



LORENZO DE ZAVALA
YOUTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2023 NHI LDZ:

"IF IT'S MEANT TO BE, IT'S UP TO ME."



**DESIGN COMMUNITY
POLICY WITH ENERGETIC
LEADERS AS AN LDZ
DELEGATE.**



NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE
est. 1979

THE LDZ EXPERIENCE

OVERVIEW

Synopsis: Through a live simulation, 10th- and 11th-grade students form a community of 150 leaders. Over the course of eight days, student delegates take on governance roles in an immersive game in making decisions, proposing ideas, reviewing proposals, and presenting a vision for communities of the future. By using business protocols and defined game rules, the week-long quest develops a broad array of skills and competencies, is full of personal growth opportunities, and generates awareness of national and global issues relevant to the quality of community life in years to come.

WHAT DO I EXPERIENCE AT THE LDZ?

“Intense.” “Mind-blowing.” “Amazing people.” “Unforgettable.” “Life-changing.” “Such intellectual people.” “A moment of real growth.” “Nothing like it.” “My world of opportunities just expanded.”

These words and statements are common descriptions used by students who annually participate in NHI’s flagship leadership development experience, the LDZ. Since 1982, students from across 20 states and four Latin American nations have convened on university campuses -- as well as virtually through LDZx --- to play a leadership game of vision, influence, and construction of communities of the future. **At the LDZ, you and your fellow student leaders go on a quest together. You and your peers are challenged to write a new social narrative by proposing ideas, projects, and initiatives that will positively transform future communities.** Along the road, you discover that knowledge, order, process, protocol, and navigation are all important.



THE LDZ EXPERIENCE

The LDZ challenges you to examine and affirm what you stand for. In the LDZ game, you and your peers get to decide what ideas, ideals, and values are most important to the future. **LDZ is designed to spark the creative collaboration that will be required to inspire community change.** At the LDZ, students form a government that reviews proposals, they elect each other to leadership roles, and then they are challenged to govern themselves. As each student is elected or appointed to a role — including senators, representatives, executive and judicial branch members — the experience of learning to be an influencer and everything that comes with it becomes increasingly real and fun! How effectively can your leadership class organize and build consensus becomes the real question.

From a personal perspective, understanding your own talents and areas for growth, alongside your peers, will help grow your public persona. Soon, you realize that there might be setbacks and hurdles on your journey but that ultimately you are a bright and intuitive leader. These obstacles are a healthy part of learning. **What takes years of life experience for some leaders is accelerated in eight intensive days at the LDZ.** After the program, LDZers often reflect on the experience as a space where they felt free to express themselves, their ideas, and honed their skills. They felt culturally embraced, understood, and valued. At the LDZ, they began to see themselves as playing a leadership role wherever life takes them, whether at home, in school, in a career, or in service to others. Most of all, they feel special in knowing that leadership is a life-long calling in which they have a special role to play with NHL.



LDZ TESTIMONIALS



"I invite you all to relive and reimagine what you have experienced in LDZx. Take every ounce of greatness you have experienced throughout this program and use it to propel you into a truly meaningful life. The lessons, the ideas, the experiences, the bonds." – Julian, Pennsylvania, LDZx

"The purpose of my participation in the LDZ was to learn more about myself. As the week progressed, I saw that my purpose was to go out into the world and start to act, speak with more confidence, and gain more experiences. I realized that I can do a lot on my own, but it is much better to do it with some help, because my partners contributed to my growth in confidence, as well." – Elizabeth, Colorado, COLDZ

"I learned at LDZ what it takes to be a leader and realized that I already am one!" – Ren, Texas, TXLDZ

"The LDZ helped me become a better version of myself and gain confidence." – Viviana, Texas, TXLDZ

"After LDZ, I plan to give back to my community by inspiring the youth to construct their own futures. I was inspired by the program to build confidence in my abilities to write the narrative to my own future as well." –Annel, Illinois, CALDZ

