The Hispanic Theological Initiative

The Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) was developed in 1996 at Emory University as a scholarship, mentoring, and networking program to help Latin@ church leaders become scholars in the academy. From 1996 to 2009, HTI was funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) with $8.35 million dollars. In 1999, the program was relocated to Princeton Theological Seminary, its current location. In 2003, HTI also received $888,000 from the Lilly Endowment Inc. (Lilly) to help provide new students with scholarships. In 2003, the Princeton Theological Seminary Board of Trustees adopted the HTI program, and since August 2009 has been supporting its infrastructure. In 2007, the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium (HTIC) was developed to help maintain a national ecumenical representation within the cohort of students. Additionally, in 2013 the Henry Luce Foundation provided the HTIC with a $400,000 grant to support PhD students at the post-comprehensive examination stage. In 2016, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided HTI with a $100,000 corporate gift to support its 20th Anniversary events. HTI enters its 21st year with a $1.5 million grant from Lilly endowment, Inc. to support 10 dissertation students yearly with $25,000 fellowships for the next five years. In September 2017, HTI received a planning grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. titled, "Synergies to Nurture, Improve, and Advance Hispanic Religious and Theological Leaders/Scholars." This grant will support three new initiatives: The first, a gathering of Higher Education Denominational Leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges in serving Hispanic leaders' educational goals; second, introduce a Mentoring Pilot Program for First Position to nurture and address the needs of HTI graduates who are in their first position; and third, introduce a Mentoring Internship Program for current HTI scholars to explore ways in which they can utilize their PhD's to serve in diverse contexts. HTI also received a $475,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to widen and enhance the audience of HTI's Perspectivas peer-review bilingual journal by building an app that will include access to blogs, podcasts, and HTI Talks, which will address key Latinx social issues.

The HTI mission is cultivating Latin@ PhD's for leadership positions in the academy, the church, and the world. With the support of the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium (HTIC), now comprising 24 member institutions, the mission and vision of HTI/HTIC revolve around three major goals:

- Increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latina/o PhD students across the nation by uniting and leveraging institutional resources in the field of religion (human, financial, and infrastructure)
- Increase the presence of Latin@ leaders and faculty—especially tenured faculty in seminaries, schools of theology and universities
- Provide a forum for exchange of information, ideas, and best practices to address the contribution of Latin@ faculty and students in theological and religious education

The member institutions are:

Andrews University
Baylor University
Boston University School of Theology
Brite Divinity School
Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Claremont Graduate University
Claremont School of Theology
Dallas Theological Seminary
Drew University
Duke Divinity School
Fuller Theological Seminary
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Graduate Theological Union
Harvard Divinity School
Luther Seminary
Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
Oblate School of Theology
Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
Princeton Theological Seminary
The University of Chicago Divinity School
Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York
University of Notre Dame
Vanderbilt Divinity School
Wheaton College

HTI staff members include Joanne Rodríguez, executive director, Angela Schoepf, assistant director, and Suzette Aloyo, office assistant. For more information visit htiprogram.org or call 609.252.1721. HTI offices are located at 12 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540.