

RAFAEL CINTRÓN ORTIZ **LATINO CULTURAL CENTER**

Assessment of
UIC Latino Student Organizations

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University of Illinois at Chicago

For more information about the Latino Cultural Center
see our website latinocultural.uic.edu or call 312.996-3095

Introduction

In the spring of 2012 the **UIC Latino Cultural Center** (LCC or the Center) conducted an assessment of UIC Latino student organizations as a response to concerns voiced by students who visit the LCC and members of the LCC Ambassador Group. At the heart of these concerns was the question of how the LCC could help expand the capacity of these organizations to sustain and improve their efforts.

This assessment had two folds: 1) To better understand the needs of these organizations to advance their mission, and 2) To think of ways that we could address the needs of these organizations while deepening their engagement with the LCC.

Assessment Methodology

This assessment was conducted by Eduardo Muñoz, an undergraduate student in the Department of Urban Planning and Policy, as part of his internship with the LCC during the spring semester.

Eduardo met with leaders and members of 19 Latino student organizations out of 22 Latino organizations at UIC. He interviewed a total of 47 student leaders and members. Each interview consisted of four general questions.

1. What is your organization's mission?
2. How are you accomplishing your mission?
3. How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give specific examples; (event/meeting)
4. What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

Assessment Participants

The following Latino student organizations participated in the assessment:

Alpha Delta Rho Multicultural Sorority, Inc.

FUEGO

Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc.

HACE@UIC-Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement

HOLA - Health Oriented Latino Association

Kappa Pi Beta Fraternity, Inc.

La Unidad Latina Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc.

LABS - Latino Association of Business Students

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.

LUCHA - Latino/a Educators United for Change

MeSA-Mexican Students de Aztlan

O.W.L.S. in C.U.S. at UIC-Organization of Women Looking for Sisterhood in Chi Upsilon Sigma

Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc.

P.I.N.K. Ladies of Success

SHPE-Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.

SJP - Students for Justice in Palestine

UPRS - Union for Puerto Rican Students

Assessment Interviews

Name of Organization: Alpha Delta Rho Multicultural Sorority, Inc.

Date: February 01, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

We are the sisters of Alpha Delta Rho Multicultural Sorority, Inc. (also known as the Angels). We are a social sorority and were founded at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1999. Alpha Delta Rho's three pillars are the advancement of women, professionalism, and diversity. While at the university we strive to accomplish this by developing socially and academically, as we also ground ourselves in social awareness. We not only prepare ourselves for life after

college, we prepare our sisters to be leaders of a multicultural world. We wholeheartedly believe that we can and should contribute to our community, both local and global.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

We are accomplishing our mission to develop and support well-rounded women at UIC by ensuring that our sisters are aware of all the opportunities that UIC has to offer. We also provide a guide to the resources UIC provides, and ensure that we are involved in various communities to show presence. Throughout the UIC campus, we are developing well-rounded women that have determination and strive to be leaders of our communities. Other ways of accomplishing our mission is by co-sponsoring food pantries at UIC and awareness of domestic affairs.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

Our organization is fairly new, but we have used the LCC to host informationals about our sorority. We would like to work towards building a stronger relationship with the LCC.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

So far we have found the LCC to provide us with plenty of opportunities to learn about different aspects of the world and pillars of diversity. Our organization would like to obtain training on handling problematic situations including disagreements within the organization, smoothly passing on leadership positions, and maintaining active members.

Name of Organization: FUEGO

Date: February 24, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

FUEGO is a multicultural Latino dance group. Our purpose is to educate and entertain the audience by presenting different types of Latino dances in combination with modern day dances from diverse cultures. We perform all kinds of Latin American dances such as salsa, samba, bachata, merengue, along with other cultural dances outside of Latin America such as hip-hop, African, jazz, etc. Each dance has a combination of either Latino dances with non-Latino dances or we just focus on Latino dances but from different cultures such as salsa and samba. This organization is for serious dancers who enjoy dancing and would love to learn new styles of dancing.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

As a new organization, FUEGO is still in the process of developing initiatives to accomplish its

mission. Future goals include performing in all UIC events as well as in congresses, parades, parties, competitions, etc. We would like to spread the word about all Latin American cultures. Besides doing dance performances, we would like to get involved in volunteering for different activities at UIC or in the surrounding communities. FUEGO wants to provide dance lessons for UIC students who are interested in dance. To help accomplish these goals, we will fundraise through socials, bake sales, and parties.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

