



Leslie Hopper, MA: Leslie has worked in Higher Education on behalf of Hispanic Serving Institutions since 2005. She describes “becoming enlightened” about the differences between “Hispanic Enrolling” and “Hispanic Serving” Institutions as the Sponsored Programs Officer for Sul Ross State University near the Texas-Mexico Border. Leslie broadened her Higher Education experience working with faculty, campus teams, consultants, institutional collaborators and the college on NIFA-USDA, DOD, NSF, NIH, DOE, NEA, State and Congressionally directed funding submissions and by pursuing every feasible professional development opportunity. More recently as Co-Director of a Title III(f) Cooperative Project she and her team spearheaded initiatives to activate articulation agreements, reanimate STEM labs, expand faculty professional development and develop undergraduate research experiences. Leslie’s favorite super power is her aptitude for logistics, especially when it involves working with a diverse team toward shared goals, objectives or experiences. When she’s not fearlessly diving into institutional data or aligning promising strategies with citable literature, she might be looking up an applicable OMB circular or verifying an allowable (or unallowable) expenses. (Or possibly camping somewhere extremely remote and quiet in the lower 48 with her pals, because all this grantsmanship stuff can be exhausting and who doesn’t require an occasional reality-reboot?). Leslie’s willingness to commit to deadlines combined with by her desire to synthesize complex data and information into straightforward, measurable and coherent action plans has resulted in a growing list of “nearly missed” and *actually funded* projects. Leslie admits a weakness for foster pets, especially the canine variety. She graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor’s of German Language and Literature and holds a Master’s in Political Science from Sul Ross State University in Texas.