The Office of Latino Programs and Services had or participated in the following activities and events throughout the months of April and May:

- Annual Latino Student Recognition Banquet
- Cultural Competency Session at University of Cincinnati McMicken College of Arts and Sciences
- Academic Inclusive Excellence at Cincinnati State
- Annual Su Casa Dinner
- NKU/Holmes High School Project Focus
- Morehead State University Upward Bound Programs Visit
- Multicultural Leadership Conference
- Head Peer Mentor Training
- Graduate Assistantship Interviews

**HIGHLIGHTS** of these and other events, plus information on upcoming events are featured inside…
The Office of Latino Programs and Services hosted once again its annual Latino Student Recognition Banquet. This banquet acknowledges our Latino students for their hard work, successes and triumphs. Our very own Maria Rojas and Arturo Minera came back this year to MC the event. Son del Caribe played live music after the ceremony which many people stayed to dance their shoes off. Dr. Jack Rubinstein who is a native of Mexico City was the keynote speaker from the University of Cincinnati Hospital. He stressed the importance of education and giving back to the community. Many proud parents and families were present to celebrate the student’s accomplishments. We had 178 people attend which consisted of family, guests, community, staff/faculty and of course students. We would like to recognize the following students who have worked hard this year.

2015 LATINO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (LPS) STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Leyla Peña
Baird Ullrey

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Quinn Ballard

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
Caitlin Klein
Carlos Lopez De Victoria
Susan Pastor-Richard
Penny Thompson

COLLEGE OF INFORMATICS
Mary Ferguson

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Michelle Marowitz

CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW
Kara Lyons

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS/UNDECLARED
Alexander Vasquez Solis
2015 LPS MENTOR/MENTEE OF THE YEAR
Alberto Baez - Mentor
Carlos Guzman – Mentee

2015 LATINO PERSON OF THE YEAR
Alex Pineda

LATINO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 2014-15 GRADUATES

Christopher Angulo
Natasha Arias
Jesus Astudillo
Alexandria Barnes
Pedro Bianchi Di Carcano
Ernest Briones
Jonathan Cordova
Jamie Diaz
Ashley Dugger
George Ferguson
Mary Ferguson
Andrea Gentile
Nayeli Giron
Justin Grove
Walfred Guerrero
Elizabeth Hays
Donald Kellerhouse
Caitlin Klein
Mustafa Lajami
Vanessa Larkins
Mary Le Roy
Kara Lyons
Toro Serey Macarena
Melissa Maze
Christopher Mendigueren
Amber Mercedes
Palmer Michelle
Vanessa Mina
Arturo Minera

Christina Moore
Elizabeth Morales
Mauricio Moreno
Genaro Moreno
Alexandra Morgan
Breonna Nino
Lindsay Oakes
Miciah Ocasio
Maritza Ozepy
Susan Pastor-Richard
Carlos Pena-Rivera
Alex Pineda
Carol Ragle
Gonzalo Sanchez
Gabriela Santiago
Thomas Schneller
Jessica Sipka
Iana Souza
Tyler Stevens
Baird Ulrey
Sarah Urda
Mary Vanegas
Maria Varela
Isabel Vargas Trujillo
Asauree Wallace
Eric Weickert
Isis Welty
John Wright

LPS 2015 DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GPA of 3.5 And above

