initiative embodies Antillean's mission to lead the way in driving innovation in higher education. The objectives include:

- **Expanding Graduate Programs:** Developing diverse academic offerings tailored to the evolving needs of graduate students.
- **Upgrading Student Services:** Enhancing the quality and accessibility of resources to support and empower students throughout their academic and professional career.
- **Improving Accessibility:** Making graduate programs more affordable and inclusive for Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students.
- **Modernizing Infrastructure:** Strengthening Antillean's physical and technological systems to deliver high-quality online education.
- **Boosting Antillean's Reputation:** Building the university's standing as a hub for graduate excellence, attracting talent from across the globe.

Be a Part of the Journey

Antillean is on a mission to reshape the future of graduate education. This initiative is more than a project—it's a movement toward inclusivity, innovation, and opportunity. By breaking down barriers and building a foundation for success, Antillean empowers tomorrow's leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

Please stay engaged with us to gain further insight into how this initiative is creating an impact and providing opportunities for students within our community.



Take a break, CONNECT!

In the school of Christ, students are never graduated. Among the pupils are both old and young. Those who give heed to the instructions of the divine Teacher constantly advance in wisdom, refinement, and nobility of soul, and thus they are prepared to enter that higher school where advancement will continue throughout eternity. CT 51.1



Welcome to Antillean Title V Part B - PPOHA Program: Promoting Graduate Opportunities Through Distance Learning

My name is Dr. Zilma E. Santiago, and I have the privilege of serving as Project Director for this new PPOHA program at Antillean Adventist University. It is my honor to present this initiative, which is dedicated to advancing opportunities at the graduate level: Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA—P031M240020). This is a transformative initiative designed to expand graduate education, enhance academic quality and graduate student support services, and promoting innovation in higher learning.

A Vision for the Future

At Antillean, we recognize the importance of providing accessible, high-quality graduate education, particularly for Hispanic and underrepresented students. Our PPOHA project, Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Graduate Opportunities Through Distance Learning is designed to increase access to postbaccalaureate education, strengthen student support services, and modernize technological infrastructure.

Through the introduction of new online master's programs, specialized certifications, and enhanced student resources, this initiative seeks to foster an inclusive and academically enriching environment. Our objective is to empower students to achieve success, regardless of financial or geographical barriers, having a hands on experience in a innovative enviroment.

Why This Initiative Matters

With 95% of Antillean's student body identifying as Hispanic, the institution is deeply committed to addressing the unique educational needs of our community. Puerto Rico faces high poverty rates and limited access to graduate education, making programs like PPOHA essential for economic mobility and career advancement. By offering flexible online programs, providing state-of-the-art learning resources and financial aid opportunities, we can ensure a pathway to academic and professional success for all our students.

Key Highlights of the PPOHA Project

- Expanded Graduate Programs – New offerings in Health Sciences, Business Administration, and Education.
- Innovative Online Learning – Flexible course structures designed to accommodate working professionals.
- Enhanced Student Support Services – Comprehensive academic coaching, mentoring, scholarships and career guidance.
- Advanced Technological Infrastructure – Upgraded technological infrastructure and interactive learning spaces.
- Scholarship Opportunities & Financial Assistance – Increased accessibility and affordability for graduate students.

Join Us in This Transformative Initiative

We invite you to be a part of this remarkable initiative. Whether you are a prospective student, faculty member, or community partner, your engagement will play a vital role in shaping a brighter future for Hispanic graduate students. Stay informed about upcoming announcements, enrollment opportunities and success stories from students benefiting from the PPOHA program. At Antillean, we believe that education has the power to transform lives.

Welcome to a new era in graduate learning—your future begins here!

Dr. Zilma E. Santiago Pabón
PPOHA PROJECT DIRECTOR



MEET OUR PERSONNEL



Dra. Zilma E. Santiago Pabón *PPOHA PROJECT DIRECTOR*

✉ ZSANTIAGO@UAA.EDU

☎ 787-834-9595 ext. 2382

Dr. Zilma Santiago is responsible for providing strategic leadership and overseeing the successful implementation of the PPOHA initiative. Key duties include managing project activities, budget control, and establishing effective organizational and administrative structures. The Director ensures compliance with institutional, state, and federal requirements, supervises data collection for evaluating progress, and communicates updates to both Antillean leadership and PPOHA officials. Additionally, she meets regularly with the Activity Coordinator, maintains reporting systems, and is responsible for revising project activities, as needed, and with official PPOHA approval.