"(LDZ)allowed me to realize that anywhere I go, adapting to situations I am in and learning to execute are keys to success and being a true leader. As I continue growing, NHI will be a priority in my life." – Lindsay, Texas, TXLDZ

"I learned that only when I speak passionately can I speak confidently." – Christian, Colorado, COLDZ

"I really loved the LDZ and feel like everyone should try to get into this program!" – Jessica, Idaho, COLDZ

"I learned that I really do like fighting for what I believe in and support. Prior to this, I was often the person to keep to myself and not do much but at LDZ I tried to be outgoing and confident, which I loved!" – Mia, Colorado, COLDZ





A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1983, NHI launched its first state-wide youth leadership project. The Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session, better known as the LDZ, debuted in Austin, Texas. It was created for youth who wanted to play key leadership roles in their families and communities. NHI reached out to parents and school administrators who wanted to invest in high-quality leadership development for their high school age children to prepare them for the future.

At the time LDZ started, it seemed unimaginable that it would expand to other states and nations. The New Mexico program launched in 1988 at the University of New Mexico and was followed by the 1989 Colorado at Colorado State University.

Then LDZ expanded from Chicago to New York to the West Coast, and then to Mexico and Panama. Five independent LDZ experiences annually inspire hundreds of students to collaborate, innovate, and lead their communities.

In 2023, NHI plans to host three in-person LDZ programs as well as the virtual LDZx. In 2020, due to the global pandemic, NHI postponed the LDZ. In 2021, NHI phased back three programs and launched the inaugural virtual LDZx youth governance experience. LDZx allows for youth to participate from the comfort of their home offering a reliable option for families who may have concerns about travel and safety. LDZx is also an ideal experience for students looking to advance their media production, broadcasting, or digital communication skills.

HOW WILL THE LDZ EXPERIENCE IMPACT ME?



The LDZ has a deep and enduring impact on the hearts and minds of young people. Putting the LDZ philosophy (If it's meant to be, it's up to me!) to work in your own life has huge advantages.

You will feel inspired to make a difference in the lives of others. You will feel more dedicated to excellence and inspire those around you to do the same. You will enjoy challenges and being part of learning communities that dream big. And you will feel proud to associate yourself with a leadership class of highly motivated, intelligent and dedicated peers who seek to grow their leadership skills and be known for their strong impact on society.

LDZ CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION

People who are strong candidates for the LDZ should seek to develop their leadership potential, want to share their talents with their communities, and aim to broaden their network of like-minded peers! LDZ students are drawn from a national and international pool of applicants who are primarily nominated by NHI's network of legacy families, volunteers, schools/districts, and community-based organizations. Students may also nominate themselves, and will undergo the same review process as all other applicants.

“We look for bright, spirited young people who definitely plan to enroll in college, want to be around peers like them, and see themselves in leadership roles in the emerging Latino community,” states Gloria de León, NHI's principal architect of the program. “If they already come to NHI with fundamental leadership habits like a strong academic record, timeliness, a positive outlook, and solution-driven attitudes, they will get the most out of the LDZ.”



2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULES

LDZ IN PERSON

LDZers enjoy the first day checking into their dorm rooms, meeting their roommates and counselors, and team building. Early the next morning, the two-day convention of student delegates begins, followed by youth government elections and a three-day legislative session. There's typically a fun outing the second night of the legislative session, and after the students wrap up their legislative meetings, they celebrate by showcasing their talents at a cultural show. All LDZs host a college fair and college readiness discussions

during the week, allowing students to meet and interact with university recruiters. On the final evening of the program, parents are invited to view the emotionally-charged LDZ awards ceremony and take pictures of their children. Afterward, students enjoy music, dancing, and socializing. On the final morning, students gather one last time to say their final goodbyes until their next NHI program, either Celebración or the Collegiate World Series (CWS).