Ismael Abdullah
Stephanie Alderson
Matthew Alemany
Valeria Aliendres
Saad Alshammari
Tayrick Alvarez
Jasmin Arce
Alexander Arias
Jesus Astudillo
Noe Ayala
Quinn Ballard
Agustin Bear
Andrea Brown
Megan Brown
SiennaMarisa Colón Brown
Rachel Brueggen
Tatiana Butcher
Nicholas Canchola
Stephanie Castaneda
Ana Caterino
Alexandra Coleman
Nicole Colon
Kimberly Cornejo
Annette Craig
Laura De La Rosa
Jamie Diaz
Michaela Disibio
Ashley Dugger
Gabriela Espicio
Mary Ferguson
Denisse Fernandez
Laura Fernandez
Patricia Figueroa
Rachel Fischer
Olivia Garcia
Shelby Garcia
Nathalia Garcia Brooks
Alexis Garrison
Andres Gasper
Elisha Gonzalez
Andres Jesus Gonzalez Moreno
Alondra Griffith
Andrea Halenkamp
Elizabeth Hays
Teany Herrera
Justin Hill
Brady Holmer
Sheyla Jaimes
Nicolas Johnston
Sara Keshtvarz
Caitlin Klein
Mary Le Roy
Hannah Lillich
Angelica Lopez
Katherine Lopez
Carlos Lopez De Victoria
Luis Loza
Kara Lyons
Stacy Maldonado-Garrett
Michelle Marowitz
Isaiah Martinez
Jennifer Martinez
Diego Martinez del Campo del Castillo
Austin Mayfield
Christina Mercado
Monica Molestina
Jennifer Montes
Jesus Montes
Alexandra Morgan
Breonna Nino
Alma Onate
Maritza Ozepy
Daniel Pagan
Alexandra Paiva
Claudia Palacios
Richard Pantoja
Susan Pastor-Richard
Leyla Pena
Carlos Pena-Rivera
Emanuel Picazo
Miranda Plazola
Carol Ragle
Franklin Reyes Franco
Jose Gabriel Reyes Guzman
Ashleigh Rhoton
Alexander Ribail
Christopher Robertson
Maria Gabriela Rodriguez Vivas
Maria Rojas
Esteban Roman
Zulma Rosales
Ivonne Ruiz
Jose Sanchez
As we reach the end of the 2014-2015 school year, we must begin preparing for next year. It is also time to end the journey with our Graduate Assistant (GA), Kara Thompson. Kara graduated this May with a Masters in Community Counseling. She has done an outstanding job as our GA and expanded our Mentor Program tremendously. The number of participants in the Latino Mentor Program (LAMP) has increased by 109.3% through her efforts. Kara’s caring and professional attitude has earned her respect and admiration from our students. With that being said, we must say goodbye—fortunately she will not go far. She was recently hired as an advisor in the Norse Advising Center. Congratulations Kara! In April we began our new GA search and interviewed many stellar candidates. The choice was hard but we unanimously decided to hire, Jaonna Gibson, who will begin July 1st. Jaonna is a recent graduate from the University of Rio Grande. She is originally from Cincinnati and will be pursuing a Masters in School Counseling.

We also conducted a search for NEW Head Peer Mentors. Each year we encourage and welcome fresh ideas, giving students the opportunity to lead and grow as professionals. This past year we had four head peer mentors, this year that number was increased to six. We are happy to announce our brand new head peer mentors for the 2015-2016 school year: Luis Loza, Sara Palomino, Monica Molestina, Ana Solorio, Brenda Moran, and Denisse Fernandez. The average GPA for these excellent leaders is 3.2. Five out of these six are freshmen going into their sophomore year. A training session was held to provide them with the tools and skills needed to guide other students. Congratulations!

The Office of Latino Programs and Services would also like to congratulate Luis Loza, a sophomore majoring in Electronics Engineering Technology and Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology. This past year he was awarded the American Dream Award Scholarship thanks to the support of Katie Couric. The goal of this scholarship is to help 750,000 students complete their education. Luis was one of 12 students in the U.S. to win this award. He will be receiving between $5,000 and $15,000 annually, growing by $1,000 each year, until graduation. Congratulations Luis!