The Latino Cultural Center has provided FUEGO, and many other organizations, with many resources and has been very helpful. We have been able to enjoy the Latino Cultural Center space for our auditions and meetings. We look forward to using the Latino Cultural Center for future events like socials and fundraisers.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

The LCC has helped many organizations a lot. One thing that the Latino Cultural Center can do to provide more assistance to us is to come up with more ideas in which we can fundraise. Also as mentioned earlier in our meeting, it is an excellent idea to provide us with training sessions such as training to be a better leader and build a successful organization. One last thing the LCC can do is throw more exciting and fun events where all the Latino organizations can attend, that way we can all join together, get to know each other better, and form a stronger Latino community at UIC.

Name of Organization: Health Oriented Latino Association (HOLA)

Date: February 25, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

The purpose of the Health Oriented Latino Association (HOLA) is to foster and encourage students of Latino and non-Latino origin in their pursuit of health professions by providing a venue of academic activities, social events, clinical skills trainings, hands-on volunteering opportunities, educational support, leadership opportunities, and professional health conferences members can take advantage of in order to further enrich their pre-health undergraduate experience at UIC. HOLA works closely with the Latino community and other minority communities through active advocacy and volunteerism in order to address the healthcare disparities found in such populations.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

HOLA brings in speakers to talk about topics relating to health, getting into medical school, and the daily life of an emergency medical doctor or nutritionist. We provide our members with workshops such as CPR certifications and training on the use of ADA equipment. We also find volunteering opportunities within local communities where members can receive hands-on experience dealing with patients. HOLA makes sure that every member is aware of multi-cultural health issues and affiliations.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

The Latino Cultural Center is our main meeting place. Recently HOLA held a suturing workshop. The Latino Cultural Center gives us a greater sense of responsibility in trying to help underrepresented students; especially the Latino population.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

As of right now, it seems to us that the Latino Cultural Center is giving us what we want, which is mainly just use of the space. However, we would like to have meetings with other Latino organizations once a semester to know about their plans. HOLA would like to attend or know about leadership programs to help underrepresented students.

Name of Organization: Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement Student Chapter at UIC (HACE@UIC)

Date: February 28, 2012

What is your organization’s mission?

HACE Student Chapter at UIC is an organization with the primary purpose to create greater access and opportunities for students at UIC by utilizing the HACE national organization, which is dedicated to the advancement of Latino professionals throughout all the stages of the career continuum. We have THREE components to our mission, in which members will be able to LEAD, CONNECT and GIVE BACK through his/her life and career development. HACE would like to positively impact the American workplace by cultivating the pipeline of Latino talents and providing professionals the insight access and support to be successful in their careers.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

HACE@UIC is a fairly new organization, founded in the Fall 2011 semester. We are in the process of letting other organizations know about us at UIC. We accomplish our mission by providing training in leadership development through principals of business environment. This involves teaching the differences between business casual and business dress codes. Part of our

components are to LEAD (host events), CONNECT (access to internships, jobs, and networking), and GIVE BACK (mentor high school students, serve on the Junior Board, and coach others). We tripled our group membership during the Spring 2012 semester.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

During the Spring 2012 semester, HACE@UIC requested space for our informational and to co-sponsor events with CHANCE and LTA sorority. Some of our members also use the gallery to study and do homework.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

HACE@UIC would like to obtain better access to the LCC's programs. In the near future HACE@UIC would like to collaborate with the LCC and other organizations to continue communication. We would like to have the LCC do a convening of Latino organizations to identify new leaders at UIC once a semester.

Name of Organization: Kappa Pi Beta Fraternity, Inc.

Date: February 28, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

As a newly established Greek organization on campus, we are excited to have the opportunity to bring the values that Kappa Pi Beta stands for to the UIC community. Brothers of Kappa Pi Beta always seek to defy the common stereotypes of fraternities, and seek to improve themselves in and outside of school. We strive to uphold our virtues of respect and discipline while maintaining a high academic standard. Our goal is to help the community through community service, and spread Asian awareness while instilling leadership and gentlemen values. Within the next few years, we hope to grow to become a major part of our community.

