Latinx Youth Summit

Strengthening and Valuing Latinx Communities in Iowa

October 17, 2019
Iowa Memorial Union
Iowa City, Iowa
Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez was born in Managua, Nicaragua but calls Nashville, Tennessee home. She got her Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt University in the Spring of 2015.

The bulk of her work is around making accessible, through story telling and curating content, the theories and heavy material that is oftentimes only taught in the racist/classist institutions known as academia. To date she has published over 200 articles online and participated in the YA anthology "Nevertheless, We Persisted."

She started the platform Latina Rebels in 2013, and currently it boasts over 200k organic followers online. She has been featured in Telemundo, Univision, Mitú, Huffington Post Latino Voices, Guerrilla Feminism, Latina Mag, Cos-

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### Agenda for Latinx Youth Summit  
*October 17, 2019*

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<td>8:00-9:00</td>
<td>Check in and Continental Breakfast – Second Floor Ballroom, Iowa Memorial Union</td>
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<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td>Welcome: Dr. Nadine Petty— Executive Director Center for Diversity &amp; Enrichment</td>
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<td>9:15-10:15</td>
<td>Keynote: Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez</td>
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<td>History Competition Awards- Second Floor Ballroom</td>
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<td>Travel to workshops</td>
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<td>Workshop Session II</td>
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<td>Travel to 2nd floor Ballroom</td>
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<td>2:00-2:15</td>
<td>Closing Remarks– Music and Event pictures</td>
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Session 1 Workshops

Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez “Demystifying Storytelling”

Explore the many ways that traditional moods of survival are taken from the communities that need them. Storytelling is an indigenous tradition, which is used to teach lessons, share wisdom, and give out warnings. Storytelling is also how communities can begin to heal from generational traumas, yet so few people believe in themselves enough to tap into this part of themselves. In this workshop we will demystify storytelling and shed it’s layers of colonialism, in order to learn to heal communally (together).

Norma Dorado Robles “Find your Path through Valentina”

Learn about leadership concepts through the Indigenous wisdom of the medicine wheel and the Circle of courage model (Belonging, Independence, Mastery and Generosity). Youth will be able to reflect upon their personal desires and setting up goals in a more reflective, passionate and interactive way. Though the Circle of Courage and Experiential Learning Model concepts you will do, reflect and apply these concepts into your life, to become effective leaders and help family, school, community, their country and their world thrive.

Kit Gerken “Who Am I”

This is an interactive workshop to help youth understand how they fit in the world around them and how they can make a difference by stepping out of their “comfort” zone.

Kevin Drahos and Cesar Perez “Hawk the Vote”

We recognize that voting can be complicated and confusing, especially for students who are often first-time voters and new to Iowa City. We aim to provide non-partisan information about voter registration and voting to ensure that everyone can actively participate in the democratic process. Your vote is your voice, #HawkTheVote
Session I Workshops

Chris Vazquez “#DOESUIOWALOVEME: How activism creates change”

#DOESUIOWALOVEME is a campaign started by students for the students. UIowa students gathered at the Latino Native American Cultural Center in response to hate on campus. This led to a viral social media campaign in Iowa where students expressed the faults at Iowa. Which led the University of Iowa to relook at the diversity, equity and inclusion plan.

Karin Stein and Edgar East “Environmental Superheroes!”

Join the growing league of environmental superheroes in this fun program sponsored by Ecomadres (a branch of Green Latinos, www.greenlatinos.org)! Through a drum circle and South American panpipe activity, we will explore the interconnectedness of things and brainstorm about ways in which we can all work in favor of clean air and against climate change in our communities. Are you ready for the challenge? Any level of involvement counts! You, too, can be an environmental superhero and a proud example of how Latinx youth is actively thinking about the future of our planet.

Cecilia Martinez “The Students Become The Teachers: An Interactive Activity”

Before we can create a solution we must identify the problem. Educators and adults often make guesses toward what students’ views are surrounding higher education. Why not just ask them? In this interactive workshop, students are invited to give their input into how they feel about higher education and what they think we should do to make it better. Educators are invited to come in and challenge their points of view and ask themselves what they can be doing to better support students.
Session I Workshops

Dana Dominguez “Identity War: Finding Balance Within and Stopping the Hand Against Us”

Every 30 seconds, a Latinx youth turns 18 and becomes eligible to vote. That's about 66,000 every month, or 800,000 every year, according to the Pew Research Center. YOU have the power and voice to change history, right now, at the age you are this second. This workshop will guide participants through a quick activity to bring identity and leadership strengths together. This will be discussion-led, and will allow each person to map out their spheres of influence and devise a plan of how they can apply their leadership skills to making real social change.

