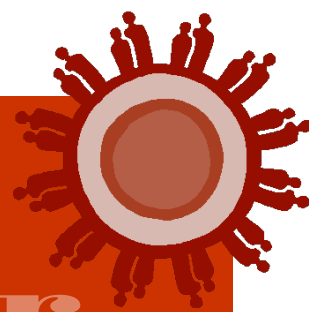


Project MALES Newsletter



Winter 2013-2014

Project MALES STAFF

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Dr. Victor B. Sáenz
Executive Director,
Project MALES
UT-Austin

Dr. Luis Ponjuan
Co-Founder
Texas A&M University

Dr. Enrique Romo
Director,
UT-Austin

Sarah Rodriguez
Research Coordinator
UT-Austin

Claudia García-Louis
Research Associate,
UT-Austin

Guillermo Martinez
Research Associate,
UT-Austin

Jose Del Real
Mentoring Site Coordinator
UT-Austin

Mike Gutierrez
Mentoring Site Coordinator
UT-Austin

Jorge Segovia
Mentoring Site Coordinator
UT-Austin

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

Project MALES Receives Mentoring Award

The Project MALES Student Mentoring Program was recently selected as the 2014 Outstanding Mentoring Program. The award was presented at the Texas Summit for Mentoring held on Friday, January 10, 2014 at the University of Texas at San Antonio's downtown campus. The award is presented to organizations and individuals for their contributions to mentoring across the state of Texas.



Dr. Romo accepting the award.

The San Antonio Mentoring Forum (SAMF) promotes mentoring awareness, fosters collaboration in the mentoring community, and creates a forum for the informal sharing of best practices. Our Mentoring Program has served over 140 students in the past three years in partnership with Communities in Schools of Central Texas and Austin ISD. Our mentoring model highlights mentoring as a way to leverage social capital among males of color at various points in the educational pipeline to ultimately build a strong college-going culture among this group of students. This award provides Project MALES with greater motivation for continuing to improve our effort at serving males of color in our community.

Invitation to the White House

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics convened a roundtable meeting on January 10, 2014 at the White House to discuss the issue of Latino male educational attainment. Dr. Victor Sáenz and Project MALES co-founder, Dr. Luis Ponjuán, associate professor in higher education administration at Texas A&M University, were invited to meet with over 20 other scholars and education professionals, to discuss the importance of this timely issue.

The discussion centered on the importance of improving the educational outcomes for Latino males as they navigate their educational pathways, from cradle to career. The Initiative plans to continue this dialogue in the coming months with communities across the country as well as to convene a summit in the spring.



Dr. Victor Sáenz and Dr. Luis Ponjuán visiting the White House.

Federal Work Study Program

This year Project MALES has begun participating in the Federal Work Study program to support our undergraduate students that work with our Mentoring Program. During the fall 2013 semester, we employed nine UT undergraduate students to help with special projects and to continue their mentorship activities at their respective high school sites. Students worked under the direct supervision of a Mentoring Site Coordinator, and they also participated in various community service and engagement opportunities. This spring we have eight work study students actively supporting our mentoring efforts as well as community service activities and other special projects throughout the semester.

(story continues on next page)

Federal Work Study Program (continued)

Our work study students help to plan activities, provide support to the mentees, and assist with the preparation of weekly activities and the facilitation of programming. Their active participation provides them with skills and experiences that will facilitate their transition into the workforce. These students have made important contributions to Project MALES and the important work we do. We plan to continue utilizing this model in our future work.

Second Consortium Meeting Held at Tarrant County College



TEXAS EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
for MALE STUDENTS of COLOR

The Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color convened its second meeting on Friday, December 13, 2013 at the Trinity River Campus of the Tarrant County College District. The goals for the meeting were to foster community amongst members, share ideas and best practices, and provide updates on progress made towards achieving the Consortiums' goals and objectives. A great accomplishment was the establishment of a sub-committee that will be charged with developing a governing and organizational structure for the Consortium.

The meeting began with Dr. Sáenz providing an overview of the Consortiums' vision and goals and recognizing new partners. Two breakout sessions allowed for community building, idea sharing, and planning. Most importantly, members were able to discuss the progress being made at their respective campuses and seek advice on how to move forward, gain support, and engender greater buy-in from members of their campus community.

Project MALES would like to offer a special thanks to the Trinity River Campus at Tarrant County College District, especially to Dr. Robert Muñoz and Mr. Christopher Douglas for hosting the meeting. The next Consortium meeting will be held on June 27, 2014 at UT-Austin. For updates and more information about the Consortium visit <http://ddce.utexas.edu/txedconsortium/>.

Project MALES - Student Spotlight

For the past three years, Project MALES has been successful at attracting great student leaders to participate as mentors and volunteers, including some outstanding male students of color. All of our students deserve recognition but there are a few that go above and beyond our expectations.



Carlos Guerrero is a senior at UT-Austin and is majoring in biochemistry. He has volunteered with Project MALES for the past two years and during the Fall 2013 semester he volunteered as a mentor at both Travis High School and Lanier High School. His caring nature and dedication to being a positive role model is admirable. José del Real Viramontes, site coordinator at Travis High School, said the following about Carlos, "He goes out of his way to make sure he creates a comfortable environment for our students to openly express themselves. He supports them in times of difficulty and encouraged them to effectively problem solve." His work ethic has also been praised by Maribel Montiel Arjaya, LMSW Program Manager, and Paul Lopez, the XY-Zone Coordinator at Travis High School.

Project MALES spotlights Carlos Guerrero for his mentorship, enthusiasm, and excellence as a mentor, and for the example he sets for the rest of us. Way to go, Carlos!



Save the Date—UT-Austin Male Leadership Summit

The 2014 UT-Austin Male Leadership Summit, an event of the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color, will be held on **June 27-28, 2014** at The University of Texas at Austin. Due to limited capacity this is an invitation-only event. Online registration will be open in mid-May. For more information contact Dr. Enrique Romo at eromo@austin.utexas.edu.

SPECIAL THANKS

Project MALES would like to thank **Mr. Blake English** and **Silicon Valley Bank** for their continued support of our efforts. It is through supporters and partners like them that we are able to sustain and improve on the work we are doing for young men of color in our community.