Although we are an Asian fraternity we don't solely concentrate in the Asian community, but work with people from other cultural backgrounds and would like to make more connections with Latino organizations.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

Our organization takes part in several philanthropy events all over the City of Chicago. We participate in the annual American Diabetes Association Expo held every April, help out in soup kitchens, clean up city parks, and hold our annual Pie-A-Bro event. Our organization holds our member's academics to a high standard; we constantly hold study tables and check in with brother's grades throughout the semester. We have tutoring sessions with older brothers for

those with the same major. Social mobility is obtained by networking with other organizations off campus, in the past they have included the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, DePaul, University of Chicago, and Loyola University. We treat everyone with respect, show humility, and genuine interest towards others. Professionalism is maintained by keeping business and personal issues separate. We try to complete any kind of paper work or conference calls as quickly as possible. Our organization tries to reach out to other communities including other Greeks, philanthropies and cultural organizations. We may be an Asian interest fraternity but we do not discriminate anyone based on race, sexuality, or nationality.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

At this time we have not used the Latino Cultural Center for any events or meetings.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

In the future we would like to use the Latino Cultural Center to hold events. Perhaps display our flyers at the Center to promote our events.

Name of Organization: Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

Date February 24, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

Our mission is to provide a sisterhood based on the principles of unity, love, and respect. Through these principles we develop strong leaders for our campus and local communities and provide a strong voice for all students. Our chapter aims to provide practical social, cultural, and political activities as well as charitable and educational programs. We are members of National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO).

How are you accomplishing your mission?

Our chapter continuously attempts to be actively involved throughout our campus. We are a relatively new organization on campus, established in the spring of 2009. Since then we have held numerous community service initiatives which include working at the Ronald McDonald House, being involved in college panels at local high schools, hosting UIC campus tours for elementary school children, cleaning/painting high schools and parks in Pilsen, and hosting various clothes collection drives with other campus organizations. So far, the largest community service project we have organized has been our St. Jude Dodge Ball Tournament. All of the proceeds collected will be donated to our national philanthropy, St. Jude Children's Research

Hospital. We host several workshops throughout the semester that include time management, professional/business etiquette, resume writing workshops, etc. We also provide a voter registration booth to the UIC community every semester. Last year our chapter took the leadership role organizing the annual UIC Latino Fest. We were able to bring an educational component to the two-day fest; we had a featured lecture titled "The Latinization of America." Currently our organization has spearheaded the task of establishing a NALFO (National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations) Council. This council would help unite Latino Greek organizations under a common mission, which would allow for more direct communication and unification among Latino Greeks on campus.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

The kinds of events that our chapter hosts at the LCC are informationals, and Founder's Week which deals with educational workshops and other events. In addition, we find the LCC easily accessible and comfortable for our guests, students, and ourselves. Most of our events such as workshops and lectures are held at the LCC. Also the mural is a great conversation starter with any of our guests!

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

We would like to learn more about effective planning, how to market ourselves, and what resources are available at UIC to help us. We believe that we would enjoy the benefit from having a forum to communicate more directly with the LCC staff and other student organizations; we understand this is currently being done. This can maybe be done by hosting a meeting twice a semester to learn about current issues, events, or accomplishments of student organizations. This would also allow student leaders to network with other campus affiliates.

Name of Organization: Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.

Date: March 04, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

To promote and practice unity and respect among all cultures and creeds, to promote brotherhood, to promote a high standard of learning, to develop character, and to practice chivalry while upholding dignity and self-identity. Our mission is to cultivate a spirit of brotherhood, value education, promote unity among all Latinos, to be proud of and cherish our heritage, assert roles of leadership, develop character, practice chivalry, and to serve mankind. Although we are historically Latino based, we are not solely a Latino Fraternity. We have Brothers of all different races, religions, and national origin.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

We teach our members to run an organization including the brotherhood, cultural and political aspects. We accomplish our goals by motivating each other with our school work; we serve as an academic support structure ensuring that our members graduate from UIC. We coordinate events about the UIC community, educating our members of resources available to them and other UIC students in general. We visit schools to speak about our experiences as UIC students in an attempt to motivate kids to continue their post-secondary education. We also inform our members about their culture.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

We use the Latino Cultural Center as a place to coordinate events and hold our informationals and other events such as LGBT workshops. We also utilize the computer lab because it provides us with a quiet place to study and a place to hang out with friends.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

Our organization would like to learn more about the LCC staff. We believe it is important for the LCC staff to know how organizations can help participate with the LCC. Aside from getting to know staff, we believe it would be ideal to have an LCC Open House for all Latino organizations to meet each other. We would like for the LCC to host an event to unify the different Latino organizations on campus.

