



THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE

JEWISH STUDENT LEADERSHIP FOR A DIVERSE WORLD

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Theme: JEWISH-LATINO OUTREACH

*A Project funded by the Los Angeles Jewish Community Foundation's
Cutting Edge Grant Initiative*

About the Project

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance, an international authority in anti-bias and leadership education, developed the *Jewish Student Leadership for a Diverse World* internship program to prepare Jewish college and university sophomores and juniors for living, working and representing the Jewish people in a diverse world. It combines the cutting edge practical wisdom of some of today's foremost Jewish leaders with iACT's dynamic activist projects and the best in experiential learning practices, some of which have been pioneered in the private sector with corporate executives as well as NGO leaders.

The goals are to equip each student with the awareness, information and practical skills to interact in a diverse world, confront misinformation about Jews and Israel, and build bridges of understanding for mutual support. The practical focus of the course is on outreach and coalition-building with Latino communities as our neighbors and allies.

Interns will receive a \$4,000 stipend for their participation.

The Schedule

The program involves a student commitment for the entire academic year 2009-2010.

1st Semester: September – December 2009

During the first 4 months, students will meet every Tuesday afternoon per week (excluding Holidays) for course work (see web site for detailed calendar).

2nd Semester: January – May, 2010

Students will meet once per month at the MOT for continued coursework and will arrange their weekly schedules devoting time to a community outreach project and for checking in with the program coordinator.

Location

The sessions will be held mostly at the MOT, with occasional trips to various parts of LA, the Valley, or downtown for field trips related to coursework.

Course Content

September – December 2009:

The course covers Jewish and Latino identity, history and values, inter-cultural competency, and facilitation and communication skills. We will examine current demographics and policy issues facing each group and identify ways to encourage mutual understanding and support.

Mid-way through the first semester, interns will meet and engage in cross-cultural dialogue with Latino peer youth leaders as part of a specialized Intercultural Institute.

The program leverages the MOT's and highly diverse exhibit content, audiences, partners and faculty, along with iACT's dynamic outreach expertise, to offer leadership development and skills-building in a real world environment for real world results.

General Course Topics:

- On Being Jewish in a Diverse World: 21st Century Challenges
- Leadership: What is a Leader?
- Identity: What Does it Mean to be Jewish?
- Jewish Diversity in LA and the World
- Jewish 'Public Relations': a Crash Course in Media Bias and what to do about it
- Diverse LA: Who Are Our neighbors? What are their issues?
- Inter-Cultural Communications Skills building
- Anti-Bias Education: Recognizing our Own Prejudices and Confronting Discrimination
- Emotional Intelligence and Diversity Competency
- Cross-Cultural Encounters: Dialogue and Learning with Latino Youth Leaders
- Dialogue Facilitation and Communication Skills: Growing one's Tool-Kit
- Building Allies: Who and How

Course Presenters:

The course will include a broad range of outstanding presenters. Participants will have unique opportunities to meet with and hear from the Senior SWC leadership such as Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Rabbi Aron Hier, Liebe Geft, among other prominent Jewish leaders and educators. There will also be special guest presentations from representatives from the Israeli Consulate, Encompass Theater Group, Cesar Chavez Foundation, UCLA professors, EIDI-Results consultants, and many more.

Methods:

Interactive workshops, collaborative learning, journaling, theater presentation, project planning, goal-setting, group work, simulations, research, panels of experts, reflection activities, creative expression project reports.

Community Outreach Project

January – May 2010:

In this second half of the course, a framework will be introduced for how participants can put their leadership knowledge and skills into action. Using the iACT model, students will participate in Jewish leadership projects, community mapping exercises and undertake fact-finding field trips to plan their outreach service project. With support from our Latino community partners, students will design their own final projects, which will focus on Jewish outreach to Latino communities. Students will be asked to work in small teams to pick a project, research the need, implement the outreach project, write-up the results and prepare to present findings to the larger community.

Ongoing support and individual guidance will be provided by the program coordinator to every student on a regular and as-needed basis.

Graduation

The final stage of the program is a Graduation event where students present the results of their community service/outreach projects in multi-media formats. Students will be encouraged to present their project findings in creative media such as web sites, videos, blogs, etc. that can serve as lasting and meaningful projects to be continually developed over time by the students or colleagues at their school or community organization. A large public event will be held in the Museum's Peltz Theater with Jewish Community Foundation leaders and media present. Family members, friends, project partners, and interested community members are invited to celebrate student accomplishments and show support for the inter-cultural initiatives created through this project.

All students will receive certificates of completion and their work will be showcased on the Museum of Tolerance's web site and newsletter.