ABOUT
THE HISPANIC ROLE MODEL PROGRAM

As we continue to build relationships and expand our efforts to other schools and states, we are thrilled to announce that we have expanded to San Antonio, TX and will continue to offer the HISPA Role Model Program to schools throughout New Jersey.

The HISPA Role Model Program provides a venue for outstanding professionals to share their story in order for them to serve as positive examples to the youth. Our priority is to increase awareness about the importance of high school as a critical step towards the student’s educational and professional success and to encourage students to pursue higher education.

In this letter you will find an overview of the HISPA Role Model Program, a snapshot of the 2012-2013 accomplishments.

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OVERVIEW

The HISPA Role Model Program pairs Hispanic/Latino volunteers with schools and community-based educational programs that are geographically close to where they live and work. HISPA develops partnerships with schools in order to set the schedule for the school year and to define the format of the role model visits.

The content and format of the presentations are tailored to the school requirements ranging from informal classroom discussions to formal auditorium presentations. During each visit the volunteers share their cultural backgrounds, educational experiences, and their professional careers relating the key experiences that allowed them to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Since our inception in 2008, we have approximately impacted 6,000 students through our programs. The HISPA Role Model Program grew from four schools to 17 schools across New Jersey during the 2012-2013 school year, including 2 in San Antonio, TX. The HISPA Role Model Bureau has a database of over 800 professionals that are committed to HISPA’s mission and willing to be active role models to the youth attending public schools. Approximately 275 HISPA Role Model Program sessions have been offered in the last five years.

HISPA Role Models are employees from corporations such as: AT&T, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chubb, ETS, Investors Bank, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Microsoft, Novartis, PNC Bank, Samsung, Siemens, UPS, Verizon and Wells Fargo. Also serving as role models are representatives from academia including New Jersey Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Rutgers University, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Kean University, and Stevens Institute of Technology. Members from organizations like National Society of Hispanic MBAs, Association of Latinos in Finance and Accounting, and the Latinos in Information Science and Technology also serve as HISPA Role Models.

HISPA is a 501c3 non profit organization whose mission is to mobilize Latino professionals to serve as active role models in educational programs within their communities.
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS IN 2012-2013

Close to 100 sessions were held in the academic 2012-2013 school year with a diverse group of dedicated volunteers that shared their stories of overcoming obstacles, working hard and pursuing higher education led them to a successful career.

Abraham Lincoln School, Elizabeth, NJ
Anson Jones Middle School, San Antonio, TX
Benjamin Franklin School, Elizabeth, NJ
Cable Elementary, San Antonio, TX
Don Bosco Technology Academy, Paterson, NJ
John Witherspoon, Princeton, NJ
Juan Pablo Duarte School, Elizabeth, NJ
New Brunswick Middle School, New Brunswick, NJ
Park Elementary School, Newark, NJ
Red Bank Middle School, Red Bank, NJ
Robbins Elementary School, Trenton, NJ
Samuel E. Shull School, Perth Amboy, NJ
Summit High School, Summit, NJ
Summit Middle School, Summit, NJ
Toussaint de Lafayette School, Elizabeth, NJ
Winfield Scott School, Elizabeth, NJ
William C. McGinnis Middle School, Perth Amboy, NJ

The success of the HISPA Role Model Program will not be possible without the support of our HISPA Role Models, school administrators, teachers, and counselors of the participating schools. We would like to acknowledge all the liaisons that made the 2012-2013 HISPA Role Model Program a success. THANK YOU!
The HISPA Role Model Program could not be possible without all the HISPA Role Models who gave their time to present to the hundreds of students we served during the 2012 - 2013 school year.

Abraham Lopez - CHPRD
Aixa Acevedo - HISPA
Adriana Delgado - Verizon
Alba Herrera - ETS
Dr. Alicia Abella - AT&T
Andrea Velasco - Kingsborough Community College
Angela Karpf - MERCK
Anthony Rodriguez - ARMG
Arshad Jamil - Novartis
Axel Carrion - UPS
Beth Marmolejos - Medco Health Solutions
Brunilda Sanchez - U.S. Census Bureau
Carломagno Ontaneda - Educational Consultant
Carlos Arias - Ameriprise
Carlos Ojeda - CoolSpeak
Cesar Lazo - Student at NJIT
Cesar Rojas - Verizon
Chantel Figueroa - Nancy Packes, Inc.
Dr. Maria Ambrosio - Valley Dental Arts
Dr. Shanthi Rajan - ETS
Erika Madrid - Merrill Lynch
Francisco Rivera - USAA
Gabriel Gonzalez - Nova Services Group
Gloria Cevallos - Bergen County Community College
Dr. Ivonne Diaz-Claisse - HISPA
Jamie Cid - Beautyq
Janie Kaltenbacher - ETS
Jesus Milara - Wells Fargo
Joaquin Zihuatanejo - USHLI
John Moreno - New Futuro
Jorge Beltran - Verizon Communications

