

Marianists Urban Students Program

San Antonio

The Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP) is an outreach program of the Marianists of the Province of the United States. Being a Marianist Urban Student Scholar gives young men and women a tremendous opportunity to develop their academic and leadership potential. The program provides tuition assistance, leadership training, academic coaching, personal mentoring, service opportunities and enrichment activities.

The goals of the MUSP-San Antonio program are to:

- develop to the fullest extent possible the academic and leadership potential of each young man in the program.
- develop in each young man a sense of worth and a desire to share his talents and abilities with his church and civic communities.
- motivate the young men to want to do his best in school to reach his potential and goals.
- motivate the young man to desire and pursue post high school education.
- develop and foster a sense of responsibility and a feeling of obligation to “give back” to the community particularly through his involvement as an adult.

Regarding MUSP-San Antonio, an important facet of the program is to develop in each young man a sense of service and leadership. To help develop this sense of giving back to their community and developing leadership skills, MUSP-San Antonio has partnered with the National Hispanic Institute which provides personal and skill building experiences for high school age Latinos and Latinas throughout the United States and internationally. Of the 12 young men currently in MUSP-San Antonio, nine have been accepted into one of three selective programs that will take place this second semester and for a week or so during the summer in different locations throughout Texas and the United States.

The **freshmen** in MUSP-San Antonio will participate in the Young Leaders Conference-Texas Great Debate which will be held at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. The Great Debate allows high school freshmen the opportunity to test and

improve their written and verbal communication skills through organized discussions and debates about issues that impact today's Latino community. Through this program, these young men will gain confidence in public speaking and an appreciation of communication as a powerful tool of leadership. These young men, along with approximately 200 other young Latinos and Latinas from around the United States, will gain experience creating content-rich arguments, communicating them through powerful expression and carefully analyzing the arguments presented by their peers.

The **sophomores** in MUSP-San Antonio will participate in the Lorenzo DeZavala Youth Legislative Session Program which will be held in Georgetown, Texas, at Southwestern University and also in the chambers of the Governor of Texas, the State House, the State Senate and the State Supreme Court in Austin. By assuming the roles and responsibilities of these state officials, the students are asked to assess the promise and potential of a community rooted in a reality of dual cultures. Critical thinking, collaboration, and the ability to influence outcomes will emerge as essential skills to facilitate success as a leader in the 21st century. The students in this program will increase their confidence and aptitude for building collaborative relationships in group settings. They will also see the importance of dedicating themselves to personal excellence and continued studies at national and international levels. The program also broadens the participants' global perspective.

The **juniors** in MUSP-San Antonio will participate in the College World Series Program which will be held this summer on the East Coast. The program is designed for students who not only wish to make informed choices about college, but who are ready to evaluate, analyze, and make conscious decisions about their life direction. The program builds success behaviors for students to excel in the college admission process and in college life, both academically and socially, while engaging students to reflect on the cultural, moral, social and personal values that inform their identity and life goals. This program also extends leadership beyond academic credentials, status, and career into a life driven by purpose.