



ASPIRATIONS

A PUBLICATION OF ASPIRA OF NEW YORK, INC.

CAFÉ ASPIRA PROMOTES CYBER SAFETY AND SECURITY

ASPIRA of New York has launched a bilingual website dedicated to helping parents protect themselves and their children against cyber predators, bullies and frauds. The Hispanic youth services agency created the website as the centerpiece of an awareness campaign aimed at newcomers to cyberspace—including the growing community of Hispanics online—as well as longtime Internet users.

The Café Aspira website, found at www.cafeaspira.com, in both English and Spanish, covers malicious programs, discusses cyberbullying and identifies various types of cyber child sex offenders and their methods. The site also features a section on cyber fraud, covering phishing, credit card scams and identity theft schemes. Café Aspira provides advice and links to resources about keeping safe, as what to do if victimized. (contd. on pg. 3)



Café ASPIRA helps parents protect their children online.

YOUTH CONFERENCE BRINGS HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS TOGETHER

More than 700 high school students attended ASPIRA's 15th Annual City Youth Conference at John Jay College in Manhattan. Workshops covered a variety of topics, such as money management and immigration policy. Students participated in workshops led by distinguished experts in their respective fields. Workshops included:



Students fill John Jay College's auditorium for the start of ASPIRA's 2008 City Youth Conference.

- ◆ *Success and Social Responsibility: Are They Mutually Exclusive?*, presented by Cid Wilson, one of Wall Street's leading analysts.
- ◆ *About the Young Lords Party*, presented by Young Lords Party co-founder Mickey Melendez
- ◆ *Latino Influences in Jazz*, led by internationally renowned jazz trumpeter Ray Vega.
- ◆ *Learning From Our Leaders*, presented by Luis Colon, a member of one of the original ASPIRA Clubs.

More than 20 colleges and universities were on hand to provide admissions and financial aid information to students during the college fair. The conference culminated with a student talent show and a performance by guest vocalist and poet extraordinaire, La Bruja.

ASPIRA'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Since ASPIRA's inception in 1961, leadership development has been at the core of the agency's mission: To foster the advancement of the Hispanic community by helping Latino youth aspire to improve their lives through educational excellence, and to better their communities through enlightened leadership.

ASPIRA's founder, Dr. Antonia Pantoja, stressed the importance of education and articulated through the agency's name the expectation that Puerto Rican and Latino youth could succeed. Dr. Pantoja and her colleagues taught Aspirantes about their history and heritage, helping them to value where they came from and who they were. Students were encouraged to go to college and received assistance with scholarships, financial aid and student loans.

*The need for ASPIRA
Leadership Clubs is as great
as ever.*

Through the ASPIRA Process—Awareness, Analysis and Action—students learned to be aware of their immediate situation, their environment and their community; to analyze causes and consequences; and to take action for change in their personal lives and in their community.

Thousands of Aspirantes became the first in their families to go to college. ASPIRA club alumni include Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Fernando Ferrer, former Bronx borough president and democratic mayoral nominee, among scores of other Aspirantes who blazed trails for future generations of Latinos in government, business, the arts and the legal and medical professions.

True to Dr. Pantoja's goals and objectives for the agency, ASPIRA today continues working to promote educational excellence and civic responsibility among Latino youth. ASPIRA Leadership Clubs remain at the heart of this work.

As could be seen at this year's Citywide Youth Conference, attended by more than 700 young people—the largest CYC turnout yet—the ASPIRA Club spirit is alive and well and thriving. Throughout New York City, and in Long Island and Rockland County, ASPIRA Leadership Clubs serve some 900 students at 30 high schools, twice the number of clubs active just two years ago.

But this is no time to rest on laurels. The need for ASPIRA Leadership Clubs is as great as ever. That is why ASPIRA has outlined an aggressive plan to expand the number of clubs to 100 by the 2010-11 school year.



ASPIRANTES HELP NEEDY

Aspirantes throughout the city launched food drives at their high schools, collecting thousands of canned goods and other nonperishable to give to needy families.

The food drive marked the 13th Annual Day of Community Service and Social Responsibility, sponsored by the Puerto Rican cultural group Comite Noviembre.

The students distributed the food at El Museo del Barrio in Manhattan the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

ASPIRANTE EARNS FULL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Alejandra Palomino, an ASPIRANTE and senior at John Adams High School in Queens, has been awarded a full scholarship to attend Franklin & Marshall College.

The scholarship was awarded by the Posse Foundation, which recruits student leaders from urban public high schools and prepares them for the challenges of a top-tier university. At Franklin & Marshall, located in Lancaster Pa., Alejandra plans on majoring in political science. After graduating, she would like to attend law school.

