

SOMOS el Futuro

Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) Student Programs

The Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican Hispanic/Youth Leadership Institute (PR/HYLI)

Dedicated to the memory of the Honorable Angelo Del Toro; since 1995, this initiative brings Hispanic high school students from across New York State to Albany for a firsthand look at the New York State legislative process. School districts and community agencies nominate students for training by their extra-curricular involvement and good academic standing. Students are then selected based on attendance and active participation in group activities and training exercises. The PR/HYLI program promotes a dialogue between students and legislators and familiarizes them with the legislative process. These two factors are then used by the student to conduct research and ultimately develop their own legislative proposals.

Model New York State Senate Session Project

The Model New York State Senate Session Project is an annual leadership development program, sponsored by the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force of the New York State Legislature and the City and State University of New York (CUNY/SUNY). Each year, CUNY and SUNY students are brought together for a series of intensive training seminars on state policy formulation, legislative processes, representation and leadership. These seminars include visits from prominent NYS legislators and guest lecturers. The program culminates with students debating bills on the floor of the New York State Senate chamber in Albany. The goal of this program is for students to further their organizational, research and public speaking skills by means of model legislative seminars. Moreover, they are introduced to a “hands-on” approach to involvement in the political and policy processes that affect them, their families and their communities. Participating students are also given the opportunity to compete for scholarship awards.

Summer Internship

The Summer Internship Program was created by Somos el Futuro, Inc. in partnership with City University of New York (CUNY). This program gives Hispanic college students in financial need the opportunity to learn about public policy and government, as well as to introduce them to career building practices. Students can gain benefits such as real-life working experience in offices of public officials and stipends to offset the cost of living. The Somos el Futuro Summer Internship program aims to harvest an interest in public policy to ultimately expand Hispanic involvement in this area.

Academic Program

The Academic Program combines the capital region political arena along with participating universities to create an unparalleled learning experience for college students. The program consists of placing a student in a work environment for a period of one semester in exchange for up to 15 undergraduate credits. Within this program, students will have the chance to submerge in a culturally and politically vibrant environment, which will enable them to assess and examine the complex issues that New York State’s decision makers face. Students will develop skills and relationships to help them advance academically, personally, and professionally.

HLI Student Exchange Program

The Hispanic Leadership Institute Student Exchange Program allows junior and senior college students in Puerto Rico and New York State to exchange places at participating Universities for one semester. Participating students will simultaneously have an opportunity to gain insight into the historical and cultural makeup of both locations while improving their communications skills with individuals from different backgrounds. This program was designed to prepare students to live and work in a culturally diverse society.

HLI Apprenticeship Program

Created to bridge recent college graduates from academia to the workforce; it is an 8-week program in which participating students will gain a deeper understanding of putting theory into practice in the work environment. Students will be matched in an area of interest within the labor, public, private, or non-profit organizations. The Apprenticeship program provides Hispanic youth with networking possibilities, as well as the tools to enhance their skill set, self-assurance and experience to compete in today’s workforce.