



## A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE



### WHAT IS THE LDZ?

The Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session (LDZ) is an exclusive leadership learning opportunity designed by the National Hispanic Institute (NHI). As one of the nation's most prestigious and oldest youth leadership experiences for Latinos, NHI's international leadership identification campaign selects and invites only 975 high achieving high school sophomores from the United States and Latin America. A residential, eight-day summer experience, the LDZ features a public and community policy game simulation that presents learning opportunities in decision-making, organizational management, policy development, strategic community planning, and governance. Using numerous learning platforms, peer to peer learning, and intellectual challenges that demand creative, higher order thinking, the LDZ is a live process for youth leaders to test their skills, strengthen their capacities, and deepen their knowledge in preparation for the future governance roles they will undoubtedly take on.

Being elected to office is important, even exciting. However, imagining the future 30-40 years from now is never easy - especially when challenged to craft, submit, and present proposals for a world yet to be formed. The intellectual intensity, high impact competition, time limits, and navigation of ideas through legislative protocol is an experience that forever impacts its participants.

LDZ students form life-long networks, gain invaluable lessons from each other, and discover new insights about themselves. During this process, we strive for them to formulate a view of leadership that is not driven by title or authority, but is seen as an opportunity to change lives.

### WHAT DOES THE PARTICIPANT TAKE AWAY?

All in all, the LDZ is a major stop on the NHI leadership learning journey with long-term benefits and opportunities for advancement and growth. If there is any one factor that sets the LDZ apart from other youth programs, it's the intellectual intensity of the experience. The LDZ employs a social constructivist approach as its principle learning platform. Working effectively in formal decision-making environments is seen by NHI as a key skill requirement of leadership. Whether you are interested in government politics or not, the LDZ challenges students to form a strong public image, develop adeptness in business discussions, and acquire skills to manage official protocol.

Students also learn to present their own beliefs, defend their ideas, and use tactics and strategies to garner support for their proposals. These skills and capacities are core competencies that students can apply later as they submit applications for college admission, interview for jobs, and become involved in student and community life.

Following the LDZ is NHI's capstone experience for rising seniors, the Collegiate World Series (CWS), and the Collegiate Leadership Network (CLN) for undergraduates. This is coupled with volunteer opportunities, internship possibilities, and connections to NHI's College Register members for college admissions.

## ENROLLING IN THE LDZ

To apply to the LDZ in 2017, an applicant must be a 2016-2017 high school sophomore and have at least a 3.2 GPA (88/100 scale; 8.8/10 scale) in core subject matter. Students must submit (email, mail or fax) their latest report card. NHI accepts final report cards from the previous year if the student has not yet received his/her first academic year report card. A competitive review process follows.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- Students may apply at: [www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/apply/apply\\_2017/](http://www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/apply/apply_2017/). Select your program, and submit the \$20 USD application fee via credit, debit card or check.
- Students may print out and submit a paper application by going to [www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/forms](http://www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/forms). Download, complete and send the PDF application with the \$20 application fee made payable to "NHI" to: "NHI, P.O. Box 220, Maxwell, TX 78656 USA". For FEDEX/UPS/DHL, ship to: "NHI, 472 FM 1966, Maxwell, TX, 78656, USA".

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Early Admissions: **August 18 - October 17**
- Regular Admissions: **October 18 - December 5**
- Late Admissions: **December 6 - Capacity**

## TUITION AND FEES

All students who apply to NHI programs and earn admission are automatically provided with a 50% scholarship that goes towards the actual cost of the LDZ.

These scholarships are the result of the volunteer services provided by NHI alumni who assist with the LDZ, plus the generosity of host colleges and universities that underwrite student housing, food, and facilities. The amount paid by students, \$795, represents only half the cost to attend.

The LDZ rate is \$795 USD, which includes a \$20 application processing fee. This amount covers meals, housing, materials, and the LDZ tuition. Once the student receives notice of admission via email, she/he has 10 days to make a \$150 USD security deposit. The final tuition amount is due within 30 days of submitting the deposit. Students can also make arrangements with NHI's business office for an alternate payment plan. Travel costs to and from the program are not included.

Additional costs may include the book Third Reality Revealed (\$15 on Smashwords.com), spending money for snacks, and optional NHI/University merchandise.

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Parents and student applicants are encouraged to visit with their respective schools, local businesses and civic organizations to seek financial support. NHI is a private, 501(c) 3 non profit organization that provides tax receipts to donors. In cases where the schools and/or sponsors provide support, either entirely or partially, NHI will reimburse families for funds they have submitted towards a student's registration fee after they have attended the LDZ.

## 2017 LDZ SITES AND DATES

**CALIFORNIA LDZ**  
University of San Diego  
San Diego, California  
Mid June, 2017

**LDZ LAS AMERICAS**  
Ciudad del Saber  
Panama, Panama  
July 9-16, 2017

**COLORADO LDZ**  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado  
June 18-25, 2017

**NEW YORK LDZ**  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, New York  
July 9-16, 2017

**NATIONAL LDZ**  
Chicago Area University  
Chicago, Illinois  
Early July, 2017

**TEXAS LDZ**  
Texas Area University  
Central Texas  
Late July, 2017



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org](http://www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org)  
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9:00am-12:00pm; 1:30pm-6:00pm CDT



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