

The Latino Partnership

Serving as a link between the Latino community and Messiah College

I. The Mission of the Partnership

The goal of the Latino partnership is to facilitate the involvement of students, staff, and faculty in the Latino community of Harrisburg, as well as to enhance the exchange of educational resources between this local group and Messiah College.

Rooted on the concept of meaningful and reciprocal partnerships, this program aims to serve as an effective vehicle for addressing community needs while providing the Messiah College community with a rich educational opportunity to learn and serve in a diverse and complex social environment.

Through this vision of community involvement, the Latino Partnership affirms the mission of the College to “educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.” (Messiah College Mission Statement)

II. Goals and Focus of the Partnership

1. To serve as a resource for students who are interested in service or practicum experiences in the Latino community.
2. To serve as a link for faculty and academic departments that are interested in exploring experiential educational opportunities for their students in a culturally diverse and urban environment.
3. To serve as an academic resource to social service agencies, state or federal government agencies and churches on demographic and systemic factors affecting Latino families in central Pennsylvania.
4. To serve as an academic resource to community leaders and state government officials to better enhance their work with Latino families in the community.
5. To serve as an academic resource to faculty and administrators on issues related to cultural sensitivity and cultural awareness on campus.
6. To promote and facilitate forums for academic discussion on social, religious and systemic issues affecting Latino families.
7. To maintain an active social science research agenda to stay abreast of the issues affecting the wellbeing of Latino families in this country.

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