



NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE
— est. 1979 —

School Partner Guide to the National Hispanic Institute

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Welcome Letter

Dear NHI Partner,

We cannot thank you enough for being a valued partner of the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) and creating opportunities for your students to participate in our summer leadership programs. NHI has a 42-year history of providing life-changing leadership experiences to high-achieving Latino youth throughout the United States and Latin America. Each year, talented young men and women like yourselves develop essential skills at the Great Debate, LDZ, or CWS that lead to success in college, careers, and community life.

Our team has created this Project Guide to support your efforts in recruiting students early so we can work together to provide important information to families promptly so that students participate this summer. This guide provides a project timeline, tips for recruitment, outreach resources, program talking points for students and parents, sample letters, and general information about NHI.

We look forward to working with your district this year and are excited to see your great students participate in a transformational leadership experience this summer.

Best regards,

Chris Nieto
Senior Vice President for Enrollment

Project Summary

APPLICATION DEADLINE:	November 15, 2021
ROSTER DEADLINE:	April 15, 2022

GREAT DEBATE			
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Nomination Goal	Recruitment & Enrollment Goal	Alternates	Program Site

LORENZO DE ZAVALA YOUTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION			
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Nomination Goal	Recruitment & Enrollment Goal	Alternates	Program Site

COLLEGIATE WORLD SERIES			
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Nomination Goal	Recruitment & Enrollment Goal	Alternates	Program Site

Outreach & Recruitment

Outreach and recruitment is a very important part of this process and the National Hispanic Institute relies heavily on its partners to assist in mobilizing qualified students within the requested timeline to attend NHI summer leadership programs. From start to finish, outreach and recruitment should take no more than 30 days. Below is a recommended outreach and recruitment process with additional guidance to ensure you maximize your efforts.

We understand that this program is not for every student and that NHI programs are geared towards students who demonstrate leadership skills and are active on campus and have a strong desire to enroll in college after graduation. When conducting outreach, we encourage our school partners to engage school staff, special programs, and NHI student alumni to identify eligible students to participate in programs of the National Hispanic Institute. Examples might include, but are not limited to:

- School administrators
- Counselors
- Teacher nominations
- National Honor Society
- Student Council
- AVID
- Students enrolled in Pre-AP or AP classes
- Current NHI high school members.

When mobilizing eligible students, we encourage all partners to identify double the amount of students agreed upon because we understand that not every student registers for an NHI program when presented with the opportunity. This includes ensuring a gender balance, diversity, and proportional representation of the school. Collecting student contact information is essential for follow up to ensure students receive invitations and reminders to apply by the scheduled deadline. In some cases, notifying parents of the opportunity supports recruitment efforts.

With a clear deadline, or first come first serve, the registered applicants are more likely to participate in the summer. In addition, we strongly encourage having a pool of alternates a registered student cannot attend the summer program.

Outreach & Recruitment Process (20 to 30 days)

1. Determine student criteria for participation.

- a. Identify additional criteria to ensure a higher commitment level from the student to apply and enroll in the summer NHI program. This might include higher GPAs, active members in student organizations, or have a leadership position on campus.

2. Identify outreach groups and key recruiters.

- a. Identify groups, programs, or student organizations that have access to eligible students.
- b. Identify teachers to include in the student nominations process.
- c. Collect student contact information (e.g. name, grade level, email, phone).

3. Meet & provide an overview of programs and student criteria.

- a. Host a meeting or Zoom session to provide an overview of program opportunities, student eligibility criteria, and nomination process.

4. Collect student names through the nomination process.

- a. Create a Google Form or process to collect student nominations.
- b. Include any other criteria you might need to determine strong candidates.

5. Host student and/or parent meeting(s).

- a. Provide important information about the program benefits and summer details.
- b. Share the registration process.

6. Determine interest level.

- a. Advise students that this opportunity is first-come, first-serve and that any student that applies after the scheduled deadline might be considered alternates.

7. Distribute registration instructions with the application deadline.

- a. Provide school contact information to students/families who should have questions.
- b. Send application reminders before the scheduled deadline.

8. Register students on NHI's website.

- a. Students having issues registering online can email admissions@nhimail.com.

About The Programs

Every year, the National Hispanic Institute conducts an international outreach program to identify candidates for its summer college residential leadership programs for high school students. Each program is creatively designed to strengthen different skill sets, competencies, and knowledge needs of participants in leadership and Latino community affairs. NHI learning experiences are led and implemented by a team of alumni faculty members and committed volunteers. Below is a brief description of each NHI high school leadership program.

Great Debate

The Great Debate is a 4- or 6-day summer college residential leadership development experience for students to advance their communication skills, public speaking, and critical/analytical thinking. Students participate in experiential learning experiences designed to boost self-confidence in communicating ideas. Using debate as a tool, students are coached and mentored by college-aged volunteers, collaborate with peers, and test their skills in an exciting debate tournament. Topics of social and community relevance to Latina/e/o/x populations. This year, the Great Debate features Spring online modules, opportunities to interact with peers before the summer program, and a summer residential leadership program experience.

- Communicate your ideas with confidence and fervor
- Begin your NHI journey with success-oriented peers who will become lifelong friends
- Play a key role in virtual teams that span geographic borders and cultures
- Earn respect and support for well-articulated ideas and logic
- Enjoy mentorship by highly motivated NHI alumni
- Gain early college readiness experiences

Student Eligibility

9th-grade students who have an 85/100; 3.0 GPA or better, good conduct, and leadership qualities.

Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session (LDZ)

The LDZ is an 8-day summer college residential leadership simulation for students to deepen their understanding of governance, constituency building, and community leadership. Using a mock legislative format, the LDZ provides a highly motivating environment for students to propose policy, manage organizations, and collaborate. Topics of social and community relevance to Latina/e/o/x populations. Mentorship, campaigns, elections, policy writing, role play, awards ceremony, college readiness, and certificates of participation.

