

Adelante Academy Builds Solid Foundations

Barrington 220 Latino students are invited to a notable summer academy to jump-start their post-secondary education. This unique program, offered by Barrington 220 in partnership with Harper College and Motorola Solutions, has helped many students achieve college-level success that they never thought would be possible.



From left: Monica Barreiro, Barrington High School Counselor; Dr. Ninja Nagel, Barrington High School Assistant Principal and Adelante Academy co-coordinator; and Mercedes Beltran, an Adelante Academy co-coordinator and Barrington High School Spanish and English Language Learner teacher.

THREE YEARS AGO, a dedicated group of educators met to map out a plan directed at helping Latino students succeed in schooling beyond Barrington High School. The solution they came up with was Adelante Academy. Adelante in Spanish means “forward.” The intention of the program is to propel students forward in their education.

“For those students that choose to go on to community college, Adelante is the next step in ensuring continued success and securing the support needed to get through the college years,” Monica Barreiro, Barrington High School counselor says.

“In the late 1990s, Barrington was a place for me that was unlike my home; [there were] not many students or faculty who looked like me, or spoke my native language of Spanish,” said Mercedes Beltran, Adelante co-coordinator, and a Barrington High School Spanish and English Language Learner teacher. “Years later, I’m once again walking the halls of Barrington High School, this time as a teacher. I see students give me that familiar glance of unspoken understanding.”

Barrington High School juniors and seniors who self-identify as Hispanic and place at a certain level on the ACT test are invited to participate in the Academy held at Harper College. This four-week program contains problem-based instruction with a focus on three strands: computer science, chemistry, and graphic arts, while always keeping reading and math in mind. Each Friday, speakers from Motorola Solutions give presentations on job-related topics to these future members of the workforce.

The primary goal of the Adelante program is to help set students up for success in college. Before entering the Academy, many of these students did not place into credit bearing courses at Harper, and had to start with developmental course work. After completing the program, the 36 students involved were able to skip more than 100 developmental course credits combined.

Another goal of the Adelante program is to give students a preview of the Harper College campus. College life can be intimidating, and exposing students to this environment early on helps to ensure their comfort level, and increases

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BARRINGTON 220



enrollment numbers.

“Many of our students are first generation college-bound and are unfamiliar with the college process. Getting connected with someone right away, especially the Harper staff involved with Adelante, can be the bridge to success and college completion for our students,” Barreiro says. “They serve as strong, professional role models and mentors to the Adelante participants throughout their college years, which can make all the difference in the world.”

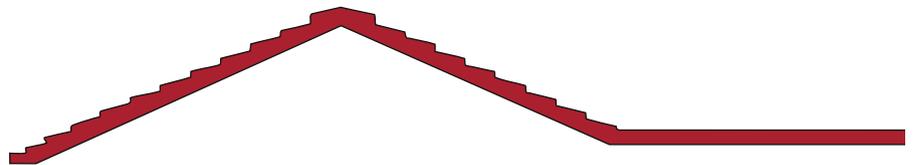
The third goal for the Adelante program is to provide students with scholarships, which are generously donated by Motorola Solutions. The scholarships are based on performance during the four-week program and awarded by Tony Lopez from Motorola Solutions and Harper College President Dr. Kenneth Ender. Six students were awarded \$18,000 in scholarship funds last summer to cover tuition for their entire first year at Harper College.

“I’m so pleased to be able to help many of these students through Adelante Academy,” Beltran says. “This program was developed for Hispanic students “on the cusp of greatness” to ensure they succeed in post-secondary education. Adelante has made returning to Barrington High School dramatically more meaningful. “I am proud to help these students make a difference in their lives with Adelante Academy.”



Dr. Ninja Nagel, a native of Germany, is a co-coordinator of the Adelante Academy. Nagel was previously the World Language Department Chair at Barrington High School, and will

take on a new role as Assistant Principal for the 2014-15 school year.



B. ALLENDORFER

A FAMILY TRADITION FOR FIVE GENERATIONS



Contractors Since 1885



ALL TYPES OF ROOFING & BUILDING REPAIRS • INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR REMODELING



RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

- Residential & Commercial Roofing
- Cedar, Slate & Tile Roofing
- Architectural Sheet Metal
- Historical Renovations
- Masonry Restoration
- Windows & Doors Skylights
- Siding, Gutters & Downspouts
- Insulation & Ventilation
- Basement & Attic Build-Outs
- Commercial Space Build-Outs
- Kitchens & Bathrooms Additions

REMODELING • ROOFING • BUILDING REPAIRS

BRIAN ALLENDORFER CO., INC.

773-292-0600 BALLENDORFER.COM