



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bold New Partnership Expands Training for Fundraisers Serving Latine Communities

The Hispanic Scholars Program, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, and the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH) join forces to grow "El Semillero: Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising"

[July 24, 2025] — A groundbreaking partnership is deepening efforts to equip theological leaders with tools to advance philanthropy within Latine communities. The Hispanic Scholars Program, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, and the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH) have joined forces to expand **El Semillero: Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising**—a unique initiative designed to train and empower fundraisers through a distinctly Latine lens.

Launched by the Hispanic Scholars Program and Lake Institute in 2021, *El Semillero* was created to offer theological leaders training in finance, fundraising, and development, specifically contextualized for Latine communities. The program has equipped clergy, community organizers, nonprofit leaders, educators, and administrators with culturally responsive fundraising strategies.

While originally designed to serve five participants—or "Semilleristas"—per year, the program has far exceeded expectations. To date, more than 40 alumni have completed the program, strengthening fundraising capacity in their organizations and, in some cases, launching new careers in donor development.

Expanding the Vision

With the addition of AETH as a strategic partner, *El Semillero* is poised to grow in scope and impact. Together, the three organizations will:

- **Develop new educational content** on the history of philanthropy and theologies of money, grounded in Latine and Latin American theological traditions and Latino/a/x studies;
- **Offer full scholarships** to selected participants from the National Initiative to Strengthen Hispanic Pastoral Leadership and Congregations (NISHPLC);
- **Transition to an open enrollment model**, making the program accessible to anyone committed to serving Latine communities;

- **Increase pathways to certification**, supporting more participants in completing the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising, based at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, Indianapolis.

Of this expansion, Daisy L. Machado, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Hispanic Scholars Program, shared:

“Seeing this collaborative effort between the Hispanic Scholars Program, the Lake Institute, and AETH is a major next step in creating a strong and robust Executive Certificate Program that will equip a new generation of Latine leaders—for the church, the community, and the academy. There is no other such opportunity for Latine leaders to access this wealth of resources, research, and experience on fundraising and faith and I am delighted to see El Semillero expanded in its reach and scope.”

The next cohort of *El Semillero: Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising* will begin in **March 2026**. Follow the HSP, Lake Institute, and AETH on social media for updates on enrollment.

Through this revitalized partnership, the program continues to plant seeds for a future where Latine-centered fundraising is not only possible—but flourishing. Put differently, *we’re changing the face of philanthropy—¡latinamente!*

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