WEEK-LONG SCHEDULE

LDZ IN-PERSON

DAY 1

Arrival/Check In
Team-building with peers
Meet your counselor

DAY 2

Introduction to legislative procedures
Organize groups by interests
Introduction to proposal-writing

DAY 3

Elections and announcements
Finalization of proposals

DAY 4

Opening ceremony of the chambers of government
First reading of proposals
Supreme Court hears cases

DAY 5

Review of proposals in chambers
Supreme Court hears cases
Evening outing and social activities

DAY 6

Proposals signed into law
Final supreme court trial
"Noche cultural"

DAY 7

College planning and college fair
Awards Ceremony
Governor's/President's Ball

DAY 8

Closing reflections and goodbyes
Departures

2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULES

LDZx VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

LDZxers enjoy a blend of online modules, mentoring by NHI Senior Counselors (college students), and direct interaction with highly trained faculty members who inspire each student to think deeply about their views, outlooks, and beliefs. Their primary purpose is to form policy around their ideas, while considering what contacts they need to build to support passing their ideas through a legislative process. In the world of online interaction, their ability to deliver powerful messages, short sound bites, and memorable imagery

are at play throughout the program. Furthermore, networking in a digital space presents its own unique set of challenges. Whether meeting someone from a different country, presenting in a small group Zoom session, or submitting a video for consideration and review, the LDZx mimics the current world state of affairs in a digital age. Students not only gain the invaluable lessons from the LDZ, but increase their capacity to govern in a digital space.

WEEK-LONG SCHEDULE FOR LDZx

LDZ ONLINE

DAY 1

Registration
Opening ceremony and team-building
Meet your counselor and peers
Introduction to organization procedures

DAY 2

General Convention
Organize groups by interest
Leadership nomination
Proposal drafting

DAY 3

Leadership elections
Proposal submissions
Organizational agenda setting

DAY 4

Swearing-in ceremony
Proposal introduction and legislating
Proposal reviews and evening sessions

DAY 5

Joint task force hearings
Proposal reviews continued
"Noche Cultural" open mic night

DAY 6

Final proposal review sessions
Executive approvals
Closing ceremony
Awards and Community Recognition



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- The first step is submit an application and choose your site at www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/events
- Submit a \$25 USD non-refundable fee with your online application

REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- Admission to the LDZ requires a minimum academic eligibility of a 3.2/4.0 (88/100 or 8.8/10) grade point average
- NHI maintains a priority deadline for applicants who commit between September and January, applications are received until all spots are filled
- Students, parents, and counselors can contact NHI's admissions office at (512) 357-6137 or admissions@nhimail.com to ask questions not answered on the website

TUITION FOR LDZ AND LDZX

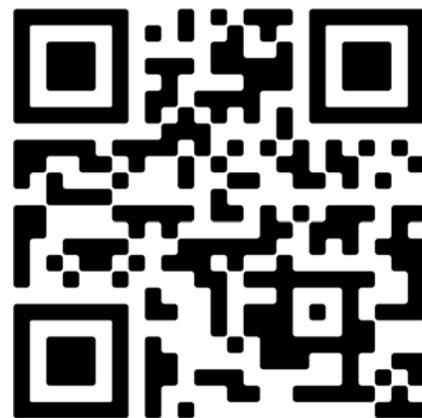
Tuition for the in-person LDZ covers eight days on a college in dorms, a full meal plan, private access to training areas, a college day exclusively for program participants, a staff:student ratio of one adult to every fifteen students, supplies and materials, a commemorative program T-shirt, a certificate of participation, and a highly-motivating curriculum.

The in-person LDZ tuition is \$995.00 USD plus a \$25.00 USD non-refundable application fee. Upon official acceptance to the program, NHI requires a \$150.00 USD non-refundable deposit to secure your spot. Families manage tuition various ways from setting up approved payment plans, seeking out sponsors, easy online fundraising, or even qualify for special select community grants. NHI makes it a point to work with each family on their specific plans for tuition.