On May 20th the Office of Latino Programs and Services’ Director, Leo Calderon, who serves on the Kentucky Board of Education, attended the graduation ceremony for the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). The students and staff were honored by the presence of the Kentucky Board of Education. The Board’s continued efforts to increase the positive learning environment at KSD were measured by the feedback received from the staff. Congratulations to the KSD’s 2015 graduating class!
LATINO STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

The Disney College Program is an internship that I participated in for the past two semesters and it has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I’ve known about it for years but I applied for it my last semester at NKU. I was a little hesitant because I didn’t know if I was ready to move away from home so soon after graduating but it has always been one of my dreams to work for The Walt Disney Company. I got into the program and started in August working in attractions. I got to work in the Magic Kingdom in Fantasyland at The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh and the teacup rides. It wasn’t always easy but my co-workers made it so much better. We became a family and I couldn’t have asked for a better group of people to work with. During that first semester, I took two classes. I was able to learn about human resources within The Walt Disney Company and the history behind the company and Walt Disney as well. I decided I wanted to stay with the company so I extended my program but I had to leave Fantasyland. I found out I was going to work at Jungle Cruise. The Jungle Cruise is an opening day attraction that Walt Disney himself created. The guests go around the rivers of the world while the person driving the boat (the skipper) tells puns and jokes. It’s a classic ride that many of the guests enjoy. I wasn’t really thrilled about working this ride but I’m thankful every day that this is my job. Every attraction in Walt Disney World tells a story. There are only a few attractions where the cast members get to be a part of that story. I get to interact with thousands of guests every day and I get to be part of their vacation. We help make their trips a little bit better and that’s such a rewarding feeling. My College Program ended on May 8th and I have decided to work my way up in the company and I’m now part-time. Thanks to the Disney College Program, I now have friends from all over the world. It gave me more networking opportunities and professional experience as well. The Disney College Program helped me grow as a person and it’s an internship I highly recommend to anyone! I can’t wait to see what my future holds at Disney. I know this is only the beginning.

— KELSEY RODRIGUEZ

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 27-31, 2015
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL FUN WITH SCIENCE CAMP
Northern Kentucky University
The English Language Learning Foundation, the Office of Latino Programs and Services, Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics, the Ecological Stewardship, and the Foundation for Ohio River Education will be having a Science Camp for local high school students in the Greater Cincinnati area. Students will cruise the Ohio River in a paddle boat, gather DNA from their own cells to make necklaces, use a microscope to see the microbial life in pond water, grow bacteria that live in our bodies, and many other activities. For more information please contact http://ellfoundationcinci.org/Events_2.html#Fun_with_Science_Camp.

August 7-11, 2015
LATINO MENTOR PROGRAM ORIENTATION
Student Union
The Office of Latino Programs and Services will hold their annual orientation for new incoming Latino students. The purpose of this orientation is to welcome them to NKU, as well as, provide valuable information for their college career. Students will get acquainted with the LPS staff, other Latino students, as well as, learn about other valuable offices on campus. A unique part of the orientation is that students get to partake in activities that strengthen leadership and team building skills. Students are also able to form strong relationships with others that could last a lifetime. To sign up please contact our office.
LATINO MENTOR PROGRAM (LAMP)

Throughout the month of April and May, LAMP students took part in the following activities:

- TEACHER JOB FAIR
- STUDY SESSIONS
- NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EVENT
- GOVERNMENT CAREERS EVENT

LAMP students were encouraged to attend the Teacher Job Fair on April 14th, from 3:00-5:00pm in SU 107. This event, put on by NKU Career Services, gave students the opportunity to meet with school system representatives seeking teacher candidates. Job fairs are a great opportunity for our LAMP students to practice their networking skills as well as get a head start in the process of searching for their future career. Students were expected to dress professional and to bring their résumé to this event.

On April 26 and 27 the Latino Mentor Program held their last study session of the semester. Students had one last time to get study time in with other students, share tips, encourage others and eat as a family. Students were happy that they had this opportunity to get in one last event before the beginning of the summer. Students at this event also gave their feedback on the programming for the LAMP Program.