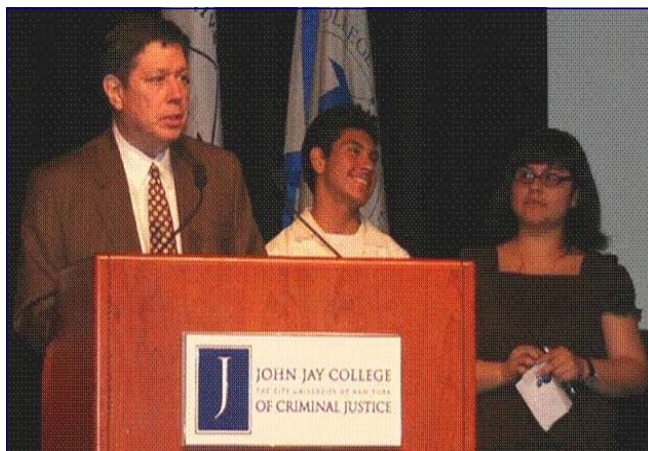
Inspired by the ASPIRA Process—Awareness Analysis and Action—Alejandra has made herself aware of issues of concern to her, has analyzed the consequences of those issues and is ready to take action. Her goal: To change the mainstream media’s perception of Latinas. Her leadership skills, which caught the attention of the Posse Foundation, will serve her well.

ASPIRA proudly congratulates Alejandra Palomino.



Aspirante Alejandra Palomino will attend Marshall & Franklin College on scholarship this fall.

ASPIRA SAYS ‘THANK YOU’



ASPIRA Executive Director Hector Gesualdo and ASPIRA Club Federation leaders Elieser Rivera and Nancy Trujillo kick off this year’s Citywide Youth Conference.

- Academic Finance Corporation
- The City University of New York
- Hispanic Federation
- Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- NBC / Universal
- Richard Eaton Foundation
- United Way of New York City

CYBER SAFETY AT CAFÉ ASPIRA



(contd. from pg. 1)

“Café ASPIRA is a tool for becoming cyber savvy and understanding how to avoid being the victim of a cyber predator, bully or fraud,” says Hector Gesualdo, executive director of ASPIRA of New York. “Café Aspira will help answer questions about online security and be a source for advice on how to safely navigate the Web.”

The campaign’s launch comes on the heels of a report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing a 50 percent increase since 2000 in youth ages 10 to 17 who said they were harassed online.

The Café Aspira cyber awareness campaign was made possible by a court approved settlement of anti-trust claims brought by the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission.

ASPIRANTES GET A TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE



Students at SUNY Buffalo: Juan Hoyos, Ysmeli Rosa, Ramel Childs, Jimmy De Los Angeles, Sara Muhtaseb, Terell Jones, Victoria Fenandez, Saskia Aviles.

Aspirantes from high schools across the city were the guests of Buffalo State College. Students were provided with a taste of college life and information on financing a college education.

“I thought this trip was great because I wanted to see the college, but I didn’t know what I would do to visit it,” said Kristina Maisonet, a student at Preston High School in the Bronx. “But ASPIRA got a bus for all of us who wanted to see it and made it easy for us.”

The 36 students making the eight-hour trek upstate were given a tour of the SUNY Buffalo campus and participated in workshops, such as *College Life In a Nutshell*, and had their questions about financial aid answered.

“This trip gave me a better view of what college is about,” said Tracy Andrades,

ASPIRA Beam 1 participant and junior at Crotona Academy in the Bronx. “I feel that they made me more confident about getting into college. I have an idea of what my next four years are going to look like.”

At Cornell University, Aspirantes presented an informative presentation stressing the importance of engaging youth in community action initiatives. The young researchers made their presentation to graduate students and college administrators who were impressed by the students’ work. During the two-day college experience, students partook in informative workshops on the admissions process and financial aid opportunities and were given a tour of the Cornell Campus.



Students at Cornell: Ikponmwosa Omoruyi, Angel Rodriguez, Wigner Duarte, Jeffrey Yraldo, Gilbert Rodriguez, Issa Spencer and Muthoni Kamau and Chakira Branch.

ASPIRA TO FETE LEADERS AT ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

At its Ninth Annual Circle of Latino Achievers Luncheon, to be held May 19th at The Pierre in Manhattan, ASPIRA will present the Dr. Antonia Pantoja Leadership Award to Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson of the City University of New York. The Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting will be awarded the Dr. Antonia Pantoja Corporate Leadership Award.

In addition, 30 Aspirantes will be presented college scholarships donated by the luncheon’s sponsors.

ASPIRA of New York, Inc.
 520 Eighth Avenue, 22nd Floor
 New York, NY 10018
 Tel: (212) 564-6880
www.nyaspira.org