Tuition for the virtual LDZx is \$670.00 USD plus a non-refundable \$25.00 USD application processing fee. Upon acceptance, applicants will submit the first \$150.00 USD non-refundable deposit. Like LDZ, families requiring support with sponsors, fundraising, or payment options should immediately communicate with admissions at NHI's main office.

Students who complete the LDZ or LDZx will be granted all the rights, privileges and honors of NHI membership, so long as they remain in good standing, and will hence be invited to future opportunities for personal development as well as volunteerism and faculty development within the organization.

APPLY
ONLINE AT



DEADLINES

LDZ GLOBAL DEADLINES

Priority Admissions: October 31, 2022

Regular Admissions: November 15, 2022

Late Admissions: March 15, 2023

Call after March 15 for space availability.

Exception: New Mexico LDZ will remain open until it meets full capacity.

PARENT PERSPECTIVE

"It was a difficult decision to allow my daughter to travel so far away from me to attend the NHI LDZ. As most Latino parents, we hold on very tightly to our children. Being the 'modern' mom I portray myself to be, I thought it would be terrible if I did not allow her to experience something that could potentially transform her thinking... During that week, I witnessed through

phone calls and text messages that my baby was absorbing so much about the world outside her own and learning so much more than we all anticipated. She came home with a newfound freedom and independence that was so inspiring."

- Angelica, Pennsylvania



LDZ ALUMNI

NHI invites its LDZ alumni to return each year as volunteer leaders, guiding the next generation of leaders through their growth experiences, and coming back each time to relive and share in the magical experience. The mentors and counselors at LDZ include professionals who form a diverse international network, including business leaders, doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs, higher education officials,

clergy members, researchers, and public servants. NHI attracts young people from all perspectives, backgrounds and walks of life who want to start shaping their realities while in high school, and our alumni reflect that ambition.

VISIT WWW.NHIMAGAZINE.COM
TO SEE OUR ALUMNI IN ACTION.

STUDENT OPINIONS

LDZ STUDENTS' TOP FIVE TAKE-AWAYS

1. BEING MORE SELF-CONFIDENT
2. SPEAKING IN PUBLIC
3. LEARNING PROTOCOL
4. MANAGE TIME MORE EFFECTIVELY
5. BEING MORE PERSUASIVE

96% of LDZers felt the LDZ would help them perform better in school

84% of LDZers felt they could apply the LDZ learning principles to their lives

86% of LDZers felt it is very or extremely valuable to talk with peers about community issues

86% of LDZers felt very or extremely more knowledgeable about how policy ideas become laws

92% of LDZers recommend the LDZ to peers

Over 80% of Colorado LDZ described the experience as nothing like school learning

All LDZ faculty received "excellent" ratings from over **90% of 2022 students**

As a result of the LDZ experience, over **95% of students** plan to build and expand their personal networks in the community

Over 95% of 2022 students said the LDZ improved their confidence in using protocols, working in organizations, and making results

100% of 2022 Colorado LDZers said the program will help them improve in school

NHI FUNDAMENTAL #17:

If it's meant to be, It's up to me

We have the capacity to design and initiate plans that give us advantages in life. Invest time in learning, reflecting, improving and sharing best practices. Feeling uncomfortable at times means you're in a growth mode. A new mindset means new results. Find ways to get things done better, faster, and more creatively. There are more opportunities than problems if you believe in yourself!



NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE
est. 1979

NHI's Main Offices

Telephone: (512) 357-6137; Fax: (512) 357-2206 Hours: 8:30 - 12:30 pm; 1:30 - 5:30 pm

CDT Mailing Address: NHI, P.O. Box 220, Maxwell, TX 78656 USA

Shipping Address (UPS/DHL/FedEx): 472 FM 1966, Maxwell, TX 78656 USA

Facebook: NHIHQ; Twitter: nhi_news; Instagram: nhi_news

Website: www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org Email: info@nhimail.com

NHI COLLEGE REGISTER MEMBERS 2022-2023

To view updated list, visit our website

Albertus Magnus College
Alvernia University
American University
Augustana College
Austin College
Baylor University
Benedictine College
Cabrini University
Case Western Reserve University
Central Connecticut State University
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Colby College
Colorado State University
Colorado State University-Pueblo
Cornell University
DePaul University
Elmhurst University
Emory & Henry College
Emory University
Florida International University
Glendon Campus of York University
Loyola University New Orleans
Macalester College
McDaniel College
Midwestern State University
Neumann University
Northwestern University
Organization of Latino Actuaries
Purdue University
Rhodes College
Schreiner University
Southwestern University
Saint Francis University
St. Edward's University
St. John's College
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's University
St. Olaf College
Texas A&M University-San Antonio
Texas Tech University
The Ohio State University
The University of Texas at Austin
Trinity College
Trinity University
University of California at Berkeley
University of Denver
University of New Mexico
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Redlands
University of Saint Francis
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of the South
University of Texas at Arlington
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Willamette University

Annually, partner institutions of higher learning make up NHI's College Register, a consortium of member colleges and universities that are committed to supporting the successful transition of NHI students to their campuses. These institutions provide year-round support by participating in virtual seminars and panels, attending NHI college fairs, providing feedback and ideas regarding research, and sending representatives as coaches to the CWS programs.

2023 LDZ PROGRAM LOCATIONS

COLORADO LDZ, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO JUNE 18-25, 2023



The Colorado LDZ is held in the Rocky Mountains, at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins. It mainly attracts young leaders from across the American Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, and Texas. CSU, NHI's oldest LDZ partner institution, fills the experience with rich traditions and offers LDZers the possibility of earning a scholarship to attend CSU. The proposals at this LDZ seek to forge innovative practices among people from Western states and communities.

AMERICAN LDZ, ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

ST. MARY'S CITY, MARYLAND, JULY 9-16, 2023



The American LDZ is situated in the United States' East Coast not far from the Capitol and seat of government. The American LDZ will draw a global delegation with strong presence from Eastern states and the Caribbean. This program will have a global scope and follow a federal game model including a one-day visit to Washington, D.C. hosted by alumni who works on Capitol Hill.

41ST ANNIVERSARY TEXAS LDZ, ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

TEXAS, JULY 16-23, 2023



With roots dating back to 1982, the Texas LDZ celebrates its 41st anniversary in 2023. The Texas LDZ will return to one of NHI's longest standing university partners in Texas, Austin College. Located north of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, Austin College provides a quiet, private liberal arts college setting for scholars from across the state and the Americas for discussions about community leadership of the future. Texas LDZ is NHI's largest LDZ site with a real focus on envisioning the borderlands and historical Latina/o/x communities in the U.S.

DIONISIO "DENNIS" CHAVEZ

NEW MEXICO LDZ

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO. JUNE 11-18, 2023



The return to the Land of Enchantment is exciting as New Mexico welcomes NHI students to the Dionisio "Dennis" Chavez New Mexico LDZ in honor of the late U.S. Senator. Through a special fund made possible by the New Mexico state legislature and introduced by Sen. Michael Padilla, students from throughout New Mexico will assemble to imagine and craft their plans and priorities for the future of New Mexico. For this year, all participants will be named Dennis Chavez Scholars and participate at no cost, other than a \$25 application fee. Students will stay at the University of New Mexico and travel to Santa Fe for several days during the experience.

LDZx

COMING SOON!

This online LDZ will broadcast both live and premiere shows from our headquarters studio. You will experience the excitement of participating in the historic, inaugural digitally-delivered LDZ, starring you and your fellow delegates! You will be accompanied by a full staff of faculty members, senior and junior counselors, and technical support coordinators to craft policies of the future! You will meet a peer group of students from across the nation and throughout the Americas, and make friends for life. Once an NHIer, you will have access to future opportunities to volunteer and continue participating both in person in online programs.

