

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

NCLR

LÍDERES INITIATIVE

Mission: The National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) *Líderes* Initiative is a national program designed to create opportunities for Latino youth that will elevate their influence as leaders in the United States.

Vision: Our goal is to raise new leadership—corporate executives, public officials, activists, and organizers—that will serve their communities and promote social justice at the local and national levels.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Nearly half of all Latinos in the United States are under the age of 25. Through the *Líderes* Initiative, NCLR is tapping into this vibrant source of leadership, proactively nurturing and developing the potential of a whole generation of Latinos.

Through a national network of high school and college students and young professionals, *Líderes* identifies, supports, and develops new leadership in the Latino community. With an online network more than 6,000 strong and an active membership in 30 college campuses, *Líderes* has reached nearly 4,000 young Latino leaders in the past three years.

LÍDERES STRATEGIC PLATFORMS

The *Líderes* Initiative connects with young Latinos through three strategic platforms:

The *Líderes* Network: The *Líderes* online network operates at a national level to support and strengthen programs and organizations serving Latino youth. Through our official website and bimonthly e-newsletter, we link our groups to feature articles that highlight community issues, leadership and educational opportunities, civic engagement efforts, and inspirational stories of young leaders in the Hispanic community. Similarly, the *Líderes* website alerts our young people to grants, scholarships, internships, fellowships, conferences, and other network events.

***Líderes* Congresos:** Through regional *Congresos*, *Líderes* brings youth together to discuss issues pertaining to the Latino community, connecting them to community leaders and resources. *Congresos* are regional conferences that attract more than 150 young people and are designed to empower young Latinos by teaching them new skills, providing networking opportunities, and giving them tools to become advocates in their communities.

Annual *Líderes* Summit: A component of the NCLR Annual Conference, the Summit brings together more than 450 students, activists, and young Latino leaders from throughout the country. Summit activities build up young leaders, teaching youth how to work with one another in teams and challenging them to think through tough issues affecting the Latino community. Moreover, the Summit provides a safe space for students to share their thoughts and opinions. The Summit incorporates many NCLR Annual Conference events, allowing the youth to partake in an invaluable networking experience.

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The *Líderes* team at NCLR helps groups in the *Líderes* Network improve their effectiveness and impact. Staff can provide information, resources, guidance, and experience to help guide and encourage students and network members. For more information or to receive assistance from the *Líderes* Initiative, please email leadership@nclr.org or call (202) 785-1670.