Name of Organization Latino/a Educators United for Change (LUCHA)

Date: March 01, 2012

What is your organization’s mission?

Our aim is to foster learning opportunities for Latino/a students in the schools through active engagement, community and youth outreach, and culturally and community relevant educational practice. We also feel it is necessary to strengthen the pipeline of Latinos entering the field of teaching who are committed to serving the schools in our communities. We hope to create a community of leaders in education to advocate and teach for social change. Further, we strive to help our students see themselves as agents of change through their active participation in local and national issues that affect them and their communities.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

We are accomplishing our mission through community outreach such as tutoring at various Chicago schools and active participation in political activism throughout our communities. We also host an annual Future Teacher’s Conference to provide students a supplemental

experience and information outside of UIC coursework. We invite our past members and alumni to a panel every year to reconnect and to hear their experiences as educators and professionals. Our organization also visits Chicago Public Schools.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

We have used the space for various events like movie screenings, informationals, and social activities. We had a documentary screening last semester in the Latino Cultural Center on the corruption of the educational system in New Jersey.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

We would like to see workshops to better prepare new organization officers for their new roles, funding options and how to create a proposal. Also a workshop on how to effectively recruit and retain members for our organization would be very useful.

Name of Organization: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA)

Date: February 23, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

MeSA, Mexican Students de Aztlan, has emerged to primarily address pressing problems and issues affecting the Mexican and Latino communities. MeSA works to raise the importance of higher education, political, cultural awareness, and community involvement.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

MeSA is accomplishing its mission by providing services to UIC students and the communities around UIC. Some of the services provided by MeSA include citizenship workshops, civic engagement events, and partnership with the LCC for public events. We are also very much involved with the UIC Latino Fest. Although MeSA works with different demographics, we stay focused on our mission and UIC student needs.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

MeSA uses the LCC gallery for weekly meetings. The space provides MeSA with a progressive atmosphere. All of our events are held in the LCC; *Noche de Poetas*, *Escucha mi Grito*, *Dia de los Muertos* and more. We have also partnered with the LCC in a Zona Abierta presentation on P.E.R.R.O.'s environmental justice work in the Pilsen community.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

MeSA would like to receive training on the transitioning of leadership roles within our organization.

Name of Organization: O.W.L.S. in C.U.S.

Date: February 21, 2012

What is your organization’s mission?

To establish a unique sisterhood with capabilities to draw in new members who embrace appreciation for family, individuality, and collaboration with each other. Members take their dedication to new levels by creating bonds with members across chapters and regions. Sisters are women who not only exemplify and embody the essence of the organization, but also educate themselves and others about current social events that advance their understanding of the world and their communities. Members recognize this lifelong membership as a highly rewarding experience, in which we impart knowledge and wisdom throughout our encounters with one another. We like to focus on what happens outside UIC to build bridges and connect the college world with the real world.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

We are coming up with events in order to be known among the UIC community as well as for others to have a place to accomplish academic goals for future success. We connect women to others through wisdom and in that way become aware of political congregations.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give an example: (meeting/event) preferably recent?

We utilize the UIC Latino Cultural Center for meetings with our interest group as well as an open space for acceptance. We helped organize the “What’s LOVE got to do with it?” card-making workshop on February 13th 2012.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

Our organization would like to learn more about leadership processes and how to apply for grants under the SAFC funding including COF. The organization does not know how to go about requesting money to different organizations or college programs.

Name of Organization: Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Date: February 06, 2012

What is your organization’s mission?

