Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI)

University of Massachusetts Boston
Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership

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Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI)

Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership and The University of Massachusetts Boston

Summary

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<th>Goals and Objectives</th>
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<td><strong>Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI):</strong> A partnership with the Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership and the University of Massachusetts Boston since 2010</td>
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**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.

**Students in the 2013 Cohort**

**Leadership Training**

**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
  - Cultural awareness
  - Character Development

**The 2012 Cohort** consisted of Rebecca Arellano, Sabrina Bleakney, Vetto Casado, Henry Montas, and Abel Cano. This cohort continued the work originally created by Beacons of Hope. They created a partnership with Hyde Square Task Force. Created a series of mentoring workshops which services over 70 inner-city 9th graders in the Boston Public Schools District. Beacons of Hope has also collaborated with UMass Boston Latino Leadership Opportunity Program which aims to orchestrate community service opportunities for UMass Boston students off campus. Community impact:

- - Beacons of Hope got involved with the College Explorations Mentoring Program (CEMP). Students age 14-18 years of age with a grade of "C" were served from September to June. Students were meeting with BOH bi-weekly. "It is rare to see a quick connection between young people and total strangers. The Beacons of Hope participants weren’t just total strangers; they are adult mirror images of what our young people could be," Joel Mora, HSTF Manager of College and Career Success.

**The 2013 Cohort** consisted of Jahdiel Perez, Maritza Merino, Marisabel Jaramillo, Marvin Sandoval, Andrea Ornelas, Gildardo Aiztce and Jason Garcia. This cohort will launched the Latino Leadership & Success Program (LLSP) at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The LLSP is a semester-long initiative which aims at improving the academic excellence and integral leadership of Latino students at UMB through a series of monthly trainings. Fifteen students have been selected to be part of this inaugural cohort.

**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/UMass Boston partnership.
- Empower and better our communities by developing impactful community service projects for years to come.

**References and Resources**

For information on the Beacons of Hope program, contact a LLI Ambassador or via email at beaconsofhope@gmail.com

**LLI Representatives at UMass Boston:**

- **Albis Mejia**, Academic Advisor, Student Support Services, Campus Center - 1-1014, 617-287-5821 Albis.mejia@umb.edu
- **Liliana Mickle**, Special Assistant to the Vice Provost Academic Support Services and Undergraduate Studies, Campus – 1-1011, 617-287-6115 Liliana.mickle@umb.edu
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- **Sherrod Williams**, Director Student Leadership and Community Engagement, Campus Center, 3rd floor, 617-287-6077 sherrod.williams@umb.edu

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