

April/May

Volume 1 Issue 5

Latino Programs and Services

The Office of Latino Programs and Services had or participated in the following activities and events throughout the month of April and May:

- Su Casa Recognition Banquet
- Latino Programs and Services Annual Recognition Banquet
- Student Awards Ceremony
- Accepted Student Days
- Kentucky Governor's Mansion: A Century of Reflection Documentary
- Student Leader Recognition Celebration 2014
- Holmes High School Project Focus
- 3rd Annual Indiana Latino Expo and Reception
- Northern Kentucky University Commencement
- Santa Maria Community Luncheon
- Multicultural Leadership Conference



Some of the highlights from the events that we would like share with you are the following:

Internal Programs



Once again we celebrated our **Annual Latino Recognition Banquet** on Thursday, April 10, 2014. We had over 180 students, faculty/staff, family and community guests attend this event to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Be sure to congratulate these students who have excelled not only in their academic achievements but in the community and extracurricular activities as well. Arturo Minera and Maria Rojas were the Master and Mistress of Ceremonies and thoroughly entertained the audience by their charismatic and infectious personalities. Northern Kentucky University's President, Mr. Geoffrey S. Mearns gave the welcoming remarks which were followed by an invocation given by the Reverend Louis Gasparini, MCCJ. The

Admissions office recognized future NKU students who received the NKU Diversity Scholarship. The event was so well received that three scholarship recipients confirmed their attendance to NKU that night. Ms. Gabriela Santiago, an NKU student presented the Latino student organization accomplishments. The keynote speaker for the evening was Mrs. Diana Maria Lara who is the University of Cincinnati Health Director of Media Relations. Dr. Peter Gitau, Vice President of Student Affairs, gave the closing remarks which were followed by a selfie by Arturo, Maria and the whole ballroom. Be sure to congratulate these students and show them your support. The following are the awards that were presented during our recognition banquet:



2014 Latino Student Academic Achievement Award Recipients:

- College of Arts and Sciences – Siennamarisa Brown
- College of Business – Maritza Ozepy and Carla Suarez-Lemmo
- College of Education and Human Services – Christopher Mendiguera
- College of Informatics – Ashley Dugger
- College of Health Professions – Annette Craig
- Chase College of Law – Kara Lyons
- University Programs/Undeclared – Christopher Robertson

2014 NKU LPS Mentor of the Year
Arturo Minera

2014 NKU LPS Mentee of the Year
Bryant Picazo

2014 Latina of the Year
Kelsey Rodriguez

2013-2014 Graduates

- Courtney Baker
- David Bonilla
- Kathryn Brown
- Arianna Cabrales
- Abel Contreras
- Hector Diaz-Morales
- Amy Dodd
- Alan Evans
- Syl Flores
- Joanna Fraser
- Shelby Garcia



- Emmanuel Garcia de Caro
- Tony Gutierrez
- Mayra Guzman Orozco
- Elizabeth Hays
- Blanca Jara
- Alexandria Macgregor
- Cynthea Mercado
- Edward Pineda
- Patrick Pocsatko
- Christopher Ramsey
- Kelsey Rodriguez

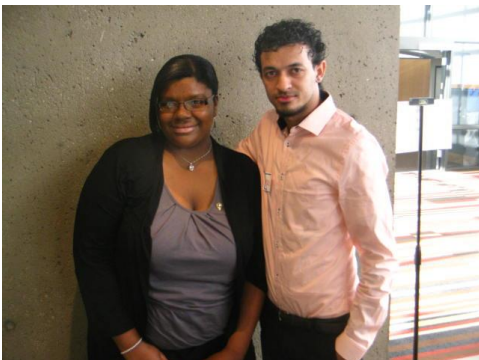
Marta Romeo Lazaro
Austin Rosenbaum
Matthew Ruiz
Brittney Santiago
Francisco Sivira
Iana Souza

Jenna Torres
Cody Webster
Daniel Wilcox-Netepczuk
Stephanie Wysocki
Nancy Yanez Escorza
Gary Yochum

