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Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI): A partnership with the Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership and the University of Massachusetts Boston since 2010

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Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI)
Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership and
The University of Massachusetts Boston

Summary/Abstract

Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI):
A partnership with the Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership and the University of Massachusetts Boston since 2010

Goals and Objectives

Purpose:
To help develop a cadre of next generation leaders from and for the Latino(a) community.

Participants:
The LLI annually serves up to 50 of the nation’s most promising undergraduates with demonstrated interest in serving the Latino(a) community.

The first two colleges and universities cohorts represented are Miami Dade College, UMass Boston, Texas A&M, UC Merced, University of Texas-Pan American, Loyola Marymount and the University of Houston.

Objectives:
• To enhance the leadership capacity of students committed to serving the Latino community.
• To help participants form a strong and durable bond among themselves and with other leaders.
• To inspire participants to view their own possibilities for leadership and professional achievement as limitless.

Approaches and Methods

Core Components:
Two core requirements of the LLI are to facilitate a community service project to be planned and executed by May of the following spring and to create personal leadership action plans.

Program Structure:
The LLI is a week-long residential program consisting of classroom lectures based on a range of leadership development topics, including self-awareness, public speaking, decision making and negotiation.

Results/Impact

The 2010 Cohort participants were Audy Ramirez, Marcela Cesar, Maria Dixon, and Diego Aristizabal (current adjunct faculty at UMass Boston Sociology Department). This cohort created a one-day conference for Latina adolescent girls aimed at fostering leadership and empowerment strategies. They also created a community garden that was formerly housed in a high crime area.

The 2011 Cohort consisted of Angel Cosme, Channel Baez, Wellington Palma and Daniel Santa. This cohort created a student club called Beacons of Hope (BOH). BOH is a college awareness program that works with middle school students. The mission of BOH is to foster college aspirations and academic excellence among middle school students.

BOH Workshop Components:
• Reasons to go to college
• Popular college majors
• Earning potential
• Types of financial aide
• Cultural awareness
• Character Development

Conclusion/Next Steps

• Continue to recruit motivated and talented UMB Latino students who will participate in the LLI continually.
• Cultivate administrative/faculty support for the recruitment, promotion and continued support of the LLI/UMB partnership.
• Empower and better our communities by developing impactful community service projects for years to come.

References and Resources

For more information about the LLI, please contact: Dario Collado, Program Manager, at (617)496-0280 or via email at dario_collado@hks.harvard.edu
For information on the Beacons of Hope program, contact LLI Ambassador Angel Cosme at 617-512-5305 or via email at beaconsofhope@gmail.com

Additional Partnerships, Information and/or Contacts

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