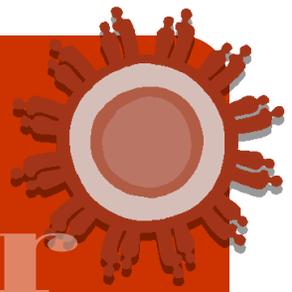


Project MALES Newsletter



FALL 2017

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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



Over the past eight years since its founding, Project MALES has relied largely on graduate students to help lead our mentoring and research projects. Institutional support from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE) and Department of Leadership and Policy has made this reality possible. This year we are excited to welcome incoming Ph.D. student Myra Barrera (MA, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) and incoming Master's students Edgar Fidel Lopez (BA, UCLA), Armando Tellez (BA, UCLA), and Danielle Marie Zaragoza (BA, Texas Tech) to our PM team. At Project MALES and the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color (Consortium) 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. We know from anecdotal evidence that our undergraduate and graduate students affirm that PM and the Consortium have made a difference in their personal and academic trajectories to achieve success as Latinx students at UT Austin. During the 2016-2017 academic year thirteen of our Project MALES mentors graduated, moving onto graduate schools and employment.

This year we are excited to welcome our new incoming Ph.D. student, Myra Barrera (MA, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) who will be working on the Project MALES Research team and supporting our Consortium work. Our three new incoming Master's students, Edgar Fidel Lopez (BA, UCLA), Armando Tellez (BA, UCLA), and Danielle Marie Zaragoza (BA, Texas Tech), will be working with the Project MALES Mentoring Program where they will be supporting our expansion to new schools and new school districts. This school year we have added Burnet Middle School and Eastside Memorial High School as two of our new AISD mentoring sites. We have also expanded our mentoring program to Manor Middle School, in the Manor Independent School District (MISD) and to KIPP Austin Brave High School, in the KIPP Austin Public Schools system. In addition, we are also excited to welcome to the Consortium project, Jorge Rodriguez, M.Ed., (Program Coordinator) who will lead the daily administrative functions and help us institutionalize the work of the Consortium. 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) Pavitee Peumsang (Graduate Research Assistant) and Jorge Burmicky (Graduate Research Assistant), and Master's students, Enrique Aguayo (Lead Mentoring Site Coordinator) and Rodrigo Aguayo (Lead Mentoring Site Coordinator). This mix of veterans, new graduate students, and over 50 UT undergraduate students will help us continue to build on the foundation we have laid over the years at Project MALES and the Consortium are excited about the coming 2017-18 academic school year.

The 4th Annual Texas Male Student Leadership Summit



On Aug. 17-18, 2017, the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color hosted the fourth annual Texas Male Student Leadership Summit at the University of Texas at Austin, and it was a resounding success. Over 350 young men of color and academic professionals attended, representing school districts, community colleges, and universities from across the state of Texas. This year our featured keynote speakers were Mr. Ernesto Mejia, co-founder of CoolSpeak and Mr. Corey Tabor, director of Austin LifeGuard. This year we also introduced a new theme “Health & Wellness, along with themes from last year, Brotherhood, Leadership and College and Career Readiness. We know that this new theme is a critical aspect of our young men of color’s personal and academic development and is important to understand and provide assets-based solutions the issues of trauma and health these men face in schools and in their communities. Some of the workshops we facilitated under the Health and Wellness theme dealt with

framing identity to reclaiming one’s self, restorative practices in schools, and mental health and success.

Our program also highlighted our students and student voice through our featured student panel, which was made up of student representatives from all three sectors of our Consortium, and through the spoken word and poetry sessions. Additionally, we had a successful professional networking opportunity for our students through our Career and Education Fair, that brought together professional and educational institutions from across the state of Texas.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors, Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, Bank of America, Casa Chapala, Center for Mexican American Studies, CoolSpeak, El Paso Community College, Greater Texas Foundation, Carolyn Goldston, The Kresge Foundation, Novelas Educativas, San Antonio College, St. David’s Foundation, RISE, Relay/GSE, Texas A&M University, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TG Foundation, Michael and Alice Kuhn Foundation, The University of Texas’ Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. We will also like to thank our Consortium Advisory Council, institution and community partners, speakers and presenters, our DDCE Vice President’s office and Development and Communications staff, and the Project MALES team at Texas A&M University and UT Austin, and volunteers who made this 2017 Texas Male Student Leadership Summit a huge success. THANK YOU!

Project MALES and Com Mi MADRE Host Summer Student Leadership Camp

Project MALES (Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success) and Con Mi MADRE (Mothers and Daughters Raising Expectations) co-hosted the 2017 Summer Leadership Camp on July 19-22, 2017. The inaugural four-day event was open to young men and women from Austin ISD middle and high schools. This leadership camp theme was “Resiliency Through Leadership” and featured four days of workshops and sessions that explored the power of leadership and resiliency through academic and creative activities. Project MALES and Con Mi MADRE’s collective mission centers on improving educational outcomes and opportunities for young male and female students of color in the Central Texas region and to address the lack of summer programming or “brain drain” that occurs for our students of color who would otherwise be unable to attend summer camps.



