

4th Quarter 2011
“VISTA L.A.” MAGAZINE SHOW

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SUMMARY:

ADELANTE YOUNG MENS CONFERENCE

Organized by the Pasadena Youth Center, the Adelante Young Men’s (AYM) Conference attempts to make a positive difference in the lives of Latino high school boys by providing inspirational speakers, information on the road to college and career workshops presented by Latino professionals from a variety of fields. Interviews with: John Muir High School Student Gilberto Fonseca; College Counselor Federico Saucedo; Pasadena Youth Center Executive Director Stella Murga; Conference Chair & Pasadena Police Commander John Perez; California Assembly Member Gil Cedillo; Pasadena Community College President Mark Rocha

VERBUM DEI HIGH SCHOOL

Located in Watts and run by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Jesuit Order, this high-performing, all-male high school boasts a 100% college acceptance rate. With funds from corporations and private donors, these mostly Latino students receive college prep guidance as well as workplace experience. Interviews with: Verbum Dei High School Student Julio Ceja; Father Bill Muller, Verbum Dei High School President

LATINO FRATERNITY

With male Latinos still in the minority at many colleges, the Gamma Zeta Alpha Fraternity serves as a haven for students trying to navigate college life as well as maintaining ties with their culture. The fraternity also connects students with a network of alumni to help them succeed in their careers. Interviews with: UCLA Students and Gamma Zeta Alpha Members Richard Corral and Roberto Villa; Gamma Zeta Alpha Founding Father Alex Calvario

SAL CASTRO

As a teacher in the ‘60s, Sal Castro recognized the disparity in education for Latino students. That’s when he helped mobilize students to protest, resulting in the historic student walkouts of 1968 in which thousands of students took to the streets. This protest became the inspiration for the HBO movie, “Walk Out,” with actor Michael Pena. And now, a local school has been re-named Sal Castro Middle School in his honor. Interviews with Educator/Activist Sal Castro; Actor Michael Pena

CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS PRESIDENT

As one of seven children raised by Puerto Rican parents in the low-income projects in New York, Mildred Garcia had little hope of a higher education. But, with determination and the help of encouraging teachers, she not only graduated from college, she went on to become the first Latina President in the California State University system. Recently named as a member of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans by President Obama, Ms. Garcia hopes to bring about even more change in education for disadvantaged kids in addition to what she has already accomplished at CSU Dominguez Hills. Interview with: CSU Dominguez Hills President Dr. Mildred Garcia

THE ACCELERATED SCHOOL

As a former public school teacher, Johnathan Williams is well-aware of how the Los Angeles Unified School District functions. So, he and a fellow teacher took matters into their own hands by raising funds from corporations and donations to create a new business model for education which became The Accelerated School. Their philosophy is to treat each student as gifted, with grades K-12 located on one campus in South Central L.A. With the addition of CEO Joaquin Hernandez, the school has changed the curriculum to emphasize longer classes, more sports, arts and music classes as well as preparing students for college.

Interviews with: Johnathan Williams, Founder of The Accelerated School; Joaquin Hernandez, CEO of The Accelerated School; Arisbeth Diaz, 1st Grade Teacher; Jael Gonzalez, Parent; Jeanette Ayala, TAS Alumnus/Graduate of UCSD; Chaka Jaliwa, TAS Alumnus/Graduate of Yale University

YOUNG EISNER SCHOLARS

Thirteen years ago, entertainment lawyer Eric Eisner, wondered what would happen if he took some of the brightest kids from inner-city schools and got them full scholarships to high-performing schools. His experiment proved a huge success for high-achieving, but frustrated L.A. public school students who now thrive academically in their new school environments.

As a result, many of his students have gone on to elite universities and successful careers.

Interviews with: Eric Eisner, Founder, Young Eisner Scholars; Maria Quinonez, Student, Harvard-Westlake School; Gabriel Quinonez, Student, Harvard Westlake School; Sebastien Kelliher-Hernandez, Student, Curtis School; Milvia Hernandez, Parent; Erin Kelliher-Hernandez, Student, Curtis School

HOSTS:

Jovana Lara, ABC7 Anchor/Reporter; Danny Romero, ABC7 Weathercaster