

About HISPA

The mission of HISPA is to increase the number of U.S. Hispanic students that graduate from High School. HISPA, a chartered, 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt, Non-Profit entity since 1993, seeks to accomplish this goal by linking Hispanic professionals as role models with educational programs and institutions that seek to improve Hispanic students' academic performance and achievement.

Strategic Direction

Our strategy is to reduce the school dropout rate among Hispanic/Latino youth through early intervention programs that emphasize the importance of higher education, and encourage and prepare Hispanic/Latino role models to participate in educational programs within our communities.

These role models volunteer their time to share their diverse educational experiences, career paths, and ethnic backgrounds in order to inspire the students to increase their involvement and achievement in their educational lives; recognizing the possibilities that can be realized when one pursues higher education.

Focus

Student Population

- 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Hispanic/Latino students attending public middle school.

Target Venues

- Public schools with more than 50% Hispanic/Latino student body and existing community-based educational programs, Currently, this effort is concentrated on the east coast, but, as experiences and resources grow, it will be expanded nation-wide.

Key Resources

- Hispanic/Latino professionals willing to volunteer and become part of a Role Model "Bureau" to support their communities by serving as role models.
- Partnerships with existing corporate and civic organizations that have established similar mentoring/role model programs.
- Tools to support the role models ensuring consistent and high quality deliverables.

Key HISPA Education Programs

Role Model Program

The main objective of the Role Model Program is for the students to personally identify with the role models in order to inspire and motivate them to achieve their own dreams. The Role Model Program will raise the students' awareness of the importance of education as a means to succeed professionally and realize their full potential.



The program pairs Hispanic/Latino role model volunteers with schools and community-based educational programs that are geographically close to where they live and work. This is done through an ongoing series of school visits during which the volunteers share their cultural backgrounds, educational experiences, and their professional careers. Specifically, relating the key experiences that allowed them to achieve their personal and professional goals.

The content and format of the presentations will be tailored to the school or educational program venues, ranging from informal classroom discussions to formal auditorium presentations.

Youth Conferences

The purpose of these one-day events is to stress to 8th graders the importance of high school as a critical step towards their future, while exposing them to a university campus, and a number of role models from academia, business, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. These events stimulate students to explore career options in a realistic manner and allow them the opportunity to interact with many role models and fellow students representing diverse cultural backgrounds.

Our Reach

By 2011, HISPA intends to have programs in both the U.S. and Puerto Rico, increasing its presence within New Jersey and New York City and expanding to deliver its value proposition to the following pilot cities: Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

To date, our HISPA Role Model Program has reached over 2,000 students with over 200 role models and has co-sponsored and helped organize Youth Conferences for more than 300 students.

Locally

This is a listing of where we are currently reaching children through our programs.

Freehold High School
Great School #5 (Paterson)
Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School
New Brunswick Middle School
Red Bank Middle School
Summit High School
William C. McGinnis School (Perth Amboy)