2014 Distinguished Academic Achievement- GPA of 3.5 and above

Ismael Abdullah
Valeria Aliendres
Antoinette Aponte-Allman
Manuel Baez
Denisse Bays
Siennamarisa Brown
Arianna Cabrales
Nicholas Canchola
Brittany Carreon
Celeste Carver
Alexandra Coleman
Annette Craig
Jamie Diaz
Kathleen Dickman
Ashley Dugger
Patricia Figueroa
Syl Flores
Olivia Garcia
Emmanuel Garcia de Caro
Andres Gasper
Mayra Guzman Orozco
Andrea Halenkamp
Justin Hill
Brady Holmer
Sarah Howard
Sara Keshtvarz

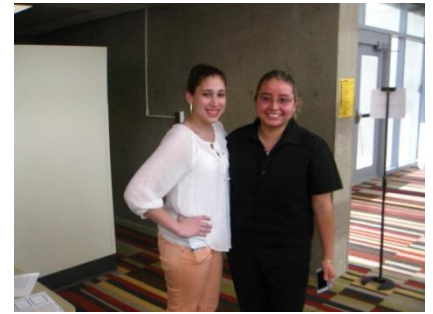
Alexandria Macgregor
Meghan McGregor
Christopher Mendiguren
Jesus Montes
Alexandra Morgan
Toni Morris
Breonna Nino
Alma Onate
Maritza Ozepy
Emanuel Picazo
Joseph Powers
Franklin Reyes Franco
Christopher Robertson
Maria Gabriela Rodriguez- Vivas
Maria Rojas
Gonzalo Sanchez
Gabriela Santiago
Tyler Stevens
Taylor Stitt
Jenna Torres
Cheyenne Ullrey
Sarah Urda
Mary Vanegas
Christian Wood
James York



2014 Distinguished Volunteer Service

Asael Carrizales
Travohn Copeland
Francisco Cornejo
Diana Coronado
Héctor Diaz
Alexa Dominguez
Laura Fernández
Nancy Giron
Nayeli Giron
Carlos Guzman
Mayra Guzman
Ademir Huerta
Corinne Icard
Orsella Irambona
Deandra Jackson
Juan Maldonado
Carlos Mandujano
Arturo Minera
Jalan Nored
Tammy Ocasio
Bryant Picazo
Alex Pineda

Christian Reyes
Edwin Reyes
Franklin Reyes
Kelsey Rodriguez
Maria Rojas
Alejandro Rosas
Anakaren Rosas
Craig Rose
Rosy Sanchez
Ally Sanislow
Gaby Santiago
Adam Schmidt
Francisco Sivira
Ashley Taylor
Kara Thompson
Macarena Toro
Rudie Ulizio
Yislain Villalona
Chrissy Walking
Lizzy Walking
Kevin Zanders



2014 Cesar Chavez High School Writing Contest Winners

1st Place - Ke'Asia Love
2nd Place - Casey Machenheimer
3rd Place - Dulce Ortiz

We would like to thank Campus Recreation, Admissions, and Auxiliary Services for their generous support in co-sponsoring this event! We truly appreciate their support!

Student Accomplishments

Kelsey Rodriguez was not only recognized as **Latina of the Year** at our Recognition Banquet but she was also recognized as Latina of the Year during the Student Leader Recognition Celebration 2014. She has also been accepted to the Disney College Program and will start in the fall of 2014. This is a VERY competitive program with applicants from the United States as well as across the globe. This program gives students an opportunity to advance their strengths and interests while gaining experience with people from all over the world. Students take personal and career development classes and build transferable skills. Participants also gain on-the-job experience in their parks and resorts. This is truly a once in a life time experience. Congratulations Kelsey!

We would like to congratulate Mayra Guzman and Arturo Minera for receiving two prestigious awards. Mayra Guzman won the **President's Award**. The President's Award is "given to a senior who has greatly contributed to the development of a strong sense of community at Northern Kentucky University". Mayra was also selected to be the student commencement speaker for the College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Ceremony. She is the first Latina to be given the chance to speak at Commencement. Arturo Minera won the **Norse Legacy Award**. This award "goes to a senior, nominated by an organization, who best embodies the spirit and core values of Northern Kentucky University". Congratulations to Mayra and Arturo!