Since its inception the members of Omega Delta have embraced and championed the ideals

promoted through the fraternity; brotherhood, education, respect, the importance of community, the magic of shared experiences, & the value of diversity. As a professional multi-cultural fraternity we take pride in the individuality of each member, and we share our experiences to make a true brotherhood.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

Our fraternity has study hours for our members yet we keep each other accountable to study as many hours as possible to perform better in school since our main goal is to graduate. One way we keep track of our study hours is by keeping an eye on each other on a monthly basis. We have joined the Midtown Tutoring Services in the Bucktown neighborhood in Chicago. We tutor 4th and 5th grade students. Some of the activities we do with the 4th and 5th grade students are play games and help with their homework. We work together to help improve those young students' grades.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

The Latino Cultural Center has been of great use to us. The LCC has provided us with meeting space including free services such as a projector and podium. On the other hand, SCE charges for any equipment we request. The LCC also gave us the opportunity to set up a table outside the building to fundraise for our entity.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

The UIC Latino Fest committee consists of many student organizations on this campus. One of the members suggested having a meeting for all Latino organizations so that we can get to know each other. We can even possibly do an activity to develop our leadership skills and communication among all the Latino organizations at UIC.

Name of Organization: Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

Date February 25, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) is a non-profit organization whose goal is to support individuals, academic excellence, professional development, and to create a sense of family security. In its effort to impact the community as well as the campus SHPE changes lives by empowering the Hispanic community to realize its fullest potential and to impact the world through STEM awareness, access, support, and development.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

We have monthly meetings with company representatives to build support when we graduate. These representatives encourage our members to work and/or intern with them before and after graduation because they know our members will become the source for quality engineers. As a group, we visit local daycares to actively encourage students to pursue a career in the STEM fields by doing science projects. We have SHPE Junior High School chapters and help guide students into college. Our hope is that once they are in college, they will pursue STEM related degrees and also serve as a support system for friendship, mentorship, leadership, and scholarship. As always we set a goal for all of our members to have at least two internships before graduating. We also provide a scholarship opportunity for a UIC student seeking an engineering degree.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

We have hosted several of our general meetings at the Latino Cultural Center, most recently in late January. It is a very warm environment and makes us feel closer to our members. We like to be reminded of our roots when we see the painted walls. We have an event called Halloween Outreach, where we create educational science experiments and fun activities with children.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

Our organization would like to see more science workshops or lectures related to these issues. We believe that if students have hands-on workshops, they would be able to learn more. We would like to see more social events to build a stronger network among the UIC organizations.

Name of Organization: Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.

Date: February 29, 2012

What is your organization’s mission?

Through a network of close to 4,500 multicultural sisters from collegiate chapters and alumnae associations located across the United States, we promote academic excellence and higher education for all women via the dedication and incorporation of the sorority's 5 basic principles – Academics, Community Service, Cultural Awareness, Morals & Ethics, and Social Interaction – in our lives.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

Our organization accomplishes its mission of academic excellence, community service and

cultural awareness with our Gamma Week. This is a series of events during the month of April that involves resume writing, morals and ethics, and cultural awareness.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. - Sigma Chapter, uses the UIC Latino Cultural Center for informational meetings. The LCC has also been an important part for our Gamma Week, which occurs every semester. We had events ranging from a henna tattoo workshop to a medical school workshop that took place at the LCC. We participated in the UIC Latino Fest meetings and use the gallery to study.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

The LCC has helped Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc-Sigma Chapter with space and other services for some of our events; however, it is hard to reserve the space since it is often booked. We would like for the LCC to help promote our events, and see more Latino-based series events. It will be helpful for our Executive Board members to know who works at the LCC for general information and for programs the LCC provides to students.

Name of Organization: Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

Date: February 29, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

SJP is a diverse group of students, faculty, staff and community members at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), organized on democratic principles to promote justice, human rights, liberation and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

SJP accomplishes its mission and teachings through film screenings, lectures and faith. When SJP has a movie screening, in many occasions, UIC professors come to the screening to provide a deeper understanding of the film and interaction among the students. Most of the films happen to be documentaries of Palestine or films that explain the principals of democratic reasoning. For all of the events that SJP hosts, we focus on inviting other groups to educate the importance of Palestinian people's lives and advocate for social justice. SJP fosters cultural identity by providing activities for social awareness.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

