



Project MALES Newsletter

Winter 2013

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Welcome to the Spring 2013 Project MALES newsletter! In this issue we highlight two new grant awards, we spotlight some of the great student mentors that work with our program, and we summarize recent and upcoming events.

Greater Texas Foundation & TG award grants to new Texas Education Consortium for Male Student Success

We are pleased to announce that the Greater Texas Foundation (GTF) and TG have awarded Project MALES two new grants totaling over \$578,000 to support Hispanic and African American male student success across the state of Texas. These three-year grant awards will support the Texas Education Consortium for Male Student Success, an ambitious new statewide initiative that will launch in summer 2013 and will be headquartered at the University of Texas at Austin. The Consortium seeks to align and coordinate existing programs and services that target underrepresented male students across the education continuum, and it further seeks to stimulate new male-focused initiatives within Texas colleges and universities. The Consortium members will include two-year and four-year institutions across the state as well as a few public school districts. The two grant awards will support work on four key objectives: to build the consortium; to annually hold two Consortium meetings and a male student leadership summit at UT-Austin; to incubate research-based, male-focused programs at each institution; and to disseminate our research and evaluation findings through a resource center and other online tools. For more details visit our Project MALES website at: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/>.



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION



Fall Mentoring Activities - Project MALES Student Mentoring Program

In the fall semester, the Project MALES Student Mentoring Program renewed its partnership with Travis High School (Austin ISD) and the X-Y Zone Program. With support from a new grant award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, we were able to expand our recruitment and mentoring efforts significantly for fall 2012. We recruited and trained a total of 40 Project MALES student fellows and mentors, a jump from 15 in the prior academic year. Each of these amazing young men and women must meet stringent academic criteria at UT-Austin in order to serve as mentors. In partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS) and the XY-Zone Program, we were also able to add a second campus (Lanier High School, Austin ISD) to the mentoring effort. In total, our Project MALES fellows and mentors were able to provide mentoring to over 40 high school students this fall, logging over 200 hours of mentoring. Looking ahead, the future looks bright for Project MALES and both partnering high schools. We are ramping up our mentoring sessions to 12 weeks for the spring 2013 semester, and we will incorporate a revamped curriculum that focuses on college readiness skills and masculinity issues. We will also begin recruitment activities for the 2013-14 academic year.



If you have questions about our Project MALES student mentoring program, please contact: projectmales@gmail.com



Project MALES
Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success

December 1st Launch Pad Visit to UT-Austin

On Saturday December 1st, 2012, Project MALES partnered with LaunchPad The Center, an organization providing after school programming for middle school students at Dobie Middle School. Project MALES hosted the first ever LaunchPad—UT Campus Visit.

The event was held to introduce young students to the University of Texas at Austin campus and the possibilities enabled through higher education. During their experience, our 39 guest students

participated in career planning activities and learned more about the necessary steps to achieving their goals through higher education. Our Project MALES fellows and mentors shared their own success stories to inspire and energize the Launchpad students before heading off on a campus tour led by our team. It was an exciting day for everyone! Many thanks to Project MALES students for their strong leadership in making this event a success: Isaac Lopez, Nohemy Aguirre, Karina Roque, Rudy Cruz, Antonio Cruz, Michael Lozano, Pedro Suarez, Brenda Carrillo, Dariel Ramirez, Andreyez Alvarado, Zach Sustaita, Andrew Gonzales, Jorge Segovia, Sarah Rodriguez, Milly Lopez, and Ruben Mercado.

Project MALES will continue our partnership with LaunchPad through the upcoming Hombre A Hombre event for male students and their fathers. For more information on LaunchPad, please visit www.launchpadthecenter.org



Profiles — Students who help make Project MALES a Success!



Zach Sustaita,
Austin, TX
Mexican-American
Studies and Geography
Project MALES President

Zach Sustaita has been involved with Project MALES since the beginning, and currently serves as the organization's President. As president, Zach is responsible for planning meetings for the organization and helps with outreach to the community. Zach also serves as a liaison between Project MALES and other student organizations at UT-Austin.

During his time with Project MALES, Zach has seen the organization grow and develop so much. With nine fellows and 30 mentors, Zach has seen Project MALES grow exponentially in the last few years. His favorite thing about the program is the *Placticas*, monthly meetings where special guests are invited to share their life stories and their words of encouragement with the fellows and mentors. Zach currently mentors three students for the project at Travis High School, working with them on a variety of issues, from academic expectations to social skills.

Zach has several goals and plans for the upcoming spring semester, but in the meantime he has enjoyed working with Project MALES and is thankful for the opportunity.



Brenda Carrillo:
Eagle Pass, TX
Bilingual education
Gates Millennium Scholar
Project MALES Mentor

Brenda Carrillo has been involved with Project MALES since 2011. She learned of the project through a friend and wanted to get involved after finding out about its focus on mentoring. Brenda had experience working with students, having volunteered at her hometown high school, helping students there apply to college. Brenda says her favorite thing about Project MALES so far has just been learning about student's experiences and helping them through mentoring. She says that working with students helps to prepare her for her future career as a teacher.

Save the Date!



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
**LATINO MALE
SYMPOSIUM**

June 7th, 2013