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Panel Discussion: "Project Inspire (bilingual format)"

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LEAD Original Programming

“Project Inspire (bilingual format)” (2016)

START – 00:00:00

[Music]

>> Bienvenidos and welcome to the next installment of Lead Media Programming. From Studio 54, Campus of California State University San Bernardino, the digital media platform for inspired educators, leaders and community activists and advocates taking our message directly to the people, to the gente. Thank you for sharing our common interest in the analysis, discussion, critique, dissemination and commitment to the educational issues that impact Latinos. I'm your host, Dr. Enrique Murillo Junior and this episode is a syndicated replay from [inaudible] seven of Lead Summit 2016. The theme that year was Black, Brown, Indigenous unity, meaning we share the educational crisis and must struggle side-by-side. This panel was about Project Inspire and was presented in an English-Spanish bilingual format. As lead, we see ourselves as conveners. Our strength, bringing in various segments and groups that may not necessarily be in the same room otherwise. It was during the previous year's summit that the seeds were planted among some key people that eventually went on to create Project to Inspire. The curriculum to inform parents and their role in the children's education. Work with parents, so they learn how to work with the information acquired and develop parent leadership skills to ensure their participation in collaboration is part of the school community. Continue and enjoy the full value and complexity of this episode. We extend our appreciation to all our lead sponsors and partners, planners, volunteers, speakers and panelists, production team, affiliates in town hall chapters. We commend them all for lifting their voice and uplifting the plight of Latinos in education. Thank you. Gracias. [Inaudible].

>> Ladies and gentlemen, I was asked by Dr. Murillo to come in pretty much at the last minute, as in yesterday, to step in. I appreciate this opportunity. I'm very nervous. I told him last night -- I didn't even sleep last night. I went to the hotel and I was just looking up in the sky like what the heck is going to happen tomorrow? But this group, you guys have been tremendous and I got to give it to the audience and for all the performances and all the panels that have been presented today. It just makes us feel extremely welcome. I'm going to promise you something before we get going and I would like for you to kind of stay put, if you would. The panel has put a lot of effort into coming here. I know we're short of time and I respect, you know, that we have to move forward, but I'm going to promise this group that we're going to be out by 12 o'clock, if not sooner. Is that okay with you guys? Alright? Is that okay? Because I'm not paying for the burritos and enchiladas and tacos. Although, I'd like to, but maybe Jesus can do that. No, I'm just kidding. Just for our audiences being live streamed, I'm going to give a little bit of background of what this -- What this program is about, which is a tremendous program.

We're going to get into a couple of questions, but we've asked Jesus Acuña to come up here. He's going to help interpret, as I try to moderate between these wonderful ladies here, this information. And then, we're going to try to just kind of move the agenda as fast as possible. The California Association for Bilingual Education, CAFE, To Inspire Program works with parents to increase their knowledge about schooling and to ensure the parents have vital information, about high quality information, options for their children. Especially those traditionally underserved and or attending program improvement schools. Their project To Inspire curriculum informs parents of their role in their children's education, works with parents so that they learn how to work with the information acquired and develops parent leadership skills to ensure their participation and collaboration as part of the school community. All three levels of the program share the same objective and goal, to increase parental engagement in their child's learning at home school and or community; and thereby, increase their children's academic achievement. However, each of these levels differs markedly in their approach. Their approach strategies, methods, activities and outcomes for parents and their children. The panelists, as parent leaders who currently serve as officers of the Bi-national Parent Leadership Institute, otherwise known as BPLINS of trainers, have each passed all three levels from awareness to mastery to expert. Proyecto Inspire es un proyecto que pertenece a CAFE, que trabaja con los padres para aumentar sus conocimientos. This is really long and it's in Spanish. So, I'm going to spare you that, but I think the first two paragraphs were pretty insightful and good enough for this group, right? Amen? Alright, alright. We're doing good. With us today, we have some wonderful folks, our ladies that are with us. The first one is Patricia, to my left, we have Patricia Luna. She is -- Yeah, let's give it up. Let's give it up. We have the B -- She is the BPLI President -- Elect past President for Chaffey High School and Vice-President of Chaffey JSD. Next, we have Elidia Valencia, let's give it up for Mrs. Elidia. She is the BPLI Vice-President and parent consultant for CAFE. They have a big Bio, guys. I'm just cutting it into like a tenth, you know what I mean? Okay. Then we have Isabel Torres. She's a BPLI Secretary and Elect President. Alright. And last but not least, we have Maribel Colín. She is a BPLI Parliament and elect President. Very good. With that being said, we have a couple of questions that we have formatted for them. They're going to -- I will ask to spend -- I will ask the question in English, so that our audience not only that is here today, but those that are streaming live can view and see. And if there's any questions that come up -- By the way, I believe there's going to be quite -- There's going to be a small Q&A at the end. If you have a question or two, I believe there might be a mic up there. I'm not too sure. I was told that there was a mic somewhere, right? And then, we'll get it to you if you were to have any questions towards the end. Now, with that being said, in no particular order, I'd like to ask -- Let's start with -- Let's start with Patricia Luna. I think that since she's the closest to me, we can ask you this question. What are some of the short-term and long-term benefits that have most affected your families and or students of this program?