Jorge Villegas - Verizon
Jose Reyes-Marquez - Becton Dickinson
Joseph Tulipani - MERCK
Juan Lopez - Borough of Manhattan Community College
Kenneth Sanchez - Business Performance Solutions
Leo Ruiz - AT&T
Leslie Ann Garcia - University of Texas in San Antonio
Dr. Magaly Sanchez - Princeton University
Marla Villegas - PNC Bank
Marina Vasquez - San Antonio Community Documentarian
Marysol Berrios - Wayne Township Public Schools
Max Perez - Concord Information Systems
Mayra Caceres - AT&T
Mena Badros - USHLI
Mildred Medina - MERCK
Miriam Lituma - Colton's Pharmacy
Nate Santana - ETS
Randolph Portugal - El Centro of Catholic Charities
Rene Herrera - Verizon
Rodrigo Frausto - Café College
Ronald Rios - Middlesex County
Ronald Linares - Ronald Linares
Rudy Kiste - Edelta Consulting
Stephen Jackson - Henry Guerra Branch Library
Tessa A. Benavides - San Antonio Education Partnership
Timothy Sheridan - Hudson County One Stop Career Center
Tomas Porturas - Wells Fargo
Victor Romo - Verizon
Walter Rodriguez - Verizon
Yolanda Baker - Chubb
Zulma Torres - ETS
THANK YOU FOR Coming to visit us. It was inspiring and wonderful. You encouraged me that no matter how old I am or what people say I could still go to college. You told me that I could meet my goals and that I can make a difference in my life.

Student from New Brunswick Middle School in New Brunswick, NJ

WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOUR VISIT WAS If you are bilingual and go to college, you will have a better future and job.

Student from McGinnis in Perth Amboy, NJ

THANK YOU FOR Coming to our school and telling us about yourself. I think it’s really cool because you never gave up even though you had hard times. I look up to people like you.

Student from Anson Jones in San Antonio, TX

THANK YOU FOR Sharing your life and the success you have now and for showing us that we can be very successful in many things.

Student from Benjamin Franklin#13 in Elizabeth, NJ

THANK YOU FOR Teaching us that we must believe in ourselves, take responsibility, and never give up. Also for showing us how important it is to go to college.

Student from Cable Elementary in San Antonio, TX

WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOUR VISIT WAS To never let things bother or distract you. Just keep doing what you love. It will take you far in life.

Student from Abraham Lincoln #14 in Elizabeth, NJ

THANK YOU FOR Coming to talk to us and for expressing that we have to do good in school to better our future.

Student from Cable Elementary in San Antonio, TX
STUDENTS ARE SAYING

- I liked that he shared his life and his success. He showed us that we can also be successful.
  *Student from Elizabeth, NJ*

- Me gustó que viajó a muchos países y que salió en las revistas. Y su historia de la escuela secundaria y su sueño de venir a Nueva York.
  *Student from Perth Amboy, NJ*

ADMINISTRATORS ARE SAYING

- Her story was amazing - we need her to speak to more of our students, they need this. The students were extremely attentive. We need to discuss on how to get her to speak to our 8th grade students. How can we get her to return.
  *Teacher from Perth Amboy, NJ*

- He did a good job presenting. I feel that he was able to connect with the students well. He made them laugh, yet his message about the importance of college was quite clear.
  *Teacher from Elizabeth, NJ*
They need to hear our struggles in order for them to understand that they aren't the only ones struggling. I look at them and they remind me so much of myself when I was their age.

Juan Lopez, Borough of Manhattan Community College

I was really surprised how attentive most of them were and the level of engagement. My overall experience was very positive. I look forward to a second engagement.

Cesar Rojas, Verizon Communications

Our youth are looking for hope and direction. Having a dialogue with them, answering their questions, and watching their eager expressions to hear the new and different paths being introduced to them was fulfilling for me, too. I'd encourage anyone to take the time and be a positive influence in the lives of our children.

Ronald Rios, Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director
The overall experience was good. It was my first time, I had an idea of what to expect but I think it even went better than that. I tried to focus a lot more on the educational side, but I see that the children are also interested in the personal one.

**HISPA Role Model from New Brunswick Middle School**

It was great. It was very self-rewarding for me to come back to my hometown (Elizabeth) and be able to speak to students. I enjoyed having the opportunity to tell my story to students and motivate them to seek higher education.

**HISPA Role Model from Summit Middle School**

My overall experience was very positive. I look forward to a second engagement.

**Role Model from Park Elementary**

My overall experience was great, to be able to go back through the years and see what truly got me here was a great journey. To be able to share that to the kids was even better. Everything was great. The time given was perfect, I could speak forever so having to put the presentation in a more compact was great.

**Role Model from Juan Pablo Duarte**

Thank you for this great opportunity. It was a great experience for myself and also for the kids.

