October/November Activities & Events…

The Office of Latino Programs and Services had or participated in the following activities and events throughout the months of October and November, 2014:

• Latino College Fair
• Gilbert Esquivel’s Latino Comedy Chaos College Tour”
• “Champions Among Us” Luncheon and Panel Discussion
• Day of the Dead Pre-Celebration
• Hispanic Film Series
• 3 vs 3 Soccer Tournament
• League of United Latin American Citizens Gala
• Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Dinner
• Hispanic Scholarship Fund Gala
• YMCA “The Party”
• UndocuQueer Presentation
• Annual Toy Drive
• Black and Gold Day Multi-Cultural Meet and Greet

HIGHLIGHTS of these and other events, plus information on upcoming events are featured inside…
Internal Programs

Once again the Office of Latino Programs and Services invited local middle and high school students to Northern Kentucky University’s campus for their annual Dia de los Muertos Pre-Celebration. This year over 250 students from Beechwood High School, Mason County High School, and the Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies School visited NKU and learned about the Day of the Dead. Students listened to a presentation and watched a video about the history, tradition, and where it’s celebrated. They even participated in a mini-quiz at the end in hopes of winning a few pieces of candy. Another portion of the program involved different stations that focused on arts and crafts such as making skeleton masks, puppets, cempazuchitl (marigolds, which are the flower of the dead) and papel picado (paper cut-outs). With the financial assistance of NKU Housing, students were provided lunch and toured NKU’s campus.

Gilbert Esquivel’s “Latino Comedy Chaos College Tour” had the room rolling with laughter. Gilbert visited NKU on October 2nd to perform his show for students, staff, faculty, as well as, the community. Gilbert poked fun at many different topics that Latinos and non-Latinos appreciated. It was an evening that was carefree and took the stress out of student’s busy lives. Audience members were not immune from Gilbert’s jokes as he bantered back and forth with his witty comments.

The “Champions Among Us” panel discussion was a huge success. On October 3rd, the office hosted four panelists; Marilyn Zayas-Davis, Immigration Attorney, Maria Hidalgo, ELL Coordinator at Withrow International High School, William Santos, Vice President of Consumer Lending at Bank of Kentucky, and Anthony Simms-Howell, Ohio Commissioner on Hispanic Latino Affairs. They gathered together to talk about the challenges and triumphs they have encountered as Latinos. They were also able to answer questions students had about furthering their career and steps needed to become successful. Some of the students’ comments were, “I like how the panelists didn’t sugar coat their stories, they made it real,” “I feel privileged to have heard their stories and their accomplishments.” A survey was conducted after the event and 100% believe that the panel discussion has inspired them to reach their goals.

The Office of Latino Programs and Services partnered with LGBTQ Programs and Services and the International Education Center to host a presentation called UndocuQueer. Being undocumented and queer is an issue that we often don’t discuss when talking about immigration and/or LGBTQ issues, but it is one that needs our attention. Lupe Ambrosio and Luis Saavedra represented New York State’s Youth Leadership Council’s UndocuQueer Program. These representatives discussed their personal experiences and the ongoing challenges they have encountered. The lecture, “Queering the Movement,” was part of International Education Week, which were events that featured different cultures. From NYSYLC’s UndocuQueer Programs: “Queer and undocumented youth, or “UndocuQueers”, have been a dynamic part of the immigrant rights’ movement. UndocuQueers have been at the forefront of the movement, taking leadership positions, and bridging queer and immigrant communities. Queering the Movement is an exploration of the queer and undocumented, or UndocuQueer, perspective”. The event attracted close to 30 people that asked questions about what we can do to help in terms of this specific population.
I was privileged to participate in this year’s big pink volleyball tournament by FSLC in the Campus Recreation center. They raised $1800 for St Elizabeth’s breast cancer! My team was called Los Brownies representing the Latino Mentor Program (LAMP). We played only the first game and lost 7-8 but it was a lot of fun! It was a great way to have our team bond and communicate through this event.

Alexa Dominguez

I attended the press conference held on November 24th for the executive order from President Obama regarding immigration. The press conference was sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens and among some of the attendees were Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center, The American Jewish Committee, students from Xavier University, and Northern Kentucky University. The press conference was very informative and helped shed light on how the new executive order will affect families in the Tri-state area. There were testimonies by students and their parents who will benefit greatly from this order. It was very moving to hear how these parents’ lives will be changed and how they can better provide for their families. Although this was very good news, the press conference also discussed how this order is only a temporary fix for the immigration problem and that only a fraction of the undocumented population will benefit. Throughout the testimonies, the families stated that they will continue fighting for immigration reform so that all the 12 million undocumented immigrants in the US can have a better life. This press conference was very powerful and has empowered me to continue in the fight for immigration reform.

