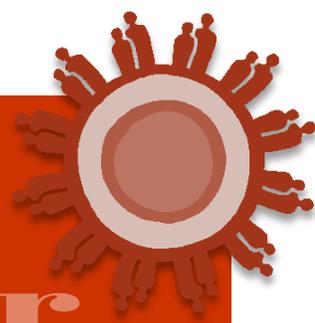


# Project MALES Newsletter



SPRING 2016

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

## Project MALES Student Mentoring Program: LA 113P IMPACT Expands to a Two-Credit Service Learning Course

For the second year, Project MALES is offering its undergraduate mentors at the University of Texas at Austin the opportunity to enroll in Impacting Males through Mentoring (IMM), the continuation for our Instructing Males through Peer Advising Course tracks (LA 113P IMPACT) offered in the fall. Like the fall 2015 course, the spring semester 2016 IMPACT course provides our undergraduate students the training and opportunity to continue working with young middle and high school males of color. The mentoring of middle and high school students will revolve around discussions on college pathways (e.g., 2 and 4-year institutions) and the importance of learning the necessary soft skills that will make them successful students. The fall 2015 LA 113P class introduces UT Austin undergraduates to K-12 experiences of Latino males dealing with among other topics, critical transitions in the Latina/o educational pipeline, Latino male masculinities in middle school, and successful Latino male role models across the educational pipeline.



The spring 2016 course curriculum focuses on Latinos and higher education and provides students topics that relate to the plight of Latino students in higher education, frameworks used to explain the Latino/a achievement gap, undocumented students in higher education, to name a few. Focusing on the different experiences of Latino males in the fall and spring, K-12 and higher education respectively, allows us to provide undergraduate students the ability to earn two credits, instead of one as we did in the past. Next year, we will explore the possibility of expanding the class to two hours weekly instead of one hour like we provide now as we continue to look at ways we can grow the service learning class a key component of our Project MALES Mentoring Program. For more information about our mentoring program, please visit

our website at <http://ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/mentor-program/>

## Research Brief Series Highlights Most Current Research on Latino Males



About a year ago, Project MALES launched the Faculty and Research Affiliates Program in an effort to expand its research work. The goal of the Affiliates Program was to raise the visibility of our researchers who were engaged with studies focused on young males of color and to link them to our growing national network of P-16 practitioners and administrators. The Affiliates Program identifies emerging and established scholars whose research focuses on the educational experiences of males of color (with a special emphasis on Latino males in K-12 and higher education). One way that we help raise their visibility and build the network is through our PM Research Brief Series where we highlight our affiliates most recent research on male students of color. For example, our latest research brief published in January, 2016 highlighted the work of Dr. Sarah Rodriguez, Assistant Professor at Iowa State University. Dr. Rodriguez's work explores the academic and social obstacles that first and second generation Latino male college students encountered within a predominantly White, research intensive, and highly selective institution and examined how these students coped with those obstacles. Her findings revealed how these men

generally favored responses that enabled them to cope internally with obstacles rather than reaching out to support systems or working with others to create proactive plans of action. Sometimes, unsuccessfully, they even attempted to avoid obstacles altogether or suppress feelings associated with those obstacles. Our next research brief will highlight the work of Dr. Charles Lu (UT Austin) who examines the first year experiences of males of color. Be on the look out for that research brief due to be published in March 2016.

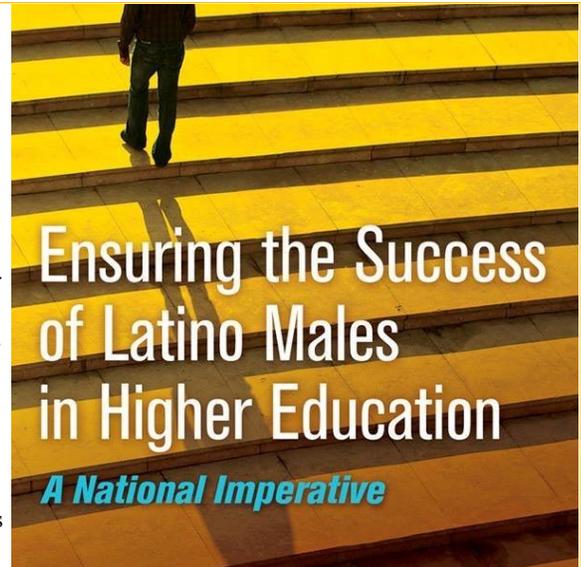
You can find more information about our Faculty and Research Affiliates program and archives of published research briefs at <http://ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/faculty-research-affiliates/>

## Drs. Saenz, Ponjuan and Figueroa are Co-Editors of a Groundbreaking Book That Highlights the Experiences of Latino Males in Higher Education

Project MALES is pleased to announce the publication of a new co-edited book on Latino males in higher education released in January, 2016. The book, titled “Ensuring the Success of Latino Males in Higher Education: A National Imperative” is co-edited by Dr. Victor B. Saenz (Executive Director, Project MALES), Dr. Luis Ponjuan (Co-founder, Project MALES), and Dr. Julie L. Figueroa (Project MALES Faculty Affiliate), and includes a Foreword by Dr. William Serrata (Co-founder, Project MALES). Through the contributions of emerging scholars and seasoned practitioners, the co-editors share new research on factors that inhibit or promote Latino male student success at 4-year institutions, community colleges, and secondary institutions in order to inform both policy and practice across the education continuum. The chapters within this edited book on Latino males collectively represent a timely and necessary contribution to this urgent national conversation on men of color in education.

The co-editors have also designed this book as a primer for policy makers at the national, state, and local levels as well as scholars in higher education. This book is also designed for anyone who wants to better understand the various issues related to Latino male access and degree attainment and also wants to work toward addressing the growing gender gap by learning from the most recent and relevant research on Latino males in education. Finally, the book is beneficial to community leaders and activists who want a comprehensive discussion about the challenges Latino male students face in schools and how they can work proactively to overcome those challenges. We hope this book inspires more dialogue, understanding, and transformative action.

For more information about the book please visit our website at <http://www.ddcetest.info/projectmales/>



## Project MALES Student Organization-On The Move



The Project MALES Student Organization continues to be on the move. Last semester they hosted and participated in multiple events at UT Austin and in the community. Highlights from the fall semester 2015 included the participation of members of the student organization in recruiting events during orientation, ¡Adelante!, and Party on the Plaza. Our student organization community engagement signature event last fall was Webb Middle School’s College Readiness Conference, where our undergraduate mentors facilitated workshops focusing on overcoming barriers and supporting academic success. The student organization also hosted two socials last semester—a bowling night at the Texas Union Underground and a Kayaking/Canoeing day!



The student organization has already planned a number of events in the Spring 2016 beginning with their Plática series three scheduled for this spring. The first plática in February featured Jonathan Barona from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. We have two more scheduled pláticas, one on March 10, and one on April 14. Please visit our website and Facebook page below for more information. Also in March, the student organization members will participate in another community outreach event, Explore UT. We are proud that our student mentors continue to engage in the student organization mission of bringing awareness to our young men of color, specifically Latino males by engaging the surrounding local community in different community and outreach events and activities as part of their community service work.

For more information about our student organization please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/356035377815653/>