Student Highlight by Kelsey Rodriguez



The **2014 Latino Recognition Banquet** was bittersweet since it was my very last Recognition Banquet that I will be attending as a student at NKU. To this day, it still hasn't sunk in. The night was filled with students, faculty, staff, and many members from the community. My amazing friends, Arturo Minera and Maria Rojas, were the hosts of the banquet. They not only provided the entertainment and introduced the guest speakers, but took plenty of selfies as well. I was asked to speak on behalf of the Latino Mentor Program. I was so honored to be able to share my experiences from the program as well as recognize the mentors and mentees. Arturo Minera was chosen to be Mentor of the Year. Arturo inspires his mentees to be the best they can be. Every year, Arturo's legacy at NKU keeps getting bigger. He has made an impact on this campus that not a lot of people can do. Bryant Picazo was selected as the Mentee of the Year. Bryant is a freshman that has a lot of potential to be an awesome leader. His time at NKU has only just begun and he will do amazing things on this campus. We also had a very inspirational guest speaker. Diana Lara is the

UC Health Director of Media Relations. Her story wasn't a story I was expecting. Her message: Sometimes you have to be at rock bottom to get back up and achieve great things in life. Later on in the evening, I was presented with the 2014 Latina of the Year Award. This award and honor was something I wasn't expecting. The best part was that my best friends, Arturo and Mayra Guzman, presented the award to me. We have been friends since the beginning and now each of us have won this award. We not only started together, but we end our journey at NKU together as well. Mayra and I will be graduating in a few weeks and Arturo will be graduating in December. As the night came to a close, I thought about my memories with the Latino Programs and Services Office. They became my first family and without them, many others and I would not have been able to do the amazing things we have done on this campus. Without this office, I would not have met some of the best people I have ever met. I am forever grateful that this office has been an essential part of my time at NKU. Every person that I have met has helped me become the person that I am today. I hope that future students have the same experience that I had and realize that the Latino Programs and Services is not just an office. It's a familia.

Upcoming events:

June 25-26th

Location: Green Acres Pond Site and River Lab

English Language Learning Foundation Middle School Fun with Science Camp

The Office of Latino Programs and Services, the English Language Learning Foundation, and Dr. Miriam Kannan will be having a Science Camp for participants that are in middle school in the Greater Cincinnati area. **For more information please visit** <http://latino.nku.edu/programs/ScienceCamp.html>

August 4-8th

Northern Kentucky University

English Language Learning Foundation High School Fun with Science Camp

The English Language Learning Foundation, the Office of Latino Programs and Services, Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics, the Ecological Stewardship, and the Foundation for Ohio River Education will be having a Science Camp for local high school students in the Greater Cincinnati area. Students will cruise the Ohio River in a paddle boat, gather DNA from their own cells to make necklaces, use a microscope to see the microbial life in pond water, grow bacteria that live in our bodies, and many other activities. **For more information please contact** [http://ellfoundationcinci.org/Events_2.html#Fun with Science Camp](http://ellfoundationcinci.org/Events_2.html#Fun_with_Science_Camp).



August 10-12th

Student Union, Student Union 302

Latino Programs and Services Orientation Workshop

The Office of Latino Programs and Services will hold their annual orientation for new incoming Latino students. The purpose of this orientation is to welcome them to NKU, as well as, provide valuable

information for their college career. Students will get acquainted with the LPS staff, other Latino students, as well as, learn about other valuable offices on campus. A unique part of the orientation is that students get to partake in activities that strengthen leadership and team building skills. Students are also able to form strong relationships with others that could last a lifetime. **To sign up please contact our office.**

Latino Mentor Program (LAMP)

Throughout the month of April and May, LAMP students took part in the following activities:

Ace the Interview on April 4th

Student Awards Ceremony on April 16th

Study Session on April 22nd

On Friday, April 4th from 2-3 p.m., Matt Campbell from Total Quality Logistics presented on how to "**Ace the Interview**". The students at the event had an opportunity to reflect on the presentation and to ask questions one on one at the closing of the event. All of the students feel that they are more prepared for interviews in the future and are excited to have a step ahead of others in the interviewing process. We would like to give a special thanks to Total Quality Logistics for supporting LAMP this year and presenting numerous times to our students on a variety of topics.

Our student led event this year was hosted by Arturo Minera, our LAMP Mentor of the Year. Arturo volunteered to host this event on April 16th, at 3:30 p.m. and he did an exceptional job with it. He held a **Student Awards Ceremony** for the students in LAMP and made up funny awards and provided keepsakes for the students as well. He had a short skit for each and every one of the awards to describe the student and why they were receiving that particular award. This event was a really meaningful one and provided an opportunity for the students to reflect on some of the great characteristics and personalities that they exemplify on a regular basis. A special thanks to Arturo for being a great mentor to the students in LAMP on a daily basis and for giving so much back to the program!