SJP collaborates with the LCC for the *Noche de Poetas* event series, which we have been part of

for 2 years. Through poetry, students can share their personal stories and the program unites different communities. Some of the students that share their poems deal with cultural identity and social justice, which is a great form of expressing feelings or thoughts. We provide film screenings that advocate for social justice. We also come to the LCC to learn about the latest research topics presented by UIC and visiting professors.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

SJP would like for the LCC to take the initiative to have the East and West campuses come together for a leadership conference and to advocate for social justice. There are many things that UIC students do not know, including how to take advantage of organizations or programs that are available for them. UIC has six cultural centers that can help student organizations during their events. The LCC should push for this leadership conference and ask organization leaders to attend. This meeting can be during the first week of school or before school starts. The kind of leadership training that can be provided by UIC would involve issues that are related to UIC to fulfill the needs of its students. Another way the LCC can help organizations is to ask them to get involved in volunteering. The LCC can help student organizations learn which community organizations need volunteer services and start a volunteer day. This would only include local schools and organizations and can be done once a month.

Name of Organization: Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc.

Date: February 28, 2012

What is your organization’s mission?

Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc. is a Latina-oriented organization that unites women through sisterhood. As an organization of professional young women we strive to excel academically, serve our community, raise cultural awareness and promote sisterhood. Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc. provides women seeking membership an equal opportunity without regard to race, age, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, marital status or disability. Furthermore, Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority Inc. aspires to recruit women who can add to the diverse mix of the organization’s body.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

Through our mission components, we emphasize academic development and cultural awareness. Every semester our sorority has a study-a-thon, we encourage our sisters to have a higher GPA than what is required. Daisy, this year’s academic officer is in charge to meet one on one with our members to guide them and help with any school related work. During the spring semester, we will be having a series of events that will encourage UIC students to participate

and learn valuable cultural information. This will include community service, a comedy show from local performers, resume writing workshops, study-a-thon, health fair, and other sports activities.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

Creating awareness of philanthropy, diabetes, and other health related issues would be beneficial for the UIC community. We use the LCC to screen documentaries regarding people's lives, for studying, and for our Gamma Phi Omega Founder's Week.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

We would like our events to be published at the LCC if possible. We would like to meet with someone from the LCC to identify resources and understand how organizations can work with the Center. Also, we would like for the LCC to have a meeting with all the Latino organizations to meet once a semester to know the organizations' plans and identify new leaders.

Name of Organization: Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS)

Date: February 27, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

Union for Puerto Rican Students UIC chapter is an organization open to Puerto Rican students. We are a group dedicated to promoting education in political, societal, and national agendas. We plan to engage in hosting, attending, and participating in many events and educational seminars throughout UIC and the Humboldt Park area. We do this to expand our knowledge and awareness about various issues, which play a relative role in the lives of everyone from a Puerto Rican perspective.

To build the pipeline for Latinos in high school to the university; focusing on cultural components. We are a Puerto Rican based organization but everyone is welcomed. This organization works to improve communities by promoting education and cultural events.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

UPRS has different events throughout the year, one of which is the *Pa'Lante* conference during the spring. This event involves critical dialogue on the themes, realities, and histories of the Puerto Rican people, both those residing on the island and in the diaspora. *Talento* is a conference and a fundraiser event to support groups and their organizations.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

UPRS collaborates with the LCC on the *Noche de Poetas* series. Film screenings can educate Puerto Rican and non-Puerto Rican communities about the island. UPRS has multiple meetings and workshops in the LCC because the LCC has an inviting environment and the murals represent immigrant struggles, which are related to our work.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

UPRS would like for the LCC to have a website where Latino organizations can view and learn about previous events that were held in the LCC by Latino organizations.

Name of Organization: Latino Association of Business Students (LABS)

Date: February 29, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

To enhance the professional skills of the students by providing activities and events that promote growth and personal development. Some of the issues we profoundly believe in are leadership development, career planning, and life-long learning. LABS is a pre-professionals organization affiliated with the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) chapter.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

Some of the issues that we profoundly believe in are leadership development, career planning, and life-long learning. We accomplish our mission by having weekly meetings and inviting professionals to provide their experience.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

Our organization has weekly meetings at the Latino Cultural Center, the majority of our events at UIC are held in the LCC.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

LABS would like to have a continued support from the Latino Cultural Center. We believe that the LCC should become a central unit for Latino student organizations at UIC to help address issues in the community. We also believe that the LCC can help provide some report for the organizations that participate in the LCC.

