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The SACL is the local affiliate of The National Hispanic Institute (NHI), a non-profit parent youth volunteer group with over 23 years of entrepreneurship and innovative leadership targeting the needs of high ability Latino youth. Over the last ten years, the SACL has promoted leadership by examining the character, ethics, beliefs and morals of high achieving Latino Youth. Questions on the future of the Latino community using high standards of beliefs and character are the trademark of this effort.

Each year youth participate in NHI stellar experiences such as **The Young Leaders Conference** for high school freshmen and the **Lorenzo De Zavala Youth Legislative Session** for high school sophomores, which focus on communications and skills building, community service, cultural appreciation, leadership and character as well parent development. Students in this environment drive themselves to develop constituency and organizational protocols. They present proposals to advance the leadership and character of the Latino community, argue their ideas and concepts among their peers, and learn the art of problem solutions and conflict resolution as keys to successful participation in organized efforts. The experience is based on beliefs and standards of conduct forming a community that is reflective for the future.

The exposure youth receive through NHI leadership compels them to address our nation's constant demand for a skilled conscientious and intelligent work force. From a U.S. Latino community perspective, the training serves to address an urgent human need and a greater use of intellectual leadership resources of youth preparing to more effectively contribute to the American experience while also tackling the challenges that Latinos as a whole face in a changing 21<sup>st</sup> century world. By far the most significant change that occurs is in their thinking. They become leaders by undergoing important changes in their psychological character and emotional make-up and perceived roles in the larger society. Instead of continuing to see themselves as "people of color" or "minorities," there is a transition that moves them from a thinking of dependency on the larger society to a thinking of self direction, from expecting others to create the rules for them to becoming their own rule makers, and from looking to others for direction to relying on their instincts and astuteness for the right decisions based on respect, ethics and the common good.

They also learn that excellence demands personal commitment and accountability and that intellectual development represents the ultimate key to personal freedom. This leadership training not only represents important core values and beliefs but it also provides youth with the means to garner the behaviors and attitudes that lead them to success in their personal endeavors, career pursuits, and leadership roles in the community.

The SACL and the National Hispanic Institute work to engage kids in the global Latino Community. The programs go beyond the borders of the mainland United States and into other parts of the global Latino community such as México, Argentina, España, and Puerto Rico to name a few. We urge students to begin to view themselves through a different set of social lenses and shift the

paradigm by which they view the Latino Community. Furthermore there is a call for these youth to become crafters of a new tomorrow as they are already leaders in their own right.

Because NHI believes in creating an environment of high standards we locally, constantly surround the students amongst staff that has been through these programs and continues to be involved in new and innovative ways. The staff consists of:

**President of the San Antonio Community Leadership Council (SACLC)**

*Dr. Héctor F. González*, MD, MPH, Director—City of Laredo Health Department

Sophomore—Ball St. University

*Sonia Parra*

Graduate—Health Careers High School

Senior—Yale University

**Vice President of the SACLC**

*Mrs. Mary Helen González*, Customer Service Director Community First; is the parent supervisor and fiscal agent

*Elsa Parra*

Graduate—Clark High School

Junior—Stanford University

**Board Member**

*Ixchell González Martínez*

Graduate—Health Careers High School

Graduate—St. Mary’s University

Graduate—Our Lady of the Lake University (Master)

Administrator at Woodlawn Hills Elementary in SAISD

**(some of) The schools we have worked with:**

**Alamo Heights**

**Antonian College Prep.**

**Brackenridge High School**

**Business Careers High School**

**Central Catholic High School**

**Churchill HS**

**Clark High School**

**Communications Arts**

**Earl Warren High School**

**Edison High School**

**Fox Tech. (Law Mag.) High School**

**Harlandale High School**

**Holmes High School**

**Holy Cross High School**

**Health Careers High School**

**Henry Ford Academy**

**Incarnate Word High School**

**International School of the Americas**

**Jefferson High School**

**John F. Kennedy High School**

**John Jay High School**

**Keystone**

**Lanier High School**

**Marshall High School**

**Memorial High School**

**O’Connor High School**

**Providence High School**

**Reagan High School**

**Robert E. Lee High School (Intl.)**

**St. Anthony’s**

**Southwest High School**

**Southside High School**

**Taft High School**

**Young Women’s Leadership Academy**

**Pearsall High School**

**Pleasanton High School**

**Truman Middle School**

**Wrenn Middle School**

**Project Administrator—Board Member**

*Anita Fernández*

Graduate—Incarnate Word HS

Graduate—Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)

Graduate—Master in Latin American Studies, The University of Texas

**Education & Curriculum—Board Member**

*H. Analco González*

Graduate—Health Careers High School

Graduate—Rice University

Educator at Memorial High School—2001-2002

Graduate—Our Lady of the Lake University (MBA)

President—OCI, LLC

Graduate—The University of Texas School of Law

**Lead Trainers**

*Luis G. González*

Graduate—Communication Arts HS

Graduate—Stanford University

Graduate—The University of Texas School of Law

President—OCI, LLC

*Olivia Travieso*

Graduate—Incarnate Word HS

Graduate—Southwestern University

Graduate—Master of Public Affairs, The University of Texas

*Jose Vidal*

Graduate—Cathedral High School (El Paso)

Graduate—St. Mary’s University

**College Trainers**

*Juliana Abercrombie*

Graduate—Incarnate Word HS