



**LATINOS
IN ACTION**

www.latinosinaction.org



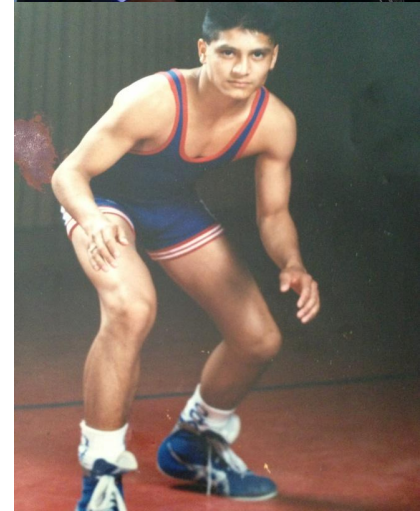
OUR HISTORY

Dr. José Enriquez is the Founder and CEO of Latinos In Action. His vision was not to build an organization, but to build Latino students into the leaders he knew they were capable of becoming.

As a teacher, and later an administrator, José saw again what he had noticed as a youth in Los Angeles: Latino youth were disengaged and disenfranchised at school. This kept students, who could offer their classrooms and communities a wealth of knowledge, experience, and unique perspectives, from graduating high school and college.

In 2001, José requested to start a class for Latino students that would help bridge this gap. The class evolved from a course about Latino heroes to one that taught Latino teens to BE heroes by mentoring others, serving in their community, and attaining Higher Education. Other schools throughout the county recognized the unique impact of the program and quickly adopted it. Then, in 2010, LIA became a nonprofit organization and spread rapidly throughout the Utah. Now, we are nationwide with over 200 schools.

And counting!



WHAT WE DO



Latinos In Action Annual Conference
(2019, Weber State University)



Latinos In Action Student Tutoring
(2018 Comcast PSA Commercial)





Pillars of LIA



THE PILLARS OF LIA



PERSONAL ASSETS

All LIA students identify and leverage their cultural, social, and personal assets.



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

All LIA students graduate high school, college and career ready.



SERVICE

All LIA students participate in weekly literacy tutoring to young students.



LEADERSHIP

All LIA students take on leadership positions in LIA committees. All LIA students perceive themselves as leaders.



Tutoring at an Elementary School

As an LIA student, you will participate in weekly tutoring at a Partner Elementary School during your class period. There, you are paired one-on-one with an elementary school student or “tutee.” Not only do you help the student academically, but you also become a role model for them.



On the Elementary School Experience...

Carlos Lopez



“For two years I’ve worked with my tutee Pablo and he is making huge reading progress. My experience with him has me believing that I can contribute to my community and that a college education is how I’ll do that.”



Student **Leadership** Committees

ALL LIA students participate in student leadership committees which meet for at least 20 minutes each week to plan activities.

COMMITTEE	PURPOSE
Service	To plan and execute meaningful service activities – outside of weekly tutoring – to promote lifelong volunteerism, involvement, and pride in the school, community, and country.
Social	To plan and execute activities to promote social interaction and build friendships among LIA students, the student body, teachers, parents, and the community.
Professional	To plan and execute activities to promote college achievement, career exploration, and professional behavior.



Preparing for College & Career...

On the days when we are not tutoring, we receive training in leadership, job skills, and college preparation. We often visit college campuses and professional workplaces.



A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE...

Stephanie **Pesantes**

"LIA taught me to be responsible. It taught me that the more I put my mind and heart into things, the more I will accomplish. It taught me how to be a leader and to serve and love all those around me. It just made me a better person."



My name is Ismael Villegas. Now, Latino's in Action has been a part of my life for 5 years now. This program is one of the best things to happen to the Hispanics in America. What this program does is beyond education. This program breaks barriers.

At Layton High, we go over to Whitesides Elementary to perform our duties. What's awesome is that these kids see us as super heroes. Well, at first they look at us like strangers. "Who are these people??" But soon after that, their perspective changes. "What?!? You can do fractions?!? No Way?!? Then they see us in a whole new light.

Now I understand that some of these kids are born into certain belief systems and values or they buy into depictions of us Latinos in the Media. To me this is where the beauty of this class comes in. When we take time out of our days to travel in rain, sleet, or snow [we walk to Whitesides]to the elementary schools, and we show effort and responsiveness and care towards these kids, they can see that. They can see that we do not fit into these negative depictions of us Latinos in many news forms and media today.

Now I know, that not one student here is perfect . . . not by any stretch of the word. But to these kids, we're perfect. We're their super heroes. To them we are the perfect friend. Now, if a kid sees a brown teenager at the store, he won't say, "hey dad, I bet that guy over there is in a gang." Nope, he won't say that. You know what that kid will say, because of this amazing program, because of us Latinos in Action. That kid will see the brown teenager and say, "Hey dad, I bet that guy over there is real good at fractions."

Dear Mamma Joy,

I don't know if you remember me; I graduated from Syracuse High in 2014 and was a member of LIA my senior year. I just wanted to tell you how much my experiences at Syracuse High influenced me, especially as a member of LIA.

When I started up at the University of Utah in the fall of 2014, I was a Biology major hoping to one day apply to medical school. When I began volunteering as a tutor and mentor at a local Boys and Girls Club in Roy, I realized that I was in the wrong field. I think I knew in high school when I was tutoring the elementary students that what I really wanted was to work with children.

Many headaches later, I find myself a Psychology major specializing in Child and Adolescent Development. I will be applying to grad school soon, and it is my goal to eventually become a child psychologist. I am sure that I would have eventually figured it out, but my experiences in LIA helped me so, so much with discovering who I am and where my strengths lie.

You do so much for so many. It was such an amazing experience to feel like I belonged to a family there at Syracuse High. Thank you again for everything.

Warmly,

Mia Kreitlow