**Role Model from William McGinnis**

I want to drop a note and say thank you for the wonderful opportunity of presenting this past Friday. I would also like to express my interest in future opportunities to present.

**Role Model from Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti**

This seemed like an uninterested bunch, but to see them slowly see that I am a lot like them -- they became interested. I don't think they ever envision themselves in another country and I feel like my travels abroad impressed them, hopefully inspiring them.

**Role Model from Shull Middle School**
Dear Aixa,

It has been a pleasure to host the HISPA Role Model Program at Juan Pablo Duarte- Jose Julian Marti for two consecutive years. Our students have benefited tremendously from the presentations and testimonies of the role models.

It is our Mission to provide educational experiences that will “inspire students to continue their educational experiences beyond high school”. The HISPA Role Models have provided our students with exposure to their own life experiences in which they have aspired to and found success in the pursuit of Higher Education. The Role Model’s life experiences have been similar to many of our students, as they are of the same familial and cultural backgrounds making the connections all the more relevant.

Our students participate in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, in which significant emphasis is placed on the importance of Post Secondary Educational experiences. They have visited many colleges, such as Rutgers, Princeton, St. John’s, Kean, and Union County College in an effort to provide further exposure to collegiate life and experiences. The HISPA Role Model’s testimonies exemplify our Vision and Mission.

On behalf of Juan Pablo Duarte Marte - Jose Julian Marti’s staff and students, with sincere gratitude for all of your efforts, I thank you for including us in the HISPA program once again. We look forward to working with your organization in the future.

We truly appreciate all of your efforts and can not thank you enough for the invaluable impressions the HISPA Role Models have left on our students.

Thank You Aixa.

Sincerely,
Sara LaFace, LCSW
School Based Social Worker
Juan Pablo Duarte Jose Julian Marti
School #28
May 15, 2013

Aixa I. Acevedo, MPA  
HISPA Program Manager  
3587 Highway 9N-145  
Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Aixa,

It is with strong support that I write to endorse the HISPA Role Model Program that has been a positive enhancement to the overall establishment of a college-going culture at our Red Bank Middle School that currently serves students in Grades 4-8.

The commitment of our Middle School is to provide all of our students a highly welcoming, supportive, and challenging learning environment where students’ potential is maximized. Our focus has, undoubtedly, been to support the implementation of a curriculum that emphasizes writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading. Furthermore, the emphasis on preparing students for a successful high school and post-high school experience is supported by HISPA’s Role Model Program. Through this program, students have been exposed to a multitude of careers and successful people whose backgrounds and experiences are both motivating and inspiring. HISPA’s Role Model Program has served as a highly effective strategy that motivates students’ performance and achievement by raising awareness about the importance of education as a means to succeed professionally and in life.

We have been very impressed with the role model’s commitment to giving back to the community as they share their cultural backgrounds, educational experiences and their professional careers in becoming a role model to whom the students can relate. The goal of HISPA’s Role Model Program is highly valued within our school community because of its impact on students’ aspirations shaping and as they imagine infinite possibilities of setting goals and achieving their dreams.

Our experience with HISPA has revealed that it has both the capacity and expertise to serve as an invaluable resource for our schools and other schools in the state.

I look forward to working with you in 2013 – 2014 school year.

Sincerely,

Maria H. Iozzi

Maria H. Iozzi  
Red Bank Middle School Principal
May 23, 2013

Aixa I. Acevedo, MPA
HISPA Program Manager
3587 Highway 9N-145
Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Aixa,

It is with strong support that I write to endorse the HISPA Role Model Program that has had a positive effect on our students and provides students with information that contributes to our development of a college-going culture. The William C. McGinnis Middle School is proud to have participated with HISPA for 6 years and has truly appreciated the impact of the role model stories on our eighth grade students.

HISPA role models have met primarily with our LEP students who have similar stories of coming to the United States and working to achieve success. Our students are truly inspired by the relatable stories the role models share and appreciate the time they take to be a HISPA role model. Students have stated they will pursue their dreams, continue with their education, strive for higher education and never give up just as they heard the role models did when they were their age.

In schools today, we are always looking to support a college-going culture as well as expose our students to various careers and fields that are available especially in the STEM areas. Role Models from Merck, PNC Bank, Computer IT members, musicians, our Mayor, motivational speakers and presenters, and others have truly been a positive in our school thanks to the HISPA organization.

We are truly thankful to continue to be a part of HISPA and hope that in the future our relationship continues to grow and expand with no limits in sight to encourage our students’ success. We look forward to working with you in the 2013-2014 school year.

Sincerely,
Marie Walling
School Counselor /HISPA Coordinator
Thank you to all the HISPA 2012-2013 Role Model Program partners and sponsors: AT&T, CHPRD, DonorsChoose.org, PNC Bank and the Princeton Public Schools.