



Hispanic College Fund  
*Developing professionals...one degree at a time.*

## 2009 Virginia Hispanic Youth Symposium



**George Mason University**  
July 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009



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## About the Hispanic College Fund

Founded in 1993, the Hispanic College Fund is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. whose goal is to guide and inspire Hispanic high school and college students to achieve careers in business, science, technology, engineering, and math.

The Hispanic College Fund provides talented and underprivileged Hispanic youth with vision, mentors, resources and scholarships. We are passionate about our mission to develop the next generation of Hispanic professionals and it's our partnerships with business, government and foundations that are making their success a reality.

Today, the Hispanic College Fund has an annual budget of \$6 million and 20 full-time employees. In 2006 the HCF received the *Brillante* award for "Nonprofit of the Year" from the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, and in 2007 was recognized by *USA Today* as one of the nation's top 25 charities.

## What is the Hispanic Youth Symposium?

This exciting initiative prepares Hispanic high school students to attend college and pursue professional careers in business, science, technology, engineering, and math.

In 2009 the Hispanic College Fund will hold the Hispanic Youth Symposium for students in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Working in partnership with a number of community-based organizations and the various School Districts, the Hispanic College Fund will bring together 200 students at each location and 100 community volunteers to participate in a life-changing three-night, four-day program, followed by year-round support and outreach.

This high-energy event will allow local underserved Hispanic students to:

- Learn how to prepare for and apply to college
- Understand how a college education is financed with financial aid
- Apply for scholarships
- Participate in four competitions: Essay, Speech, Talent and Art
- Connect with community Hispanic role models
- Become more involved in their community as volunteers and advocates for better policy
- Participate in a college fair with 30-40 colleges and universities present
- Navigate the college-to-career pathway

Highlights:

- Local and national businesses will provide sponsorships, career workshops, guest speakers, mentors, and recruiting opportunities.
- Admissions representatives from an array of colleges and universities will present sessions related to college preparation, admission, and financing.



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## Hispanic Youth Institute

In order to ensure that the symposium participants continue to receive the support and education they need to pursue their college and career aspirations after the symposium, the Hispanic College Fund establishes a local coordinator (typically a college student who has participated in the program) to work in the community and provide ongoing year-round educational opportunities and guidance to the students. This coordinator promotes near-peer mentoring thru Big Brothers Big Sisters, encourages student led community initiatives in partnership with Youth Venture, an organization that helps teams of people start new youth-led organizations. In coordination with a faculty advisor at the school, schedules an array of evening and weekend student workshops focusing on financial aid, leadership, career choices, financial literacy, and more.

As the students matriculate into their senior year and college, the local coordinator and national Hispanic College Fund office continue to stay in touch with the students, sending them information about internships, scholarships, and employment opportunities. Once a student participates in the Hispanic Youth Symposium, they become part of a larger network that supports and encourages their educational and professional achievement indefinitely.

The Hispanic College Fund Youth Symposium has been recognized as an "exemplary community outreach practice" for the past four consecutive years in the report to President Bush per Executive Order 13171 (Representation of Hispanics in the Federal Workforce).



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## Guidelines

### January 2<sup>nd</sup> -March 28<sup>th</sup> - **Student Nomination**

- *Eligibility requirements:*
  - ❖ Hispanic High School Students (*class of 2009 and 2010*)
  - ❖ GPA 2.5 or higher (recommended)
  - ❖ Demonstrated Leadership Potential
- *Provide students with the following:*
  - ❖ Information about the program (Flyer and Parent Brochure)
  - ❖ Guidance on writing a **personal statement** of up to 500 words prior to registering online

### January 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup> - **Student Online Registration**

- *Students must register at [www.hispanicyouth.org](http://www.hispanicyouth.org)*
  - ❖ Student must have a valid email – Confirmations will be sent to the email address
  - ❖ Provide students with your email address which should be added in the reference column on the online application.
  - ❖ Student must submit personal statement - Please encourage students to save the personal statement in a Word document and copy / paste it onto the online application.

### April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup> - **Student Acceptance**

- *Student that meet the criteria will be mailed the following:*
  - ❖ Acceptance Letter or Waitlist Notification
  - ❖ Code of Conduct
  - ❖ Parent Consent and Emergency Contact Information Forms
  - ❖ Competition Forms - Speech, Art, and Talent Competitions
  - ❖ Things to Bring
  - ❖ Transportation Information
  - ❖ Self-addressed stamped envelope – At this time, students can submit their \$10 personal investment check or Money order with their forms. Checks or Money Orders are Payable to: Hispanic College Fund For: (Name of Student) , 1301 K St., NW, Suite 450A West, NW Washington, DC 20005

### May 1<sup>st</sup> – June 15<sup>th</sup> – **Student Confirmation**

- Students will be called to confirm participation and transportation arrangements.



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## Personal Statement

*In a one to two page statement, tell us about a person you admire and how he or she has had a positive impact on your life. You can choose anyone you would like, from a family member, to a friend, to an historical figure.*

*First, break the question down by parts. Remember the theme and draw on personal experiences to support your statements.*

### **Introduction Paragraph**

Briefly introduce what you will talk about in your essay.

### **Body Paragraph One**

State your first main idea: *tell us about a person you admire the most.*  
Use one or two examples to back up your statement

### **Body Paragraph Two**

State your second main idea: *how he or she has had a positive impact on your life*

### **Conclusion Paragraph**

What conclusion can you draw from what you have written? What do you want the reader to remember?



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## **HYI Contact Information**

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*Thank You!*