>> Thank you. Well, I'm going to do this in English, since the Dean mentioned that we are asking students to try and then we have to try too. Even though I'm an English learner myself, but I'm going to try to do it in English my best. Well, this short term is very funny because when I first called to participate in Project Inspire, I know I have the

idea that I wanted my kids to achieve a goal and I was thinking that the goal was to go to university. But when I got to Project Inspire, they opened up my eyes in a big humongous system that I find out I did not know nothing about the system. So in a short term, it helped me to understand the Educational system in United States of America and helped me to take action and guided me to create a student habit at home, guided me to understand how to guide my students to do their best and, most of all, to communicate with the students, with the teachers, administrators and community. As in a long-term, now you see me here. I understand that I had to do this for my student, for my son and my daughter. But then, I realized my daughter and my son are growing in this community. I want the rest of the students to have the same opportunity as my students are having. So I took action and I got involved in planning committees and I got involved in ATP, Action Theme for Partnership and I got involved in church and etcetera, etcetera. And then, I got invited to participate in Bi-national Parent Leadership Institute, which is working at another level, which is developing skills that I never imagined I'd be capable to develop. And all for the benefit of my kids, first of all. But then, now it's my community. It's our students. Your kids and my kids, empower them to achieve whatever they want, whatever is their goal. If their goal is to go to university, go for it. If they wanted to go a vocational career, go for it. If you want to build a career through your job that you already have, that you're working on it, go for it. As long as you're happy with what you are doing.

>> Wow! Sign me up!

[Applauses]

Thank you, Patricia. I appreciate that. Our next question is for Elidia Valencia. How does Project to Inspire -- How has it transformed your life while your involvement with this program?

>> Gracias y buenos días a todos.

>> Thank you and good morning, you all.

>> En lo personal, a mi me ha ayudado o me ayudó a guiar a mi hija que estaba llegando de México a un grado 9, que no sabía qué hacer.

>> It's helped my daughter who has -- Who arrived from Mexico to the ninth grade.

>> Y ahí tuve la oportunidad de conocer Proyecto Inspire.

>> And there I had an opportunity to get acquainted with the Project to Inspire.

>> Y a través de la guía de nuestra maravillosa maestra Marissa Lazo que todavía recuerdo --

>> Through this moderator, Marissa Lazo, who I still remember, who impacted me --

>> Mi hija, sin tener los documentos, pudo ir a la universidad.

>> My daughter who without documents was able to go to college.

>> Y eso es una de las maneras en que también es el mensaje que les damos a los padres.

>> That's one of the ways that we can send a message to parents.

>> De que hay oportunidades y todo se puede cuando se involucra la educación.

>> That there are opportunities in many ways of getting things accomplished with opportunity.

>> Gracias.

>> Very good. Thank you so much, Elidia. Thank you.

[Applause]

This is for our next panelist, Isabel Torres or Isabel Torres. What makes Project to Inspire different from other programs?

>> ¿Qué hace Proyecto Inspire diferente de otros programas? Hay programas que se, este, enfocan en ayudar a los padres a desarrollar sus habilidades. Hay programas que le enseñan -- Sorry.

>> There are programs that develop parents and there are other programs that -- In other ways.

>> Y hay programas que les dan a los padres la guía de cómo llevar a sus hijos a la universidad.

>> And there are other programs that help lead parents to take their children to the university.

>> Lo que yo encontré en Proyecto to Inspire es una combinación de los dos. Nos ayuda a nosotros, a los padres, a entender el sistema educativo y nos lleva de la mano por todas las diferentes áreas que tiene el sistema educativo.

>> What I found is a combination of both. It helps parents educate themselves, so that they get their children the resources to go to college.

>> Y aparte, nos enseña que nosotros tenemos el poder de decisión si estamos informados.