Thirteen students gathered on April 22nd from 3-4 p.m. to begin studying for finals. The students really enjoyed the **Finals Study Session** because it is a laid back environment and reminds them about focusing on finals ahead of time. LAMP stresses the importance of succeeding academically, and the students who attended the study session feel that they are better prepared and ready to tackle finals week to finish out the year strong. This was the final LAMP event for the school year and we are excited to get started on

the events for the 2014-2015 school year.

LAMP's Student of the Month for May is Patricia Figueroa! Patricia is majoring in social work and was nominated by Alex Pineda. She wants her peers/staff to know that, "I am very hard working and when I put my mind into something I can make it reality. I am the person my friends and family rely on giving them a shoulder to cry and also advice. I also put a lot of my time and efforts into something that I am very passionate about. To the mentors I just want to give you gratification, it really does make a difference when people like mentors take time out of their life to guide others in good path and I am very grateful for everything that not only my mentor does for me but for all the mentors that do that same for their mentees. It is a very rewarding program where bonds and friendships can be created all in efforts to get to success."



Upcoming events:

Please keep an eye out for upcoming events in the fall of 2014.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful supporters for collaborating, guiding and assisting our office, but most of all, for providing the successful academic and networking opportunities for our students.

Highlights from the Office of Admissions

By: Office of Admissions-Multicultural Recruitment Unit

STAYING FOCUSED AT HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL

The NKU Admissions Multicultural Recruitment Team successfully ended Project FOCUS for 2014. Project FOCUS is a college readiness program that provided Holmes High School sophomores with tools and resources that will allow them to continue their preparation for college. The team met with students January - March at Holmes HS presenting sessions geared around college requirements, leadership, campus life/living, financial planning, financial aid, and scholarships. Our own Maria Rojas joined Leyla Peña, NKU Admissions Counselor, during the leadership sessions. Her student perspective enhanced the session significantly and Holmes students were excited to hear about leadership opportunities at NKU! Closing of Project FOCUS took place at a campus visit on April 28, 2014.

VISITE NKU...SPANISH NORSE DAY!

On March 17, 2014 NKU hosted thirteen Hispanic/Latino families at the 2014 spring Spanish Norse Day. This visitation program is geared toward Hispanic/Latino students and their parents and is held completely in Spanish. The program encompasses information about admissions and financial aid, as well as an overview about Latino Programs and Services. Arturo Minera, Elsy Verdugo, Alma Oñate, Amber Mercedes and Emanuel

Picazo did a great job as tour guides. In addition, Alma, Amber and Mayra Guzman were outstanding as they served on a student panel. Spanish Norse Day gives prospective Hispanic/Latino students and their parents the opportunity to learn more about NKU in their own language while meeting current Hispanic/Latino NKU students, faculty and staff. Out of the 13 families who attended, 10 students were seniors in high school and 8 already applied to NKU. Two received scholarships from us!!!

To learn more about this program, visit: <http://admissions.nku.edu/visit/specialevents.html>

FUTURE NORSE RECOGNIZED

Every year, in collaboration with Latino Programs and Services, the Office of Admissions invites prospective Latino students to the Latino Student Recognition Banquet. At this year's celebration, nine students who were awarded with the Educational Diversity Scholarship were recognized before campus and community guests while their proud parents flashed their cameras to catch a glimpse of their deserving student. Close to thirty Latino students were awarded the Educational Diversity Scholarship for 2014-2015.

Upcoming events for Admissions:

- NKU's 5th Annual Multicultural Leadership Conference (for high school juniors): May 16-17, 2014
 - Spanish Norse Day in the summer? Coming up at a Welcome Wednesday-more details to come
 - 3RD Annual Latino College Fair and Conference-**SAVE THE DATE**-Thursday, October 2, 2014
- ...For more information about multicultural programs visit our website at multicultural.nku.edu

To contact our office:



Leo Calderón, Director



Diane Maldonado, Coordinador



Kara Thompson, Graduate Assistant



Maria Rojas, Student Worker

The Office of Latino Programs and Services

Student Union 313

Northern Kentucky University

Highland Heights, KY 41099

Telephone: 859-572-6013

Fax: 859-572-1576

Email: maldonadod1@nku.edu

Latino.nku.edu

[Facebook](#)