



TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Mary Ann Losh
Administrator, Equity & Instructional Strategies

SUBJECT: Report on 2011 Hispanic/Latino Summit

Proposed Board Action:

No action is requested. This is a written information item.

Background Information:

This information item is a written description of the Hispanic/Latino Summit held on September 26, 2011.

Estimated Cost:

NA

Supporting Documentation Included:

2011 Hispanic Latino Summit Report

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Mary Ann Losh, Administrator, Equity & Instructional Strategies, (402) 471-4357, e-mail maryann.losch@nebraska.gov or Sue Henry, (402) 471-3440, e-mail sue.henry@nebraska.gov

2011 Hispanic Latino Summit Report

The 8th Annual 2011 Hispanic/Latino Summit was held on September 26, 2011. This year's theme was "Graduating College and Career Ready." The purpose of the Summit is to increase the academic success of Hispanic/Latino students. The day long Summit provides:

- opportunities to showcase student success through positive role models,
- information sessions on how to graduate ready for college and career, and
- guidance on how to plan your future with intentionality.

The Summit was held in partnership with the Latino American Commission, with support from Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska State Education Association, Avenue Scholars Foundation, Nebraska Association of School Boards, and McGraw-Hill School Education Group. Over the past years the planning committee has focused on adding more sessions for youth and more sessions led by youth. Each year the youth attendance has increased. This year the youth registrations were over 85%. The conference capacity of 600 was reached with a waiting list.

The Summit features students who are role models for other students through the "Gallery of Stars". There were 23 students showcased in this year's *Gallery of Stars*. The students are nominated by school staff who describe how they have demonstrated exemplary leadership capabilities in the classroom, community, and with their peers. The students and the description of their accomplishments are featured in the brochure "Gallery of Stars".

This year's evaluations were again very positive. The keynote session on "Education with Purpose" was presented by Ernesto Mejia who gave a motivational account of how he overcame many challenges to become successful. On a 5 point scale with 1 low and 5 high the keynote session received a 4.8 rating. Some of the student comments about what they learned in his session were:

- dream big and never give up
- education is important to your future
- respect your parents because they sacrifice themselves for you to have a better future
- be proud of who you are
- the difference between a job and a career.

Always highly rated by participants is the general session featuring the Student Panel. The student panelists give students and staff opportunities to learn their pathways to success. The four students who participated in this year's panel are freshmen at UNO, UNK, UNL, or the College of St. Mary. Each student shared insights on how they were able to pursue a college education.

A sampling of the concurrent session topics were: "Know How 2 Go" – how to plan for college; "Conversations with Your Counselor" – what assistance can you receive; "A Smart Start for Your College Education – opportunities at community colleges;

“Community Involvement: Personal Growth by Doing” – the value of service learning in achieving your goals; “THRIVE – Don’t Just Survive High School” – the benefits of an after school club focused on developing leadership. Some of the student comments on what they learned in the concurrent sessions were:

- knowing where you’re going and how to get there
- different types of colleges and the costs
- community service is a good deed and you meet people (connections)
- scholarship information
- how to be more college ready

Students and the staff accompanying them were encouraged throughout the day to think about how this information could be used to make a student plan for the future. Some of the comments on how they would use what they learned were:

- Work hard, do my best and never give up
- I will start applying for scholarships and not wait till the end
- Talk to people who can help me
- I will contact the session speaker
- Going online to explore career choices
- I am not alone, there is a list of help
- Finding someone that keeps pushing you inspires you more.

Summit highlights which give perspective on the value of this day were:

- One staff member noted that some of their students who attended the Summit last year were ready to drop out of school but because of attending the Summit decided to finish high school
- One of the students on the student panel was a migrant student who had been in this country for 3 years and was awarded a Buffet Scholarship
- One student commented, “I am definitely going to look into scholarships and try and live one American dream.”