>> It also gives us the resources to make informed decisions.

>> Nos enseña cómo podemos llevar a nuestros hijos a la universidad.

>> It teaches us how to send our kids to college.

>> Pero también nos enseña que nosotros tenemos que tener metas.

>> But it also teaches us that we must have goals.

>> Que nosotros también, como padres, podemos crecer.

>> That we as parents can also grow.

>> En tener habilidades para desarrollar en la comunidad.

>> And understand the abilities so we can develop along, within our community.

>> Very good. Thank you so much. Thank you, Isabel Torres. Our next question is for Maribel Colín. How does Project to inspire Develop parent engagement?

>> Realmente este programa nos impacta de una manera muy positiva. Siempre nos lleva de la mano, haciéndonos creer que nuestros hijos y todas las personas que están a nuestro alrededor pueden lograr sus metas. Es un programa que nos dice su nombre, ¿no? Nos inspira cada día a ser mejores. Nos inspira a crear compromiso, a crear metas y a pensar a futuro para nuestros hijos. Cuando yo llegué a este país, no entendía muchas cosas del sistema educativo.

>> Okay. So what she said is that this program basically takes one by the hand and enables them to go down the correct path that also builds a couple of things such as commitment and establishment of goals. And more importantly, it forms an understanding of how the education system works.

>> De esta manera, hoy en día, estamos tratando de comunicarnos con los padres con este programa y muy orgullosamente hoy también estoy representando a PIQUE [phonetic] que nos está dando la oportunidad, también, de hablar de lo que es este maravilloso programa que manejan y, si van caminando de la mano, nos inspiran día a día para poder seguir adelante. Mi hijo ahorita ya está en la universidad, en Cal State Los Ángeles y esto nos enseñó el programa, que podemos desarrollar aprendizaje y que podemos nosotros enseñarles a nuestros hijos a soñar y a crear sus propias metas.

>> Very good. Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Alright. Let's give it up. Absolutely.

[Applause]

Couple more questions we have here. We're going to come back to Patricia. Patricia, what are the benefits of having Project to Inspire in a school?

>> Oh, well, a lot of benefits. Well, Project Inspire works with a Community Learning Theory, which is guiding you to work in collaboration and as a partnership. But also acknowledge that, as parent, you have already a lot of knowledge because the first teacher of your kids is you, the parent. So they acknowledge that you have that wisdom now. But then, they give you -- They guide you to do effective or to take effective decisions. Also, if you have your kids in program improvement schools or if you're an administrative working in program improvement schools, you want to bring this program to your side because it's going to help you to develop engagement, not only for the parents, but from the staff. It is very important to understand that we have to engage together. But I wanted to recommend, if you bring the Project Inspire to your school site, don't just leave it for your parents and never take one or two or three miles. There is 12 miles in it and 16 of the expertise level. At least go and take three or four miles, so you get to understand what your parents are receiving, so we can have the same conversation. I love this program because empowers you as a human being, as a mother, as a student and inspires you to take action and collaborate and looking always for the student achievement. It is also very helpful to establish goals at family level, but also at school level. What is it that you want your kids and the rest of the students to achieve in that school? What is it that I can do as parent? How can I support the staff? How can I support the students? How can I support the school district? Also, when we come from another country, we don't know much about this country. We don't know the culture. They help you to navigate through this culture and you get to understand that there is a school board, that you vote for the school board, that there is a superintendent, the school board superintendent hires the superintendent, that you can become a volunteer, and then you can engage and you can do more than just volunteering. Before, we used to have parents just to staple, to color. Now, you can have the parents as -- Acting like a parent liaison, acting like a teacher to others. So if you really want, if you really -- If you are an administrator or teacher and you really want to engage the parents, please bring the program. We have the print information with us. There is a representative from Project Inspire, María Valencia, that she's sitting in our audience, she started like me and my partners. Ans now she's working for Project Inspire. She is doing wonderful. She is full, she has no time. It's all scheduled. We wanted it to have her in Chaffey High School, but she's too busy. But we have another one good one, which is Elidia Valencia. She's going to be there. Two more of our Community Committee ladies are sitting in the audience. Sandra Aviléz and Jacqueline Carmona [phonetic], they're part of this committee. They have the information print for you and we are going to call -- We're going to have membership in the Bi-national Parent Leadership Institute. If you want your families, your parents get ready to engage and to collaborate, you want them to be part of this committee, please look for them, give them your contact information and we contact you when the time comes. Thank you so much. Don't forget, Inspire inspira. Inspire creates change. Inspire provoques

activism, good and positive activism. We wanted to make changes in the education. It's time to do so. So we have to collaborate.