History Competition

We are so excited to host the Latinx History Competition again this year. Students registered for the Summit can participate individually, with a limit of 3 students per school. Students will be judged by University of Iowa Faculty and Staff. We will have an award ceremony during lunch and summit attendees will be able to learn about the History Competition projects and connect with the participants during lunch.
Session II Workshops

Modei Akyea “Ashé—rhythm”

This workshop explores how to decode the DNA of Afro-Cuban dance movements in popular social dance—in this instance mambo (or salsa.) It explores how the codified social meaning of the movements and the music help us to learn about ourselves, about tradition and progress, about listening, sharing and emotional exchange. In dance all sensations are accessible and present. Dance forms an energetic canvas unto which one expresses their complete, honest and authentic self—the foundation of self-esteem. It enables drawing from within without judgement to gain new perspectives on ourselves. Activities in the workshop will be in the form of a participatory class where students will be asked to creatively combine learned social dance patterns. It aims to expose participants to tools which can help create in their experience a context where time and space exist—a home—where they intimately feel safe expressing themselves.

Kat Esquivel and Angela Guerrero “Web of Connection: A Discussion on Mental Health in Latinx Communities”

Mental health is an issue that is commonly stigmatized in Latinx communities. This presentation is centered around spreading awareness on mental health issues and how we can support and encourage individuals who may be struggling with their mental health. Participants of this workshop can expect a bracelet making activity and an interactive game involving yarn that will allow us to have a conversation about mental health and reflect on the importance of connection.
Session II Workshops

Maria Bruno “Where I'm From”
We will engage in the creative process through reflection, writing and painting to showcase our diverse Latinx identities.

Fatima Jayoma and Shalisa Gladney “Healthy Relationships”
An interactive workshop that encourages discussion & critical thinking around dynamics of healthy relationships as people of color. This will include a conversation about boundaries, consent and red flags.

Marlén Joanne Mendoza “Driving Systems Change through Policy & Advocacy”
“How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.” Dismantling harmful policies and designing new ones that center the experiences and voices of impacted populations is required to address many of the issues community leaders and advocates want to address in their communities. This is not an easy task and it takes long-term and sustained efforts over time from multiple stakeholders. During this 50-minute interactive workshop, participants will explore how advocacy is used to change policy and drive equitable systems change; engage in dialogue with others to begin developing an advocacy agenda; and learn tools to use in their communities. This is an introductory workshop is best suited for participants that have had little to no exposure to policy and advocacy development and strategy. Goals: - Demystify “policy” - Define systems of power and its implications on policy development - Gain an understanding of the essential components needed to develop a policy agenda - Participants will engage in a brainstorming activity to begin developing their own policy positions and advocacy agenda in an issue that impacts their communities; and - Participants will be exposed to tools that will help them to take the learnings from this workshop back home

[Image of Latin American flags]
Session II Workshops

Cueponi Cihuatl Espinoza “First impressions: The power of hearing people's testimonios”

Common perceptual tendencies often influence our perception of others and can lead us to blame people for their misfortunes, cling to first impressions, compare ourselves to others, and ways in which we communicate with people. Being able to recognize when this is occurring can help improve the way we treat people. In this session, people will have the opportunity to engage in a discussion about people’s testimonios. Participants will be challenged on their first impressions and will have the opportunity to reflect on their own testimonios.

Melinda Licht, Bob Kirby, Lori Adams, Brinda Shetty, Lori Ihrig “Creative. Curious. Problem solvers: Doing research as a LatinX student”

Are you that student who is always asking why, pushing boundaries, and exploring new ideas? Are you creative? Curious? A problem-solver? Then you have all the qualities of a researcher! Many students are surprised to find that they can perform research in high school and college – in every area from dance to engineering, design to chemistry. Research can help you develop the skills to solve problems and tackle the questions that matter to you. LatinX students are underrepresented in all areas of research in the US, which hinders research, since diverse groups are more successful than homogeneous groups. This workshop consists of a Q&A panel of current LatinX student researchers at the high school (x1), undergraduate (x3), and graduate level (x1). The panel will introduce participants to research and related opportunities for LatinX students, with a special focus on the challenges, fears, successes, resources, and solutions that they have encountered as LatinX students. During the session, participants will be asked to anonymously live text their questions to a moderator, who will relay the questions to the panelists. Participants will leave this workshop with an understanding of the research experience and the confidence needed to get involved.
Session II Workshops