Throughout the Student Leadership Camp students had the opportunity to participate in creative writing workshops, documentary filmmaking, discussion groups, a “90s Old School” dance party at the Student Activity Center, and an overnight stay with their family members at Jester Residence Hall. The camp was supported by funding from The Kresge Foundation, the Michael and Alice Kuhn Foundation, and the Austin Independent School District.

Project MALES Introduces New Sites for the 2017-18 Academic School Year



This is the sixth year that Project MALES is partnering with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) to mentor boys and young men of color for the AY 2017-18. This year we added two new schools to grow our project to ten campus sites at AISD: Webb Middle School, Martin Middle School, Mendez Middle School, Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy and Burnet Middle School, and five high schools: Travis Early College High School (ECHS), Lanier High School, Lyndon B. Johnson ECHS, Reagan ECHS and Eastside Memorial High School. Additionally, this semester we have expanded our assets-based, near peer mentoring services to a new school district and charter school, Manor Middle School, in the Manor Independent School District (MISD) and to KIPP Austin Brave High School, in the KIPP Austin Public Schools system. We are looking forward to another successful semester. Stay tuned to learn more about our mentors and our school sites on our Project MALES website where we will be profiling our mentoring sites and the graduate student and undergraduate students who lead them in the following weeks. To access our site spotlight's, visit our page at: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/projectmales/>

IMPACT The Project MALES Service-Learning Course Kicks Off Third Year



For the third year Project MALES is offering undergraduate mentors at the University of Texas at Austin the opportunity to enroll in the Instructing Males through Peer Advising Course IMPACT (LA 113P IMPACT). The fall 2017 class, introduces UT Austin undergraduates to the K-12 experiences of Latino males, the critical transitions in the Latina/o educational pipeline, Latino male masculinities in middle school, and successful Latino male role models across the educational spectrum. This course provides our undergraduate students the training and opportunity to continue working with young middle and high school males of color. This year, we are also introducing critical mentoring and the role it plays in the relationships mentors build with boys and young men of color. In addition, mentoring will include discussions and activities focused on the four pillars of brotherhood, leadership, college and career readiness, and health & wellness.

Similar to the Fall the spring semester course Impacting Males through Mentoring, focuses on Latinos and higher education, providing students topics that relate to the plight of Latino students in higher education, frameworks used to explain the Latino/a achievement gap, and 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.

This semester, we are offering two sections Monday evenings from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The course is taught by our Project MALES Mentoring staff made up of second year master's students Enrique Aguayo and Rodrigo Aguayo, and incoming first-year master students, Edgar Fidel Lopez, Armando Tellez, and Danielle Marie Zaragoza. We are looking forward to another successful academic year, stay tuned for regular updates on our Project MALES Student Mentoring Program events and activities.

New Consortium Memberships Announced for 2017-2018



After three years of grant support from our foundation partners, we have entered a new phase of our Consortium work. Over the past year we convened four strategy sessions led by our Advisory council to develop a Strategic and Business Plan that will guide our work moving forward. The Plan includes a new Vision and Mission statement, our strategies and objectives for actualizing this work and a blueprint for diversifying our funding support. To that end, we announced new Consortium membership fees for 2017-2018 to support our annual Student Leadership Summit, our bi-annual fall and spring Consortium Institutes, an institutional questionnaire that surveys the culture of an institution for serving BMOC's, and access to state network of institutions committed to advancing the outcomes of boys and men of color in Texas. The following are the Consortium's Vision, Mission, and Core Values:

Vision

Advancing equitable educational outcomes for male students of color at the local, state, and national level.

Mission

The Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color (The "Consortium") partners across educational sectors (i.e. independent school districts, 2-year colleges, and 4-year institutions) to implement and sustain effective policies, programs, and practices focused on increasing individual success and post-secondary completion for male students of color.

Core Values

1. **Student Empowerment:** Valuing student voices, perspectives, and experiences of male students of color and their communities, which we define as Latino, Black, African American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Native American.
2. **Collective Knowledge:** Leveraging collective knowledge, collaboration, and expertise across sectors who support education.
3. **Culture of Evidence:** Creating new knowledge around male students of color through empirical evidence with an asset-based approach.
4. **Educational Achievement:** Committing to post-secondary educational completion as a means for success.
5. **Scale and Sustainability:** Institutionalizing system-wide equity for male students of color.

To access our Benefits and Fees page, visit us at: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/txedconsortium/benefits-and-fees/>

For more information on joining the Consortium, please contact Jorge Rodriguez, Program Coordinator, via email at: jorge@austin.utexas.edu