Name of Organization: P.I.N.K. Ladies of Success

Date: February 10, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

The purpose of this organization is to ensure that ladies put the needs of the community before their own. Moreover, it is an organization that wants to make a difference in peoples' lives through community service. We intend to make a change in our member's personal lives by learning to serve others. It is an academic and community organization.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

Since P.I.N.K. is a new organization, we accomplish our mission by doing community service, studying with each other, and ensuring our group keeps a good GPA.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

P.I.N.K. participated in the *Dia de los Muertos* public workshop where we crafted paper flowers and painted sugar skulls for an altar installation.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

P.I.N.K. would like to receive training on running a successful organization; beginning with getting funds, developing leadership positions, and the process of networking with other Latino student organizations.

Name of Organization: La Unidad Latina Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc.

Date: February 28, 2012

What is your organization's mission?

La Unidad Latina Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. is a fraternal service organization aimed at uniting men of all backgrounds in brotherhood. The fraternity believes in a diverse membership, a commitment to academics, a proactive vision towards raising awareness about the Latino culture and history, as well as setting a focus on networking, mentoring and community service. Our organization places a strong emphasis on establishing academic programs that aid in the retention, guidance, and improvement of students of all backgrounds in institutions of higher learning.

How are you accomplishing your mission?

We have a Founder's Week event where UIC students participate in a series of workshops. We have events such as a study-a-thon and professional development workshops including

preparing a resume. We volunteer in high schools by cleaning and painting classrooms. This helps us build a stronger connection among our members and high school students. Sometimes we have food drives and other educational workshops that help accomplish our mission.

How do you use the UIC Latino Cultural Center? Give a specific example; (event/meeting) preferably recent.

Almost every semester we have an event called *Sabor de Latinoamérica*. This is an event where food, music, and creativity are shared. We also host study groups at the Center. Our organization has participated in different public events at the LCC.

What would you like to see in the Latino Cultural Center to help your organization?

Helping promote our events like a website or location to help support all Latino organizations and maintain our cultures. The LCC can help connect student organizations with volunteer or internship opportunities in the Latino communities.

Overview of Findings

General ways that organizations are involved with the LCC (or use the space)
Hold weekly meetings, workshops, informationals, and social activities in the gallery space.
Participate in LCC events including <i>Noche de Poetas</i> , <i>Dia de los Muertos/Dia de Difuntos</i> , movie screenings and faculty presentations.
Use the student lab and gallery space to study.
Top needs/concerns of organizations
NETWORKING AMONG ORGANIZATIONS - Establishing and maintaining communication among the organizations so that they can collaborate and share resources.
MEMBER RECRUITMENT – Improve outreach proficiency and member retention.
PASSING LEADERSHIP- Preparing new members to transition leadership roles in their organizations.
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MURAL- Using the LCC mural as a tool to further their mission; to engage their members in discussions about current community issues and identity.
FUNDING- Expanding their scope for funding.

Sharing Findings with Student Organizations

Towards the end of the spring semester the LCC convened the Latino student organizations that participated in this assessment. The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Share the assessment findings and discuss the top needs that were identified
- Discuss ideas and identify assets to address the needs that were identified
- Discuss ideas to engage the organizations with the LCC in a deeper way (beyond using the space for their meetings and events)
- Select three needs that the LCC can start addressing in the next academic year

The convening was conducted in an interactive way to ensure that all leaders and members of the organizations in attendance had the opportunity to share their ideas and assets to address their organizations' needs and build a deeper engagement with the LCC. The group, comprised of 37 student leaders/members representing 12 organizations, worked with LCC staff and interns in small groups. Each small group worked on a specific need/topic and at the end reported their solution ideas to the entire group.

Group # 1: Connecting Latino student organizations with each other to build a strong network so that they can collaborate and share resources.

