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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

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.

Partner Schools:

The partner schools are sending cohorts represented are Miami Dade College, UMass Boston, Texas A&M International University, University of California at Merced, University of Texas-Pan American, Loyola Marymount, City University of New York 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.

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
- Earning potential
- Types of financial aide
- 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 Alzate 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

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