>> Very good. Thank you, Patricia. Thank you so much. Alright. I'm just going right through the questions real quick. Next, Elidia. And then, we're going to start taking some questions from -- So those folks that have a question or two, we do have a mic out there. Let me see. What makes Project Inspire different from other programs? Did I ask that question? I got so excited about the food that I'm going to eat, that I think that's what I was thinking. What is your role in BPLI and how is it connected to Project Inspire? This is for Elidia Valencia, please.

>> Mi rol en BPLI es Vicepresidenta.

>> Okay. She's Vice-President in BPLI.

>> Y conecta con todo. Proyecto Inspire me preparó a mi para tener las herramientas necesarias.

>> BPLI prepared her to have the necessary tools to be effective in the program.

>> Cómo tener una mejor abogacía en todos los niveles; distrito, escuela y condado.

>> How to negotiate everything within the county, within the district and the city.

>> Cómo seguir motivando a los padres a involucrarse en la educación de sus hijos.

>> And how parents can get involved in the education of the children.

>> Y como madre, seguir modelando a mis hijos que la educación es importante.

>> And, as a parent, to model that to one's children that education is very important.

>> Y decirles que este proyecto abarca 12 módulos dónde abarca todo el sistema de educación y nos dice la importancia que es estar involucrados.

>> And this program, basically, has 12 modules which breakdown the importance of one's involvement in your child's development and education.

>> Y algo muy importante que me enseñó este proyecto es que la sabiduría está con nosotros mismos.

>> One thing that's very important that the program has taught me is that the wisdom rests within us and that's very important.

>> Y lo que hace grande a este país es la diversidad cultural.

>> And what makes this country great is the ability to go to the university.

>> Very good.

>> Así que los invito, administradores, padres, a trabajar en equipo.

>> I invite you as parents, as administrators, to get involved with Project to Inspire.

>> Porque esto es algo lo que nos enseña Proyecto Inspire, trabajar en equipo con las escuelas y padres con una forma respetuosa, donde haya colaboración y trabajo en equipo.

>> This basically teaches us how to collaborate as one, as parents, as administrators, as school officials, as a holistic approach.

>> Gracias.

>> Very good. Thank you so much. Here, our next question is for Isabel Torres is describe the purpose of BPLI and Project to Inspire and how do they align and how are they different?

>> Okay. El propósito del BPLI es traer a la mesa a padres líderes y desarrollarlos a un nivel de comunidad, del nivel de educación, para que puedan desarrollar sus habilidades, puedan desempeñar abogacía en sus comunidades, puedan apoyar a las escuelas, puedan apoyar a sus hijos en otros niveles. Proyecto Inspire es, digamos que es la preparación. ¿Cómo nos prepara para llegar a este nivel? ¿Cómo nos prepara para llegar a ser el nivel de padres líderes? Y el BPLI toma esos padres líderes y los lleva más allá, más allá del involucramiento en su propia escuela, más allá a que tiene que ser un líder en la comunidad, apoyar a otros padres y enseñarles que el poder de padre es muy importante. El poder de padre es muy importante, pero llevado de una manera positiva donde todos puedan colaborar unidos escuela, familia y el estudiante. Todos con un mismo propósito, darle la -- El empoderamiento y llevar a nuestros hijos a que desarrollen lo que ellos quieran, el futuro que ellos quieran, que quieran decidir, que nosotros estamos ahí como base para que ellos lo logren.

>> Very good. Thank you so much.

>> [Inaudible] dijo. So, essentially, I'll read a few of these bullets from the to Inspire. But they've, as the parents, formed the base for their children to be able to access and use as a resource and use them as actual developers in their education. Project to inspire builds family awareness and competence. It improves in their children's educational outcomes. So, again, we talked about the goals and the achievements. That also enhances the knowledge, skills and abilities to support their children, the student, in learning and then improving. And then, it also engages school staff to support and cultivate those positive environments and build those relationships that are needed to make the child successful. It improves student achievement results in low performing

schools. So it's very important to note. It reaches diverse backgrounds, non-English-speaking parents with materials in their own language. It also helps parents guide their children to school success at home and at school.