Our Nonprofit Careers took place on April 1, in the student union from 5-6 p.m. The event was hosted by NKU Career Services, who brought in a guest speaker to talk about their experience working in a nonprofit organization. She informed us of the advantages and disadvantages of working in the nonprofit sector, as well as characteristics to determine if nonprofit organizations are the right place for us to work in the future. After, she went on to discuss how we could find out about specific organizations and opportunities in the nonprofit sector.

Government Careers Event was dedicated to teach students on how to look for jobs that the federal government is looking to fill. We partnered with Career Programs and Services to lead this presentation. Jennifer Richmond from Career Services dispersed information on how to get a hold of those resources and how to use them as well. She also provided information on how to create a resume that is suitable for these careers.

LAMP UPCOMING EVENTS

There are no upcoming events for the summer. Please stay tuned for our next newsletter for more information. Have a great summer!!
“IGNITE YOUR POTENTIAL” NKU’S MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

For six consecutive years NKU has hosted high school juniors for “Ignite your Potential” NKU’s Annual Multicultural Leadership Conference. Students participated in interactive workshops related to leadership, financial planning and budgeting, conflict resolution, positive believing and positive thinking, diversity and goal mapping. The program opened with its popular “Tweet & Greet” networking session as a way to keep students engaged throughout the conference via social media. Mr. Andrá R. Ward, President & CEO of The Khafre Ward Corporation and an NKU Board of Regents, delivered the keynote speech.

Collaboration across campus made possible this year’s conference. Special thanks and acknowledgments go to Housing, Black Faculty & Staff Association, Latino Programs & Services, African American Programs & Services, the Office of Financial Aid, Dr. Eric Jackson, Dr. Dana Harley, and Joel Robinson-Assistant Provost for Special Projects, among others.

The Multicultural Leadership Conference is designed for high school juniors who rank in the top 1/3 of their high school graduating class, or have a cumulative GPA of 3.0+, or who possess exceptional leadership potential.

OTHER...

• New Latino/Hispanic students entering in fall 2015 who have been awarded with NKU scholarships were acknowledged during the NKU Latino Recognition Dinner in April. New students and their families had an opportunity to meet with current Latino students, faculty and staff.
• Withrow HS had its spring college fair on April 16. Close to 100 students stopped by to inquire about NKU.
• Admissions attended the annual galas held by the YMCA Achievers in Lexington and in Louisville.
• On April 2 the Office of Admissions and Transfer Services held its first Multicultural Academic Inclusive Excellence Event at Cincinnati State. In attendance also were most support services offices such as Latino Programs & Services, African American Program & Services, Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, Housing, and LGBTQ, among others. Cincinnati State students were able to learn about the transfer process to NKU as well as support services available on campus.
• The Office of Admissions attended the closing of the YMCA/Toyota Mentoring Program on April 30th. Students from Withrow and Holmes culminated the program with a robotics showcase. Toyota professionals mentor participants through three different clusters: Business, Arts and STEM. The Toyota & YMCA Mentoring Program provides high school students with college & career preparation, 1-on-1 mentoring and career exploration.
• We are gearing up for the summer with Welcome Wednesdays. Visits will begin on June 10. Registration is available online at www.visit.nku.edu or by calling the Welcome Center at 859 572-1400. There will be a Spanish Welcome Wednesday on July 29 so please spread the word to any student/family who you think might benefit from this, particularly rising seniors. Online registration is available now at www.visit.nku.edu or by phone via Leyla Peña at 859 572-6015 or penal1@nku.edu
LATINO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES STAFF

LEO CALDERÓN  
DIRECTOR

DIANE MALDONADO  
COORDINADOR

KARA THOMPSON  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

MARIA ROJAS  
STUDENT WORKER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO CONTACT US

Latino Programs and Services (LPS)  
Student Union 313  
Highland Heights, KY 41099

(859) 572-6013  
(859) 572-1576 fax

e-mail maldonadod1@nku.edu  
Latino.nku.edu  
Facebook