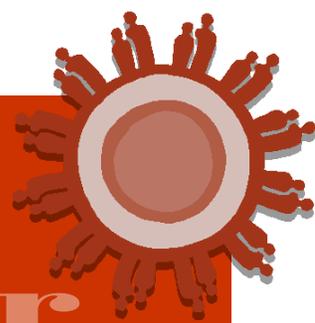


# Project MALES Newsletter



FALL 2016

## Project MALES STAFF

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Project MALES  
UT-Austin

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

## Project MALES Welcomes New Staff Members and New AISD Schools

At Project MALES, we rely on our graduate students to staff and lead our research and mentoring initiatives. We provide a unique form of graduate apprenticeship, a space that is vibrant and interactive, where our students can put theory into practice, and reflect on those practices to build knowledge about men of color. It is also a transitional place where we mentor our Master's and Ph.D. students and help advance them toward postsecondary faculty and administrative positions. Our graduate students also support our undergraduate mentors to thrive in this space and help them stay on track and graduate. During the 2015-2016 academic year eighteen of our Project MALES mentors graduated, moving onto graduate schools and employment.

This also creates opportunities for new students to step in and support our work and grow academically and professionally. This year we are excited to welcome two new incoming Ph.D. students, Pavitee Peumsang (UCLA) and Jorge Burmicky (Baylor University), who will be working on the Project MALES Research and Consortium team, and two new incoming Master's students, Rodrigo Aguayo (Texas State University) and Enrique Aguayo (Texas State University), who will be working with the Project MALES Mentoring Program. In addition, we are also excited to welcome to Project MALES, Mike Gutierrez, M.Ed., (Program Coordinator) who will lead the mentoring program. He will be supporting our graduate student mentoring coordinators and building the program as we expand to new schools and new school districts. This school year we added LBJ Early College High School to the seven schools we currently served through our mentoring program, and will add two more schools (Eastside Memorial High School and Fulmore Middle School) in Spring 2017.



This year we are also excited to welcome back our Project MALES graduate students and staff members: Ph.D. students José Del Real Viramontes (Project MALES Communications Associate) and Jorge Segovia (Project MALES Research and Mentoring Coordinator) and Master's student, Jorge Rodriguez (Lead Site Coordinator).

This mix of veterans, new graduate, and undergraduate students will help us continue to build on the foundation we have laid these past four years at Project MALES and are excited about the coming 2016-17 academic school year.



## The 2016 Texas Male Student Leadership Summit a Big Success!



On August 11-12, 2016, the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color hosted the third annual Texas Male Student Leadership Summit at the University of Texas at Austin, and it was another huge success. Over 450 young men of color and professionals attended, representing independent school districts, community colleges, and universities from across the state of Texas. This year we expanded our student focus and introduced pre-Summit Student Interest Groups (SIG) featuring workshops on going to college and graduate school, and a Student Convening where we introduced students to the three themes of the Summit—Brotherhood, Leadership, and College and Career Readiness. We also introduced a new K-12 track for high school students, to add to our college student and professional tracks.

On the first night of our Summit, we highlighted the three themes and featured an open mic-night and talent show that featured spoken word, poetry, live music, and more. Some of our featured speakers this year included Dr. Luis Ponjuan, Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University and co-founder of Project MALES and the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color; Dr. César

Cruz, a renowned poet, author, educator and human rights freedom fighter, and Dr. Sarah Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of the Community College Leadership/Higher Education at Iowa State University.

We would like to thank all of our foundation, institutional, corporate sponsors, Consortium partners, featured speakers and presenters, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, our Project MALES staff, and lastly our many student volunteers who made our 2016 Texas Male Student Leadership Summit a huge success. We look forward to seeing you next year at the 2017 Summit in August! THANK YOU!

## Project MALES Inaugural Summer Academy a SUCCESS!

Project MALES (Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success) – an initiative of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE) at UT-Austin– hosted the inaugural Project MALES Summer Academy on June 15-17, 2016. The three-day Summer Academy was open to young men from four Austin ISD middle schools (Garcia YMLA, Martin, Mendez, and Webb). The first two days were held at Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy and the third day was held on the campus of UT-Austin.

The Project MALES Summer Academy featured three days of workshops and sessions that focused on three themes— Brotherhood, Leadership, and College and Career Readiness. Additionally, activities focused on building leadership and team building skills, communication skills, and creative writing. Our focus on middle school boys is a key goal of our broader efforts focused on improving educational outcomes and opportunities for young males of color in the Central Texas region.



Highlights from our Summer Academy include:

- A day of workshops on Leadership Development, Brotherhood, and College and Career Readiness.
- Workshops on Creative Writing, Spoken Word, and Teatro.
- UT-Austin campus tour where students explored the UT campus facilities and football stadium, met with University faculty and staff, and had lunch at Jester Cafeteria (UT residence hall).

## A New Era for the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color

This fall marks an important milestone for our Consortium, as we embark on our fourth academic year as a statewide network of K-12 and higher education institutions in Texas committed to advancing the academic success of male students of color. To commemorate this important milestone, we are pleased to announce that our Consortium has been awarded a new three-year grant from The Kresge Foundation to advance our collective work through 2019 and beyond. The grant is a validation of the work we have done to date, but it also is a challenge for us to continue to enhance our efforts on behalf of the male students of color that we serve. We are excited to announce that the Consortium been awarded a \$400,000 Kresge grant to continue our initiatives into the next iteration of our work. This three-year grant will support the Consortium as we embark on a strategic planning process and will enable us to develop a sustainable model for our future work and continue to build capacity among our partner institutions to better serve boys and young men of color.



TEXAS EDUCATION CONSORTIUM  
*for MALE STUDENTS of COLOR*

We articulated two goals in the grant:

- 1) Build Capacity by Developing our Consortium Advisory Council & Engaging in Strategic Planning. To this end, we have four strategy sessions planned with the Consortium Advisory council during the first year of the grant. These sessions will be led by Dr. Luzelma Canales, Executive Director of RGV Focus/Educate Texas who brings year of experience in building collective capacities of organizations like the Consortium.
- 2) Help males of color get to and through college by Developing/Disseminating Institutional Capacity Building Tools and Activities to K-12 & Higher Education Institutions. This portion of the grant will allow us to continue to develop and disseminate our institutional capacity building tools and activities (CBTA's) to our Consortium partners and to other K-12 & higher education institutions.

Our next Consortium meeting is scheduled for October 13-14, 2016, hosted by Houston Baptist University where we will begin the first of four strategy sessions that will help us to meet these goals. Stay tuned for more updates on the Consortium.

THE  
KRESGE  
FOUNDATION