Woodring College of Education
2009 – 2010 Community Action Report

Coalition to Empower Latino Families and Students

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Partnering Organization(s):
Sterling Meadows Housing Complex
Shuksan Middle School
WWU Student Chapter of M.E.Ch.A (El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán)
WWU Student Chapter of Student Coalition for Immigration Rights

Our Community Action Grant proposal was designed to enable a coalition of faculty, students, and school and community partners who have been working to support Latino families and students. Through the WCE funding, we were able to expand our coalition at a critical juncture in our work, through increasing both partnerships and programming. Our grant funds were used to support program costs and to provide stipends for student leaders who helped to carry out the work. Specifically, we accomplished the following outcomes:

Research:
- Conducted a focus group with middle school parents to assess their desired school programming;
- Conducted both surveys with middle school students and interviews with WWU mentors to evaluate the ALTO after school mentoring program at Shuksan;
- Developed and administered surveys for middle school faculty and staff to assess the impacts of the Family Outreach team’s work;
- Conducted interviews with Youth4REAL middle school student participants.

Community Action:
- Conducted three Latino Parent Nights, with 25 different families participating;
- Developed and implemented programming for the ALTO club—involving 12 volunteer WWU mentors and 50 youth;
- Established formal relationships between the SMS and SqHS with the WWU M.E.Ch.A. Chapter;
- Conducted outreach efforts in four schools (ranging from providing classroom presentations to working with counselors) to support undocumented students;
- Facilitated translation services (both at school events and for school documents) for Spanish speaking parents, including the following events:
  - 3 Cougar Nights @ SMS
  - 9th Grade Orientation at SqHS
  - 3 GEAR Up Family support nights at SqHS
  - SMS 6th Grade Transitions Workshop
  - AVID Parent Conference @ SMS
- Conducted home visits (conferences and providing information for upcoming events) for 67 Latino families.
- Provided 253 pull-out tutoring support sessions for SMS ELL students
- Provided 480 hours of after school mentoring for 40 students at Sterling Meadows housing complex for migrant youth
- Deepened relationships with other organizations who provide support for Latino families, including Community to Community Development, Bellingham Technical College and Nooksack TANF
- Held the 1st annual Conference on Immigration Rights at WWU, with 80 community members and students who attended a day long series of workshops and presentations.

**Contributing to Professional Knowledge:** The Latino Action team had many opportunities for sharing the outcomes of our work, including:

- WCE faculty and students through a CEED presentations (Courageous Conversations on Race and on Supporting Latino Students)
- Educators and Community Members through a presentation at the Martin Luther King Conference at Whatcom Community College, January 2010
- Community members and WWU Students through the Conference on Immigration Rights developed and implemented by SCIR on May 8, 2010
- Participation in the Community Conference on Immigration Issues at Shuksan Middle School, April 2010
- Participation in the Migrant Youth Leadership Conference