



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

THE LATIN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, INC. PO BOX 80, PRINCETON NJ 08542
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CELEBRATING FUTURO CLASS OF 2021

The fourth *FUTURO* cohort has been making us very proud and surpassing our high expectations, since they joined the program in November of last year. They are all high school juniors from four different local schools: Trenton High, Foundation Academy, Nottingham High, and Trenton Catholic Academy.

Recently, they were hosted by the Latin Connection Team Member Network of Wells Fargo Bank at the company’s regional headquarters in Carnegie Center, Princeton. The Latin Connection employee group is presided by **Moses Santizo**, District Manager at Wells Fargo and a member of LALDEF’s Board of Trustees.



Our students were euphoric about the experience. **Mariolim Orantes-Azcona**, summed it up as “...truly eye opening. I met inspiring people, members of minority groups, who through dedication and hard work have been able to achieve high level positions. This experience taught me that it is possible to overcome barriers, achieve all my goals and be successful”. For **Mariana Sanchez**, the visit was a discovery: “I had no idea of all that goes on behind the scenes at a big bank”.

Three *FUTURO* students have also made it into the prestigious and highly selective **QuestBridge** College Prep Scholars program,

and traveled to Yale University for an all-day conference. They met with 1,000 other outstanding low-income high school juniors selected to get an early start in the admission, process and in qualifying for full scholarships to top-tier colleges.



For **Luis Gasca**, the conference “was a unique experience. It motivated me to reset my goals higher. I now have a clearer perspective of the options available and that there are great universities seeking underrepresented students like me, which made me feel special.” And for **Steven Puac**, “the Wells Fargo visit and Yale conference opened my eyes to the world of opportunity that exists. For a young person, it is difficult to obtain such kind of exposure to the real world.”

We are excitedly looking forward to continuing to work with, guide and support these aspiring, bright young people as they graduate high school and transition into college next year. *FUTURO* is one of the programs offered at our Welcome House Community Center, funded through generous grants from **The Princeton Area Community Foundation, Bunbury Company** and the **Mary Owen Borden Foundation**.

Interested in volunteering at LALDEF? Check our website for current openings:

www.LALDEF.org

or contact us

609.688.0881

info@LALDEF.org

Or stop by our office:

Welcome House/Casa de Bienvenida

669 Chambers St. suite B, Trenton

ANNOUNCING JOBMERCER!!!



It's been on our to-do list for some time, but it's finally here. Thank to generous grants from the **Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce** and the **Wells Fargo Foundation** which funded the development phase, **JobsMercer** was just launched to fill the gap between employers who find it difficult to identify candidates with appropriate qualifications for entry or semi-skilled jobs, and job seekers looking for opportunities that meet their current skills and compensation requirements. Our goal is to gather and disseminate information in a way that increases employment opportunities and improves employment decision making.

We connect qualified workers and available jobs by offering a "virtual hiring hall" in which workers would register their skills, experience and availability, and local employers could post job openings. For-profit temporary agencies already perform this function to some extent, they do not provide a direly needed role as advocates to prevent and correct the chronic abuses to which these workers are too often exposed.

Our clients have skills and a work ethic that is prized by many employers in the area with openings for these kinds of workers, mostly performing manual or physically demanding tasks, and often for seasonal or temporary work, primarily in the service sector. However, our clients experience a number of barriers in finding employment, related to their low levels of English language fluency, low formal education, lack of access to their own means of transportation, or knowledge about the local job market. They are also often the victims of unscrupulous employers who seek to exploit these disadvantages by disregarding prevailing wage, insurance and workplace safety regulations. That is why we created **JobsMercer**

If you are an employer seeking to fill a job opening, visit our Website, www.JobsMercer.org, and enroll in a free 3-month trial membership, without any obligation. List an unlimited number of jobs. You can chose to post your listing online, or keep it private. Either way, we will refer you to qualified, available workers who meet your criteria.

Unemployed jobseekers, or those looking for a second or better job, should call **JobsMercer** to set up a personal interview. During the interview, we will collect information about your work history, skills, and objectives, and provide you with a resume to present to prospective employers. You can also choose to post your profile online, or stay private, and just be notified when a job that meets your requirements becomes available. There is also a no obligation, free, 3-month trail membership.

Questions? Call us at 609-688-0881.

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HIGHTSTOWN: Mon-Fri./Lun-Vie. 9AM-1PM & 2-5 PM

RISE, 116 North Main Street, Hightstown

PRINCETON: Thurs./Jueves 12-2 PM & 5-7 PM

Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon St. Room/Sala 232

TRENTON: Saturdays/sábados, 11AM – 1PM and

Wednesdays/miércoles, 3 – 5PM

Welcome House/Casa de Bienvenida, 669 Chambers St., (first floor/pliso bajo)

TRENTON/EWING: Every third Thursday/Cada tercer jueves, 5 – 7PM

Covenant Presbyterian Church, 471 Parkway Ave., (back entrance/entrada trasera)

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