

# Newsletter

## Project MALES

Fall 2012

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**Project MALES** is an initiative of the Division of Diversity & Community Engagement at UT-Austin.

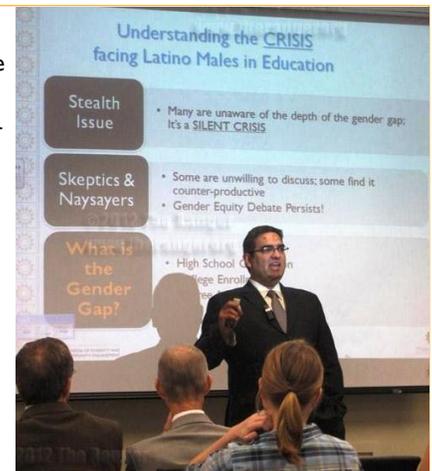
### Project MALES is Awarded Grant from Texas H.E. Coordinating Board

The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement is excited to announce that Project MALES has recently been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for its male mentoring initiatives for 2012-13. Funds have been awarded to DDCE faculty affiliate, Victor B. Saenz, Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Administration in the College of Education. The grant provides support for the Project MALES Student Mentoring Program which provides mentoring services to male students at two local high schools in Austin ISD (Travis and Lanier) in partnership with Communities in Schools, X-Y Zone Program. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to another great year!

### A Busy & Productive Summer

Dr. Victor Saenz and the Project MALES team have had a busy summer. The Project MALES team presented their research at the Texas Higher Education Symposium at UT San Antonio in early August. Dr. Saenz has also presented at Tarrant County College – Trinity River Campus this summer and was a featured speaker at San Antonio College’s annual convocation on August 20. Saenz will be a featured speaker at the National Community College Hispanic Council meeting in Long Beach in September and at the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) conference in Houston in early November.

The Project MALES research team will also have a strong contingent of presenters at the upcoming conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) in Las Vegas.



### Project MALES Featured on NBC-DFW

Project MALES Director, Dr. Victor Saenz, was recently featured in an NBC-Dallas story for his presentation at Tarrant County College – Trinity River Campus. The presentation focused on recent research findings from Project MALES’ ongoing work on Latino males in Texas community colleges. He was joined by staff member Milagros Lopez and volunteer Veronica Pecero. View the video online at: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/2012/05/833/>

### Attention Institutions:

If you have a Latino males program at your institution that you would like us to highlight on our newsletter, please send details to: [projectmales@gmail.com](mailto:projectmales@gmail.com), or find out more at our website: [ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/](http://ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/)

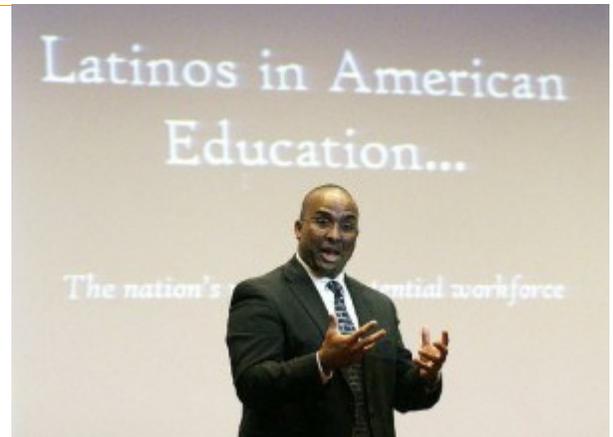


**Project MALES**  
Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success

Special Thanks to **Mr. Blake English** for his generous contribution to Project MALES

## A Big Texas Welcome to Dr. Luis Ponjuan, New Faculty Member @ TAMU

For the last seven years, Dr. Luis Ponjuan has ably served the University of Florida community as a productive faculty member in the College of Education. His research on Latino males and on faculty of color has resonated at the national level, and his contributions to Project MALES have been essential to our early success. This fall, Dr. Ponjuan will bring his immense talents to Texas as an associate professor of higher education at Texas A&M University. Project MALES is pleased to welcome Luis to our state.



Dr. Ponjuan's research agenda is perfectly aligned with our state's demographic reality and policy priorities. The tangible set of skills, networks and experience that he brings to Texas are wonderfully complemented by his many intangibles. As a colleague and citizen, his enthusiasm and work-ethic are inspiring. Luis has constantly raised the bar of expectations everywhere he has been, and we know he will be an amazing asset to the students and the higher education program at TAMU as well to the State of Texas. More importantly, with the proximity of our two public flagship institutions, he will become an even more integral member of the Project MALES family. We are truly excited about the possibilities.

Welcome to Texas, Luis!



## The Future is Bright for Project MALES

In two years, **Project MALES** has transformed from an idea focused on Latino male educational success into a fully actionable initiative with strong institutional support from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin and our various funding partners. Today, the project integrates scholarly research and a specialized Latino male mentoring model as a two-pronged approach to improving Latino male educational success. The educational crisis facing Latino males deserves a new level of interrogation and action to help understand and improve this complex social and educational crisis, and this project is well-positioned to make significant strides to improve Latino males' college enrollment and success. To sustain our dual efforts of research and mentoring towards enhancing Latino male success, it is imperative that Project MALES continues to build strong institutional and community partnerships as well as seek viable resources and funding opportunities.

We have had many significant milestones during the first two years, and 2012-13 promises to be a banner year for Project MALES. We urge you to visit our website often for updates, news, research reports, and many other resources. [ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/](http://ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/)