Discussion:

1. Create better ways of communication
 - Via e-mail
 - Listserv of events
 - Google calendar
 - Presidents of organizations to have access to the listserv
 - Create calendar of events for every organization
2. All organizations collaborate at least once per semester
3. Use the LCC website to list events from all organizations
4. All organizations meet once a month / twice a month to discuss objectives, news, etc

Group # 2: Better understanding of the LCC mural to link it to the mission of Latino student organizations

Discussion:

1. Diversity – Understanding everyone's backgrounds. LCC as a HUB for social change
2. Empowering women through cultural heritage – women as global citizens
3. Awareness of issues affecting education specifically the law in Arizona banning ethnic studies – Warrior Eagle

4. Academic excellence as a tool for empowerment
5. Connect image / mural and apply it to our message
6. Empowering students through a positive cultural identity
7. Creating unity for collaboration - a history in Latino communities
8. Linking past to the present and future
9. Related to one another – even though everyone is their own individual we are all part of similar stories

Group # 3: Recruiting members and maintaining their engagement

Discussion:

1. Personal connection:
 - Making the individual feel as if they are immediately part of the organization, giving them voice so that they can help shape the organization
 - Participating in the UIC Marketplace event during student orientations at to promote their organizations
 - Getting individuals out of their comfort zone by connecting them with other organizations with different missions
2. Need a short and clear mission statement

Group # 4: Helping with the transition of leadership positions

Discussion:

1. Leadership transition
 - Every other position is taken by general body (nominations)
 - Shadowing throughout the year
 - Nominations, acceptances, letter of intent, and elections
 - Nominations through email
 - Elections are after their 3rd conference
 - Summer trainings – to discuss responsibilities
 - Inform members what position responsibilities consist of and see who best fits each position
 - Leadership task assigned – to see their forte
 - Sophomore outreach
 - The use of a thumb drive to pass on information to the next leaders
 - Keep new members engaged
 - Have organization advisors meet to discuss what has worked well
 - Develop a “How-To-Guide” for the organizations

Group # 5: Identifying funding resources

Discussion:

1. Funding
 - Career fair
 - Traditional activities: bake sales, parties, t-shirt sales, etc.
 - Donations
 - Company sponsorship through representatives and advisors
 - Writing grant proposals
2. What UIC Offers:
 - COF – \$400 maximum
 - SAFC – No maximum quantity given
3. Grant Writing:
 - Classes at UIC
 - Writing Center can help _ use UIC resources to improve skills
4. Planning Events:
 - Connect with departments with similar interests
 - Get your organization involved
 - Co-sponsor events
5. Apply to internships:
 - Good vehicle to develop skills
 - Opportunities to network and put yourself out there

Ideas to engage with the LCC in deeper ways

1. Share resources between organizations and the LCC
2. Create a better process of partnerships between the organizations and the LCC in the different program initiatives
3. Participate in the LCC internship program
4. Create a calendar with the organizations' events and promote them
5. Create workshops using the mural and connecting it to current social justice issues
6. Use the LCC as a space for collaborating with organizations with similar missions
7. Introduce the LCC to new and current students and include the different Latino student organizations, i.e. LCC Open House
8. Improving communication with each other
9. Have Latino student organization brochures and documents at the LCC

10. Ideas in which leaders of the organizations can be engaged with the LCC
 - Latino collective board – have a student gathering that allows them to network and be engaged
 - When the LCC has events look for the organizations that can contribute for that particular topic. Reach out and invite organizations with similar interests
 - Create a listserv between the LCC and the executive boards of each student organization
 - It would be useful to have the LCC contact executive boards when they are planning an event
11. If the student organizations co-sponsor events with the LCC, they receive greater recognition and credibility
12. Have the LCC website accessible to the Latino student organizations
13. Develop a leadership program / conference
14. LARES working with the LCC
15. Workshops for business etiquette with employers or skills that need development
16. Employment for undocumented people
17. Health fairs at UIC

A Plan of Action

In the Fall 2012 semester, the LCC will begin to address some of the needs identified in the assessment through an internship program developed by the LCC for leaders of Latino student organizations. The LCC will select three student leaders, through an application process, who will work on projects that directly address these needs and deepen the engagement of the Latino student organizations with the LCC. These internship projects will develop strategies and tools to help the organizations:

- 1- Connect with each other to build a strong network among the Latino student organizations so they can better collaborate and share resources
- 2- Connect their mission to the LCC mural so they can use the mural as a tool to engage members in civic discussion and action
- 3- Transition leadership positions in their organizations