>> Very good. Alright. Thank you so much for that. I appreciate that. I was handed this year the purpose statement -- Oh, they got a purpose statement. It's the Bi-national Parent Leadership Institute, BPLI, will establish a cadre of the [inaudible] parent engagement mechanism in the inland [inaudible] via parent voice empowerment and advocacy. BPLI will establish institutional capacity strategies that will be meaningful, engage parents to ensure successful outcomes for students and families. What I'd like to do, if there's any questions in the audience, this is probably the time to ask -- There's one right back there and I think there's one back on the other -- There's two out there. And then, we're going to come to a close after these questions are answered [inaudible]. Thank you.

>> Check one, two. Check one, two. There we go.

>> There we go. Okay, we're good to go.

>> State your name, please, and where you're from.

>> Mi nombre es Librada Murillo [phonetic] y soy un padre de la comunidad de Moreno Valley.

>> She's from the community of Moreno Valley.

>> Very good. And your question, please.

>> Mi pregunta es la siguiente.

>> My question is the following.

>> ¿Qué pasa cuando, como oficial de ILA [phonetic], el Director del plantel escolar cambia lo que tienes y lo que pediste que se pusiera en la agenda como Comité de ILA, y este es un Director, Dr. Manil [phonetic], es graduada en social justice, en un Doctorado, nos cambia la agenda completamente, al aprobar nosotros reglamentos. Esos reglamentos los llevan al distrito escolar, al llevarlo a la junta de DILA, dicen que como padres hemos violado nuestros derechos y los derechos del plantel, por lo tanto, retiran los reglamentos y retiran la posición de su persona aquí presente como Vicepresidenta de DILA, para ellos decir, con un abogado presente, diciendo el abogado que yo fui la que hice las violaciones de este Comité de ILA, cuando no es así. Traen a este abogado para que retire mi posición de DILA y me acusa el abogado de yo haber violado esos reglamentos, cuando nosotros habíamos seguido todos los pasos como Comité y miembros.

>> Ok. Ok. Thank you.

>> So what she's asking is what does one do when an official, such as a Director from the school, changes the program completely? And what does one do also when, basically, as parents are accused of violating certain regulations? What can the parents do when those officials of high rank come forward?

>> What I'm going to ask is just one of you take this question and we're going to be a short as possible because -- Because of time. So go for it, please, Paty.

>> Lo voy a contestar en español primero porque usted lo hizo en español y lo puedo contestar en inglés. Algo que el Proyecto Inspire nos ha enseñado es el principio de la comunicación y de la confianza. Nosotros tuvimos la fortuna de contar con maestros que estaban en asignación especial, el Maestro [inaudible] Marañón, Joel Monje; Héctor Macías, que era el Director de Family engagement, de involucramiento familiar en el Distrito Escolar de Ontario Montclair y, por supuesto, nuestra maestra Marissa Lazo-Necco. Estos maestros, a nosotros nos inculcaron muy bien la importancia de la comunicación constante y la confianza. Algo que yo entiendo que pasa con nosotros como hispanos es que a veces nos sentimos un poquito segregados y muchas veces no tiene que ver con las otras personas, tiene que ver con asuntos personales que hemos dejado sin resolver sobre el paso en nuestra vida. Con esto no quiero decir que no haya a veces que surjan problemas o diferencias o vicisitudes en los diferentes sitios escolares. Hablo por el que -- El área que yo conozco, que no ha sido fácil tampoco, pero nos enseñaron a negociar. Pero lo más importante, a tener confianza, mucha confianza y constante comunicación. What Project Inspire taught us through our teachers, I mentioned their names already, they're here. Some of them are here in the audience is that we were very fortunate that they teach us very well the importance of trust and communication. Very important, leading always to communicate. If you don't like something from the beginning, privately, I will recommend, privately, talk to the person. But there's one thing that I learned from life. You -- Sometimes you wanted to stay in one place but God doesn't want you anymore there because they have something better for you. I will recommend that if you feel like there is rejection or you feel rejected, I will recommend that to look there is so much work to do. There is a lot of schools and a lot of our community that need support in various areas. Please, don't stop there. Don't give up. And I will recommend, you will choose the fight that you want to fight. I wouldn't go into it. I will just move on and look at so many parents here. Believe me, I learned. I'm always carry the Project Inspire package and I always talk about it. I'm not employed, but I'm promoting it because it's good for me. I know something was good for you. Thank you.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, I wanted -- Let's give a strong round of applause to Patricia Luna, to Elidia Valencia, to Isabel Torres and to Maribel Colín. We want to thank you for your time. True to my word, I'm three minutes over. I'm so sorry. Enjoy your lunch. God bless you. Thank you.

END – 00:33:10