Annali Ramirez “Reaching Out”

The goal of this workshop is to introduce the students to a perspective they may also encounter when they begin their college experience. It will begin by me telling my subjective experience as beginning college as a first-generation Mexican-American woman. I will expand on the dilemma of utilizing resources in college, and the importance of supporting students reaching out. It would be a more personal talk and I want the students by the end of the session to understand they deserve to utilize resources such as professor or TA office hours, Supplemental Instruction, tutoring, and more.

Gabriela Rivera and Mark Archibald “Find the Business Leader Inside Yourself”

There is of mystery and confusion about what it means to study business. There are also some assumptions about who should study business and for what purposes. Additionally there are many things high school students can be doing to better prepare themselves for studying business in college. Mark Archibald and Gabriela Rivera from the Tippie College of Business will offer insights into what it means to study business and pursue a career in or related to business. We will also offer more specific insights into what it actually means to get a degree in Accounting, Business Analytics, Economics, Finance, Management and Entrepreneurship, or Marketing. We will use local examples to illustrate the usefulness and application of each of these majors. We will also share information on course planning for those who want to apply to the college as well as the minimum requirements to be admitted. The college of business offers resources to help students to be successful in their classes and to get engaged in business related activities, experiences, and organizations. We will articulate the kinds of things first-year business students do to set themselves up for long-term success. We will give students practical tips for things they can be doing immediately to begin their journey towards the study of business.
Story: Dear Woke Brown Girl

You are eternal. You are neither here nor there, but everywhere. You carry the hood in your veins and academia in your heart. You have not forgotten where you come from, but have learned and earned your way into spaces not meant for you. Spaces that are uninviting to your kind. You are poderosa like that. Your vocabulary is vast and your wit is sharp. You are unstoppable.

You feel everything and feel nothing. You carry loads of pain for the displacement you’ve felt due to your need to question everything. But have had to accept living that confused and living that awake because once you’ve heard your chains rattle, you cannot unhear them. You do this for you, but you also do this for your mami and your papi and your little hermanita who does not seem to understand herself outside the boxes that our cultura has placed her in.

You belong to no one but are accountable to many. La Raza depends on you. Do not let anyone else tell you differently. You complicate respectability politics and you do not give a fuck that you are doing it. Do you, woke brown girl. You have a fire that is burning inside of you, and that comes from your mothers side. You are going places that no one in your family has ever been and you are fearful of your fearlessness.

Your laugh carries liberation in it. Men try to pin you down, have tried to claim you, but you have resisted because you are not meant to belong to anyone. You belong entirely to yourself. No one can hold that much glitter in their hands. Glitter is messy and overpowering and beautiful. Woke brown girl, you are remarkable.

Your parents brag about your brilliance all while exhorting you to be more like their friend’s daughters, who have husbands and children. But it is because you are ground-breaking, that they do not know what to do with their woke brown girl. They have not been able to hold your fire for some time now, but it is okay because it is your turn to hold them in your heart and in your mind as you dismantle oppressive structures that have kept your parents down. But not you, woke brown girl, so you owe it to them to keep fighting.

That day you stood up in class, and demanded, yes YOU made demands of your white male professor, on that day you recalled your ancestors who resisted and defied all odds by surviving and thriving and continuing. Remember them. Remember us.

Woke brown girl, do not let them take away your passion. And boy will they try, without any compassion, to keep you down. But remember that without passion you will extinguish, and if for some reason you do and you might, there will be other woke brown girls to pick you and light you up again.

Because, woke brown girl, we need each other.

*inspired by foremother: Anzaldua.

Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez

www.priscadorcasc.com
Thank you!

The committee would like to thank everyone that participated in making this event possible. To our donors, volunteers, committee members, community members, facilitators, and attendees. We appreciate all of your time, collaboration, love, and effort. Together we continue to strengthen, support, and encourage Iowa’s Latinx people. We are a strong community thanks to you, and we are looking forward to continue with this important work in the years followed.