

Today's Barriers

Nationwide, Latino and other multicultural youth face great challenges. These barriers can inhibit a student's ability to reach their highest potential. Some of these challenges include:

- 1) High school drop-out rate over 20%, nearly 3 times that of Caucasian youth¹
- 2) Enrollment in higher education at about one forth the rate of Caucasian youth
- 3) A crime and incarceration rate more than double that of other groups
- 4) A teen pregnancy rate over 3 times that of Caucasian girls in the 15 to 17 age group²
- 5) Limited employment opportunities

We at YDI believe that the majority of these youth are not 'troubled' or 'at risk'. They simply have either not acquired the skills necessary to excel in today's society or do not have the self-esteem or support to achieve their goals.



Jessica's Story



Jessica Vieyra at Tony Grove Bilingual UCC 2008

"I was a freshman in high school when I began to rebel and start to make bad choices. I didn't take school seriously, thinking that graduation didn't matter and I would never go to college. The summer of 2008 changed my life. I joined a multicultural youth group sponsored by Youth Discovery and the Utah Conservation Corps. I

didn't know what to expect but knew we were going to learn a lot about leadership and the outdoors. By the time the summer was over we had worked hard and built a great relationship with each other. All the skills I gained began to show my senior year. As a result of a speech I gave about the summer program, applying for a scholarship, the improvement of my grades, and all the experiences I had at UCC, I was chosen to receive a four year scholarship. I gained so much confidence and all thanks to this summer program. I had no idea how it would turn my life around."

Long Term Vision

The long-term vision of Youth Discovery Inc is to develop programs that provide all multicultural youth the opportunities necessary to succeed. We support programs that can be exported from Cache Valley to the whole state of Utah and to the entire nation. We are seeking funding from a variety of sources to support and enhance these programs.

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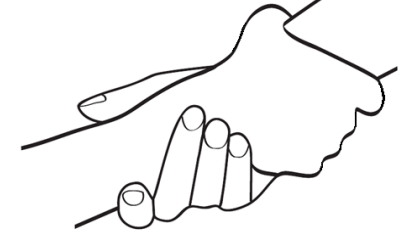
References

- 1 In Utah, Hispanic high school students have the highest drop out rate of all students, at 28% -- data from the 2007 Utah State Office of Education report
- 2 Source: Kaiser Health Disparities Report, Feb, 2009
- 3 U.S. Department of Justice, see: <http://ojdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2008/LatinoMentoring.pdf>
- 4 Miller, Jeffrey P. and Blannie E. Bowen. 1993. "Competency, Coping, and Contributory Life Skills Development of Early Adolescents." Journal of Agricultural Education. Spring: 68-76.
- 5 Boyd, Barry L., Don R. Herring, and Gary E. Briers. 1992. "Developing Life Skills in Youth: How 4-H'ers Perceive their Leadership." Journal of Extension. Winter: 16-18.



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Youth Discovery Inc



**Multicultural Youth Achieving
Their Highest Potential**



**Youth Discovery Inc (YDI)
works with schools,
community organizations,
and individuals to develop
and implement programs
that help multicultural and
underserved youth
discover and achieve their
highest potential.**

Strategies for Success

At Youth Discovery, we believe that Latino and multicultural youth can be empowered to develop necessary skills for success. We support programs that enhance their vision of what their lives can become by using the following principals:

Long Term Involvement: including youth, their families and their community.

Mentors and Positive Role Models: mentorship is provided both for and by participants.

Cultural and Identity Development: developing pride in participants' own culture, language and identity.

Academics: developing participants' academic and/or employment skills, with an emphasis on literacy and skills to complete higher education and/or vocational training.

Leadership: development of participants' leadership skills through peer mentoring and community service.

Outdoor Activities: participants develop confidence and leadership through outdoor experiences.

Employment: programs provide meaningful employment to encourage youth to remain in school.

With your help, YDI will continue to help Latino and multicultural youth and families achieve their highest potential by providing them with greater access to programs that include these Strategies for Success.



Current Programs Supported

Diversity Initiative

The Diversity Initiative is a comprehensive four-faceted campaign, along with Utah State University, that establishes programs and workshops for students, their parents, provides training for professionals, and collaborates with community resources with the end goal of increasing multicultural students graduation rate and attendance in further education.

Latinos In Action (LIA)

LIA is a college-prep and service-learning class for high school students. Students learn skills and strategies necessary to enter college and are trained as para-educators to mentor ESL and other students at local elementary or middle schools. LIA is active in Cache Valley high schools and 54 other schools in Utah, Idaho, and Washington state, with plans for continued growth.



ESL Discovery

ESL Discovery is a program at Mount Logan Middle School. A teacher leads ESL students on various field trips that use the outdoors as a stimulus to build language and literacy skills.

Bilingual Youth Corps

Operated by the Utah Conservation Corps at USU, and co-sponsored by Golden Spike National Monument, the Bilingual Youth Corps consists of 4 crews of 7 bilingual high school students, led by a bilingual USU student. In the summer, these crews spend 5 weeks in conservation employment and education.

High School Mentors

Bilingual high school students from Mountain Crest High School are hired to work with the after school clubs of Hyrum middle and elementary schools tutoring Spanish-speaking children.

MESA Outdoors

Every year YDI sponsors an outdoor component to 6 Cache District schools to supplement their MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) programs.

VISTA Volunteers

YDI in cooperation with Cache School district has engaged 7 AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers to help plan and guide our programs.



Ways to Contribute

Monetary Donations: You can keep YDI programs growing with your tax deductible donations. Please visit our website www.youthdiscovery.org to donate by check or PayPal. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

Apply for Grants: Programs supporting multicultural youth can apply to YDI. Programs must include at least one Strategy for Success. Please contact YDI or visit our website at www.youthdiscovery.org for more details.

Volunteering: We are in need of volunteers to help us secure grants and funding sources. You may also volunteer with our internship program with potential credit applicable to USU.

Partners: To provide our programs we partner with organizations such as:

Latinos in Action
Cache County School District
Logan City School District
Utah State University
Utah Conservation Corps at USU
Common Ground Outdoor Adventures
Stokes Nature Center
American West Heritage Center