Maria Rojas
Throughout the months of October and November, LAMP students took part in the following activities:

MENTEE FEEDBACK
STUDY SESSIONS
BLOOD BROTHERS DOCUMENTARY
PROFESSIONAL WEDNESDAY
HEAD PEER MENTOR MEETINGS
INOCENTE DOCUMENTARY
INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES
UNDECIDED MAJORS EVENTS
LAMP HOLIDAY MIXER/MOVER
MENTOR/MENTEE FEEDBACK MEETINGS

The Mentee Feedback Meeting is an opportunity for us to check in with all of our mentees to see if they need help with anything or need anything else from LAMP to make their first year a little easier. The 16 mentees took part in a discussion about their experiences so far and were encouraged to ask for help with anything and everything. They also played some ice breakers to get to know one another and went over some goals that they want to accomplish for the remainder of the year.

All of our LAMP students are reminded daily of the importance of studying in college. The LAMP study sessions were such a big event last time that we decided to make two of these back to back days so that everyone could have the opportunity to study. A number of our mentors take the time to come to these events to help their mentee with any classes that they are currently taking or to help them with something they are struggling with. There were over 40 students that attended these study sessions.

On October 21st students were able to watch the Blood Brother Documentary, a documentary that focuses on service leadership. This was the first installment of a two part documentary series focusing on leadership. After viewing, a discussion between the students was held on different leadership styles and the importance of service to our community. 86% of the students said that the film/discussion influenced them to be a leader.

Our Professional Wednesday was created to give students a chance to talk about controversial topics that are present in our society today. The topic chosen for this event was physician assisted suicide. The rules were explained to students on how to debate a topic properly and we stressed the importance of creating a safe, nonjudgmental environment for this event. The topic was explained, a video clip was shown, and then the students were split into teams so that they could gather research to support their side of the argument. The students were provided the opportunity to learn how to debate using facts and numbers instead of opinions. Professionalism and respect were huge factors in this event, thanks for all who attended! We will be having more Professional Wednesday’s in the Spring due to the popularity of this event among the students.
Maria Rojas, one of our Head Peer Mentors for LAMP, led an event in which the students watched a documentary called INOCENTE. Inocente is an intensely personal and vibrant coming of age documentary about a young artist’s fierce determination to never surrender to the bleakness of her surroundings. At this event, the eight students in attendance had the opportunity to watch the documentary which was then followed by a discussion on adversity and leadership. Inocente is both a timeless story about the transformative power of art and a timely snapshot of the new face of homelessness in America, children. Neither sentimental nor sensational, Inocente will immerse you in the very real, day-to-day existence of a young girl who is battling a war that we rarely see. The challenges are staggering, but the hope in Inocente’s story proves that the hand she has been dealt does not define her, her dreams do. Our LAMP students gained a different outlook on what being a leader means and how although you may be faced with obstacles, perseverance is always a beneficial trait of a leader.

On Thursday, November 20th, LAMP students were invited to our Holiday Mixer/Movie night. We have this event every year right before winter break so that students can enjoy time with each other and relax before the stress of finals kicks in. We focus a lot on studying in the LAMP program, but wellness and personal wellbeing are huge topics as well for being successful in college, and because of that we try to keep a balance of professional, academic, and social activities. The students were provided dinner and cookies, followed by the showing of the movie Cool Runnings, which was requested by some of our students. The students also watched President Obama address the Nation on Immigration Reform. This is always a favorite event for LAMP members and we are happy to provide this for them each year!

On Tuesday, November 18th, graduate student, Erin Altenberger, from NKU’s school counseling program partnered with our very own Kara Thompson, who is also a counseling student, to provide some career counseling for the LAMP students. The Undecided Majors Event was geared towards students who do not know what major they are interested in or do not necessarily know what type of job they are interested in within their chosen field. The interactive event allowed students to learn about what some possible values are, and then followed by a chance to rate what values are most important for them within their field or career and if they align with some of their career interests or not. This gave students a chance to think about what they really want in a future career for them to feel satisfied, and what specific values they may be able to do without.

LAMP started a new program in September where members of the program can nominate other LAMP members to receive a lollipop moment. The Lollipop Moment is a reward to someone that has exemplified great behavior. October’s winners are Christian Reyes, Bryant Picazo, Edwin Reyes, Alexa Dominguez, Asael Carrizales, and Malcom Marshall.