Dr. José Javier Ruiz Pérez *PPOHA ONLINE TECHNOLOGICAL SPECIALIST*

✉ JRUIZ@UAA.EDU

☎ 787-834-9595 ext. 2816

Dr. José J. Ruiz, *Online Technological Specialist*, offers training and ongoing support to instructors in designing, developing, and adapting courses for online formats; including the effective use of digital platforms and teaching tools. Collaborates with the ITS Department to ensure learning platforms remain accessible and fully functional. Assists students in exploring academic pathways, understanding university policies, and accessing available resources through online platforms. Facilitates the smooth integration of technological services offering technical support to faculty, staff, and students. Troubleshoots technological issues and provides guidance on software and hardware installations and updates.



PPOHA 2024-2029



Prof. María de la Paz Rodríguez *PPOHA ACTIVITY COORDINATOR*

✉ MDRODRIGUEZ@UAA.EDU

☎ 787-834-9595 ext. 3102

Prof. María de la Paz Rodríguez supports the Project Director in organizing, supervising and reviewing all activity components and strategies, while identifying enhancements to improve student outcomes and the teaching-learning process. She assists with project administration, budget management, staff recruitment and training, data collection, and regulations compliance. The Coordinator also helps prepare progress and performance reports, ensures the effective implementation of objectives, and facilitates the integration of activities into the University's programs.

PPOHA PROGRAM ACOMPLISHMENTS



After months of dedicated effort and collaboration across departments to develop five academic programs, we are pleased to announce that two of the programs are now pending approval from the Puerto Rico Postsecondary Institutional Board (JIP). In the meantime, we are actively preparing the submission of the three remaining programs, with the goal of launching these new offerings during the Fall Semester of 2025 (FA25).

Science in Nursing – Critical Care/ Elderly Care

Submitted to JIP
Dec 2024

The MSN in Critical Care or Geriatric Care equips registered nurses with advanced expertise to deliver top-notch care to critically ill patients and the elderly. It trains nurses for leadership, education, and teamwork roles within inter-professional care teams. The program blends theoretical learning with practical experience in the chosen specialty.

MBA– Human Resources

The MBA program with a specialization in Human Resources offers students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to excel as specialists in human capital management. Students will be prepared to meet the demands of an increasingly complex and competitive business environment at both local and international levels.

Skin and Wound Care Certification

This specialized program is designed for healthcare professionals seeking advanced skills in skin and wound care. Topics include skin assessment, wound identification/classification, acute and chronic wound management, dressing application and pressure injury prevention. Students are thoroughly prepared in this specialty.

Educational Technology

Submitted to JIP
Dec 2024

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology empowers educators to integrate technology effectively into teaching. It emphasizes innovative tools and strategies across diverse educational models. Participants develop skills to navigate teaching challenges and foster educational excellence through technology. Completion of the program enhances professionals' competencies in technology education, enabling them to reform and strengthen educational curricula with a focus on 21st-century skills.



SCHOLARSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW ENROLLMENT

Are you pursuing a master's degree or a graduate certification at Antillean? The PPOHA Project offers special scholarships of up to \$1,880 (\$626 per trimester) in the first year of enrollment to eligible graduate students enrolled in our new online programs.

Who Can Apply?

- Hispanic students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Those who meet specific eligibility requirements (outlined in the application form).

What We're Looking For

Your application will be evaluated based on:

- GPA
- Financial need (FAFSA)
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement

What's in It for You?

- Scholarship funds distributed equally across academic terms (up to one year).
- Opportunities to participate in activities designed to enhance your skills and knowledge in your chosen field.

How to Apply

- Fill out the eligibility form.
- Submit your GPA, recommendation letters, and personal statement.
- The PPOHA Scholarship Committee will review your application and notify you if selected.

Actively engage in the program to maintain your scholarship and grow in your academic journey!



ppoha@uaa.edu



www.uaa.edu/proyecto-ppoha