

SUMMARY OF MAY 13TH High School Principal Summit

“Improving Access to Latino/a Students: Shared Best Practices and Goals”

PANEL THEMES

Working with Latino/a students is NOT about deficits, it is about assets

Future of Milwaukee tied to success of Latino/as

Value and affirm second languages learners as a positive benefit to your school

Maintain high expectations and quality education – these are already present inherently in our Catholic schools

Goal of 1,000 Latino/as in Catholic schools by 2012

PRIMARY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (based on input from participants)

Enrich the hiring practices to recruit and retain quality bilingual faculty, and staff, main office, etc.

Bridge program to increase acceptance rates

Focus on family, invest time in making personal connections, improve communication with families

-Be accessible to families (hours of operation/PT conferences) and use bilingual individuals

Latino alumni relationships (as role models)

Strengthen conversation among schools about curriculum – best practices – collaboration

Find and discuss financial support

All communication sent home must be in Spanish as well

Personally introduce ourselves to new students (make the first move)

Teach parents/students about access earlier – preparing for high school transition – including parents as central to this conversation

Funding needed for access issues (transportation-including extra-curricular activities, translation-shared resources)

Devote resources (time) to bilingual/bicultural support persons

SECONDARY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Expansion of applicant pool in Latino community

Welcoming atmosphere – encourage attendance at school events

Spanish speakers in office (around school)

College visits with familiars (organize a trip)

Graduates from middle school – being intentional about scheduling classes in high school

Push native speaker classes

Make their culture part of the school culture

Minimize the utilization of students as interpreters

Don't assume that families don't speak English – ask on the admissions application

Curriculum articulation between middle school and high schools

Mentors that work with students as they transition

Find unifying force for these efforts

Broaden conversation to include other students of color

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CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONSORTIUM**

OTHER PEOPLE NEEDED AT THE TABLE

College Latino/a students (what worked, what didn't? what would help?)

Parents of students/alums

Funders

Archdiocese leadership

Best practices from outside Milwaukee

Classroom teachers

Community representatives/resources (business, non-profit)

Board members

Legislators/politicians

Church people

High School Presidents

Universities

Middle/elementary schools

Public schools

School counselors

Registrar

Diversity Directors



GMCEC WILL BE EXPLORING THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS TO CONTINUE TO CONVERSATION...

- Middle School bridge program (Summer 2010)
- Vertical discussion among grade schools/middle schools/high schools (June/July 2009)
- Inclusion of best practices on GMCEC website (www.gmcec.com), from both inside and outside Milwaukee (Summer 2009)
- Cultural competency workshops (Potential Fall 2009)