- Understand the role of organizations and your role as agencies of change
- Uncover new talents and personal strengths
- Join NHI's peer network that is committed to shaping the future
- Propose and shape policy that benefits Latino communities
- Practice the leadership roller coaster of negotiation, deadlines, and prioritization
- Expand awareness of civic and global issues
- Enjoy the value, recognition, and responsibility of being an NHI student leader

Student Eligibility

10th & 11th-grade students who have an 88/100; 3.2 GPA or better, good conduct, and leadership qualities

Collegiate World Series (CWS)

The Collegiate World Series (CWS) is a 5-day summer college residential program that dives into planning the future and going through the college application process. Coached by actual college admissions representatives, students walk away with more developed college applications, essays, academic resumes, and more. Following the college readiness portion of the CWS, students embark on a journey of Inquiry-Based Learning where they collaborate with peers to showcase their ideas. Topics of social and community relevance to Latina/e/o/x family life. Mentorship, strategic planning, essays, letters of recommendation, interviews, financial aid, standardized tests, certificates of participation, NHI diploma, and NHI graduation cords.

- Make your college application stand apart from others
- Learn and apply NHI's inquiry-based process to craft the future
- Build a plan with your CWS team to go through college admissions together
- Get personalized coaching from NHI College Register professionals
- Receive the CWS workbook, including guidance, planning tools, and scholarship information
- Earn your NHI honor cords, diploma, and graduate with your NHI leadership class

Student Eligibility

11th graders; 88/100; 3.2 GPA or better, good conduct, and leadership qualities

History & Work of the National Hispanic Institute

The National Hispanic Institute (NHI) was founded on July 20, 1979, by Ernesto Nieto and a few colleagues who originally came together as part of an effort to create a community leadership structure for Latinos in Texas. In 1981, high school youth became the focus of the newly established organization through a pilot project called the Austin Young Leaders Conference. Only 90 students comprised the first class of participants; NHI today serves well over 2,500 high school students a year. While the Lone Star State retains a strong representation among those who annually attend the organization's Summer Leadership Series, participants today hail from 16 U.S. states and 3 Latin American nations, representing many of the cultural influences that make up today's modern Latino community.

More important than any other aspect of the organization's makeup and history is the caliber of youth in attendance. Altogether this membership of over 100,000 bright, forward-looking youth flows into our nation's colleges, universities, and professional sectors to form the reservoir of human talent from which the Latino community can today select its future community leaders. Of the 100,000 youth who have participated over the years, 98% enroll in undergraduate studies after high school. Additionally, 90% earn their undergraduate degrees in 4 to 5 years with over 67% continuing into advanced studies.

The National Hispanic Institute's most important mission and purpose are to make leadership preparation a life-defining experience for high-school-age Latino youth throughout the United States and Latin America.

Our 42-year history has given us important insight into the impact that leadership training can have on the mindsets, aspirations, behaviors, and attitudes of young people. Two doctoral studies conducted at DePaul University and Texas A&M University-Kingsville support the impact of NHI's work, while the *Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy* has also published the Institute's projections of the country's Latino leadership needs. Research on NHI's leadership experiences provides documented evidence of the changes students undergo as a result of the Institute's youth programs and their successes in the classroom, college, and community. Coupling these efforts with the work of our public and private schools greatly contributes to the enrichment and expansion of the well-educated, skilled, and civically engaged future leaders for a population forecasted to constitute one in three Americans by 2050.

Research involving urban and first-generation college students in the Pasadena Independent School District (in the Houston metro area) and the San Antonio Independent School District showed a positive correlation between students who participated in the Great Debate and LDZ. Every year, their academics improved with each learning experience. Research conducted in rural and small agricultural communities, as part of NHI's Texas Rural Initiative in West Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, showed similar findings. Paired with the influence of strong, quality schooling, the impact of NHI learning experiences cannot be emphasized enough.

Outreach Resources

To view a list of NHI brochures, outreach materials, videos, and student testimonials, please visit www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/downloads.

To create school flyers, please feel free to use NHI program logos at the links below.

[NHI](#)

[Great Debate](#)

[LDZ](#)

[CWS](#)

Sample Nomination Letter

Dear Student,

Congratulations! You have been selected by a teacher, counselor, school administrator, or a district official to apply to one of the [National Hispanic Institute](#)'s (NHI) internationally recognized leadership programs held each summer on a college campus. You have the grades, leadership, and positive attitude it takes to contend for admission to some of our country's top colleges and universities.

At all NHI leadership programs, students engage in live learning experiences that add significant substance to their skills and competencies, insight into their courage and risk potential, and willingness to become active, determined learners. All our programs promote higher education and students directly network with colleges and universities in our [NHI College Register](#). NHI students attend college at a 99% rate, enroll in four-year selective universities at a 95% rate, complete their studies within four to five years at a 90% rate, and pursue graduate studies at a 67% rate.

Students leave NHI programs embracing a call to be leaders in society with a stronger sense of community, enhanced leadership capacities, personal confidence, and direction, as well as a network of lifelong peers who are committed to excellence. Some benefits to participating in NHI programs include:

- Advanced leadership skills
- Newfound confidence and purpose
- Early college-readiness experience
- Personal relationships with college admission officials at top universities
- Self-inquiry and game-based learning experiences with transferable skills to the classroom
- Discussions with peers about the transition from high school to college life
- New, life-long friends and access to a membership network spanning a 42-year history

For more information, please contact _____ by _____ to receive next steps. Again, congratulations on your nomination. We look forward to you representing our school.

Regards,