LAMP Lollipop Moments for November were awarded to Daniela Shulten: getting a 100% on her psych exam; Alex Pineda: receiving a scholarship from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Laura Fernandez: for helping a fellow mentor with his stats and helping him earn a 100%; Sara Medina: receiving a scholarship from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Christian Reyes: passing his Praxis; Denisse Fernandez: helping others with difficult situations and making her peers feel awesome about themselves. Great job LAMP students, keep up the great work!
LAMP

MENTORS OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2014

Alberto Baez is our October Mentor of the Month!
Alberto is a junior at NKU and a mentor in LAMP. He is an Environmental Science major and is fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian. Alberto was nominated by his head peer mentor, Christian Reyes, who had the following to say about him: “I would like to nominate Alberto Baez as the Mentor of the Month because he has excelled the expectations of a mentor by helping his mentee with his classes. He is working hard to get him into the right program for his major (undeclared), helping him find ways to adjust to college life, and is also helping him get an undergraduate research position next summer.” Alberto has done an exceptional job in the program this year and we are so happy to have him as one of our outstanding mentors!

NOVEMBER 2014

Asael Carrizales is our November Mentor of the Month!
Asael was nominated by Christian Reyes, one of our head peer mentors, and he had the following to say about Asael, “I nominate Asael Carrizales for mentor of the month for November. He has actively been keeping up with his mentee and her studies. A fourth year student majoring in Psychology and minoring in Neuroscience; he manages time to help his mentee in studying for classes, advising her what professors to take, and giving her tips in which she will take on during her academic career. He has built a great friendship with his mentee and he is someone she can look up to. Asael is an awesome example of a mentor who takes pride in the program and who will sought to see that his mentee’s has everything they need to succeed.” Congrats Asael, keep up the great work!

FREE FOOD FRIDAY
December 5; 11:00-1:00pm; Student Union 323
Bring a wrapped gift to the White Elephant Gift Exchange. The game will begin at 12:00. No more than $5.00 is to be spent on a gift.

LAMP STUDY SESSIONS
December 2; 12-2pm; SU 302
December 3; 12-2pm; SU 324
We want to continuously stress the importance of academics to the LAMP students, so come join us study before finals! Mentors are invited to come help their Mentees study for classes that may have been challenging for them.

LAMP FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP EVENT
January 6; 3-4pm; SU 108
This is an opportunity for students to attend an event dedicated to preparing LAMP students for scholarships, completing FAFSA information, and any financial aid questions that they may have. Veronica Joiner will lead the discussion on financial aid. Maria Rojas will discuss different scholarships available to undocumented students. The most challenging aspect of college is finding ways to pay for tuition. Let us help relieve some of that stress.

LAMP STUDY SESSIONS
January 20; 12-2pm; SU 324
We want to continuously stress the importance of academics to the LAMP students, so come join us study before finals! Mentors are invited to come help their Mentees study for classes that may have been challenging for them.

For more information, to volunteer or to participate please contact Kara Thompson at thompsonk14@nku.edu.
On October 2, 2014 NKU successfully hosted its 3rd Annual Latino College Fair. Close to 200 students from KY and OH high schools attended. The program encompassed interactive workshops per grade level, a campus tour guided by NKU students and a college fair. This year the Office of Latino Programs & Services held a meet & greet networking session. This provided an ideal space for participants to meet with NKU Latino students, faculty and staff, and gave them an opportunity to learn more about programs, resources and services offered by this office and how it can support their educational goals at NKU. NKU's annual Latino College Fair is held during the commemoration of National Hispanic Heritage Month in celebration of educational opportunities for all students. It is designed to expose Latino and multicultural students to post-secondary education opportunities. Partnerships for the event this year included the Office of Latino Programs & Services, Housing, Education Abroad, UCAP and the Department of World Languages & Literature.

The Office of Admissions and the Office of Latino Programs & Services attended the 10th Annual Latino/Multicultural College Fair at BCTC Newtown Campus in Lexington. The event attracts Latino and multicultural students from central KY high schools.

NKU Admissions met with a group of ESL students from Withrow University High School to discuss post-educational opportunities at NKU for Latino and multicultural students. Participants included students from Latin American and African countries.

Black & Gold Day- NKU’s multicultural programs, services and resources were showcased during the October Black & Gold Day during a Multicultural Meet & Greet. Prospective students and their guests met with the Multicultural Recruitment Team, African American Program and Services and Latino Programs & Services. The next Multicultural Meet & Greet will be at the November Black & Gold Day. For volunteer opportunities, you may contact Ms. Rochelle Shields at shieldsr3@nku.edu and 859 572-5753.

Prospective students can contact the Office of Admissions at 859 572-5220 for more information about admissions. For Spanish programs or to schedule appointments with a bilingual representative, contact Leyla Peña at 859 572-6015.
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This publication was prepared by Northern Kentucky University. NKU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.