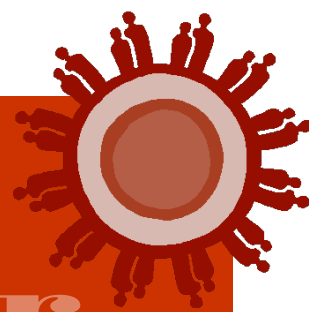


Project MALES Newsletter



FALL 2014

Project MALES STAFF

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

2014 UT Male Student Leadership Summit a BIG Success

The 2014 UT-Austin Male Student Leadership Summit was held on June 27-28, 2014 at the Student Activity Center at The University of Texas at Austin. This two-day Summit was designed to build fellowship among Consortium member institutions as well as bring together emerging student leaders from across the state of Texas. The Summit agenda focused on building leadership and networking skills among young men of color. A student track and a professional track were offered: the student track featured workshops on leadership and career development; the professional track offered sessions on best practices, professional development, and research dissemination.

The summit attracted nearly 300 young men of color and professionals from across the state. The strength and passion in the room came alive during roll call, where participants chanted in representation of their institution. The featured speaker Mr. Marco Davis, deputy director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, delivered a keynote address encouraging participants to become leaders in their community and to effect change. The summit created a safe space for young men of color to come together, build networks, and enhance their career and leadership aspirations.



New Service Learning Course Fall 2014

This academic year Project MALES is launching **Instructing Males through Peer Advising College Tracks (IMPACT)**, a new service-learning course offered through the College of Liberal Arts. The course meets once a week and is co-instructed by Dr. Sáenz and Dr. Romo and the mentoring team. The course objectives are to enhance college student engagement and academic achievement by offering active and experiential learning opportunities through near peer advising and service learning. Students will engage in leadership trainings with emerging and established community leaders, and they will also participate in mentoring activities with various community partners, including Austin ISD schools. Our students will also lead community engagement events, volunteer at various city-wide events, facilitate focus groups, present at conferences, serve and partner with our colleagues in the Central Texas area to include the Austin Independent School District, and Communities in Schools, among others.

IMPACT will emphasize active learning in different environments, allow students to see and experience the relationship between theory and practice, and provide students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations. Students in the course will also have an opportunity to join Project MALES as a way to stay connected and involved. We look forward to the development of the course and to bring you more updates.

Introducing the 2014-2015 Project MALES Team

Project MALES is already off to a great start, as our team continues to grow and the project continues to receive recognition for our numerous successful endeavors. We are excited to welcome two new members to the team, Juan Lopez and Jesse Mondragón. Juan, will be the mentoring site coordinator at Travis High School, and he comes to us from Los Angeles, CA where he earned a double BA in Political Science and Chicano and Chicana Studies with a minor in education from UCLA. Jesse will be the mentoring site coordinator at Reagan High School, but he is not new to Project MALES as he has served as an undergraduate mentor in the past. Jesse received a BS in Bilingual EC-6 from the UT Austin. Jesse and Juan are both first year master's students in the Education department with a specialization in College and University Student Personnel Administration (CUSPA). We are excited to welcome them onboard!

We are excited to welcome Juan and Jesse to the mentoring team and we are also excited that our returning staff members have been promoted to new roles within the research and mentoring teams. Claudia García-Louis our former research associate will now be overseeing our research efforts as our new research coordinator. Joining Claudia is José Del Real Viramontes who is transitioning from being the mentoring site coordinator at Travis High School, to support Claudia as the new research associate. On the mentoring side, Mike Gutierrez who was the mentoring site coordinator at Lanier High School will now be our new lead mentoring coordinator overseeing our work study and mentoring programs for the 2014-2015 academic school year. Jorge Segovia, our former mentoring site coordinator at Reagan High School and UT Elementary, is our new Curriculum and Engagement Coordinator for the Project MALES Student Mentoring Program.



Back Row: Dr. Enrique Romo, Mike Gutierrez, Jesse Mondragon, Dr. Victor Sáenz
Front Row: Juan Lopez, José Del Real Viramontes, Claudia García-Loiuz, Jorge Segovia (Not pictured: Dr. Luis Ponjuán)

Partnerships Create More Mentorship & Research Opportunities



This fall Project MALES is partnering with Austin Independent School District (AISD) to support young men of color mentoring efforts in Central Texas. These partnerships are the result of intentional collaborations between organizations, school district leaders, and young male mentors. Project MALES will have mentoring staff at Travis High School, Lanier High School, Reagan High School, and UT Elementary. We will also continue our partnership with XY Zone boys programs and forge a new partnership with the newest boys middle school, Gus García Young Men's Leadership Academy. The demand for mentorship programs that serve young males of color is very high. Partnerships like these allow students to receive services at their respective school campuses. Project MALES hopes that through the creation of partnerships like these, families and students

will reap the benefits of guidance, leadership, and mentorship that will help them build strong pathway to higher education.

In addition to regional efforts, Project MALES has partnered with six other university-based research centers whose research focus is on boys and men of color in education. The research centers jointly published a policy report that draws upon President Barack H. Obama's initiative, *My Brother's Keeper*, and outlines numerous policies that policymakers should undertake to address systemic barriers endured at every juncture of their education. To read the full report visit <http://ddce.utexas.edu/projectmales/>

