



2023-2024 Academic Year

Dear Potential Sponsor:

The student who brings you this letter was recently selected to participate in the 2024 Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session (LDZ), an eight-day competitive training program that develops communication, leadership, networking, and management skills among our community's youth. All students selected to participate must be college bound high school sophomores and juniors with an 88 percent or 3.2 grade point average or better. The National Hispanic Institute (NHI), a private non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation founded in 1979 and based in Maxwell, Texas, near Austin, sponsors the LDZ.

While the program places a premium on college admissions, the LDZ's most important mission is leadership training and development. Though often viewed as a program on government and politics, the LDZ teaches real life lessons that are much more enduring. Students take decisive action under pressure, make critical decisions that are not always guided by popular opinion, and gain valuable insight into organized group efforts. The LDZ experience develops skills that are vital to college, career, and life. The experience also provides a setting where students can honestly discuss and exchange views on issues that are culturally and intellectually thought-provoking and not always popular topics in high school or the collegiate level.

On average, NHI programs cost \$3,500 per student. However, we have always partnered with host colleges and universities that underwrite up to 1/3 of the costs from their admissions and special initiatives budgets in order to make our experiences more accessible. Our alumni donors and volunteers also do their part with financial contributions and donating their time to serve as staff and trainers. The student is responsible for completing the **\$1,050** tuition plus a \$25 application fee and \$150 deposit. Annually, students marshal their tuition with contributions from their family, school supporters, local civic organizations or community investors like you.

The tuition underwrites more than just covering the student's room and board, meals, and materials during their experience, this amount underwrites the cost of recruitment, communication, leadership training, student supplies, documents, equipment, student support services, staff specialists, and special events for the institution. After completing the LDZ, the NHI provides student follow-up services for college admissions, financial aid consultation, and career guidance. We ask that you consider making a financial contribution to help support this student's personal growth and development as a leader in your community. Should you have any questions, please call the National Hispanic Institute at 512-357-6137 for more information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Nieto
President and Founder