

Powerful Parents Developing Advocates for Successful Students

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What is MESA?

- ➔ MESA is a pre-college program that encourages students to develop an interest in Math and Science and demonstrate its application to the real world.
- ➔ MESA is recognized throughout the country in many states. These states include:
 - AZ, CA, CO, HI, MD, NM, OR, PA, UT, WA

MESA's Mission

- Provide enriching opportunities in mathematics, engineering, and science for underrepresented students (African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and females) in grades 4–12 through the use of exemplary materials and instructional approaches.
- Be a catalyst and model for educational excellence and equity.
- We accomplish this through a partnership of higher education, school districts, industry and business, government, community organizations, families and alumni.

How Do our Centers Work to Involve Parents?

MESA Parent can:

- ▶ Join MESA Powerful Parent Board
- ▶ Volunteer your time and talents
- ▶ Attend MESA powerful parent workshops



The goals of MESA Powerful Parents are to:

- ▶ Keep parents informed on the changes of math and science curriculum and expectations.
- ▶ Raise parent awareness of math and science based career opportunities for their children.
- ▶ Support the successful transitions from elementary to middle school to high school and to college.

The goals of MESA Powerful Parents (Con't):

- ▶ Involve parents and families in the academic lives of their MESA students.
- ▶ Provide parents with college planning support to help ensure access to college, with rigorous high school coursework, SAT preparation and outstanding college applications.

Acceso a la Ciencia

The project focus is community engagement via bilingual (Spanish) exhibits and shows, parent involvement, a youth internship, and family science workshops. Grant-funded project partners included YVTC MESA, Washington State University Tri-Cities, and Pacific Science Center in Seattle.



Fostering Family Involvement

- ▶ Meaningfully Engage Families
- ▶ Educate Family Members
- ▶ Provide Culturally Competent Staff



Meaningfully Engage Families

- ▶ Student Recognition Events
- ▶ Field Trips
- ▶ Middle School Conference workshops



Meaningfully Engage Families

- ▶ Student Recognition Events for Families



Meaningfully Engage Families

- ▶ Middle School Conference workshops



Meaningfully Engage Families

- ▶ Field Trips
(Oregon
Museum of
Science and
Industry)



Educate Family Members

- ▶ Assess topics parents want to learn more about
- ▶ Connect with parents to talk about your program and its benefits
- ▶ Bring up students' interests and strengths and bring these up with family members



Educate Family Members

- ▶ Assess topics parents want to learn more about



Educate Family Members

Connect with parents to talk about your program and its benefits

Parents, partners and university faculty got to hear about program benefits in students' own words.



2009-2011 Accesso Intern Lety Luna

Culturally Competent Staff

- ▶ Build trust and ask for input from families
- ▶ Demonstrate that participant feedback is key
- ▶ Be aware of challenges to parent participation and open to making changes that address these



Culturally Competent Staff

- ▶ Build trust and ask for input from families



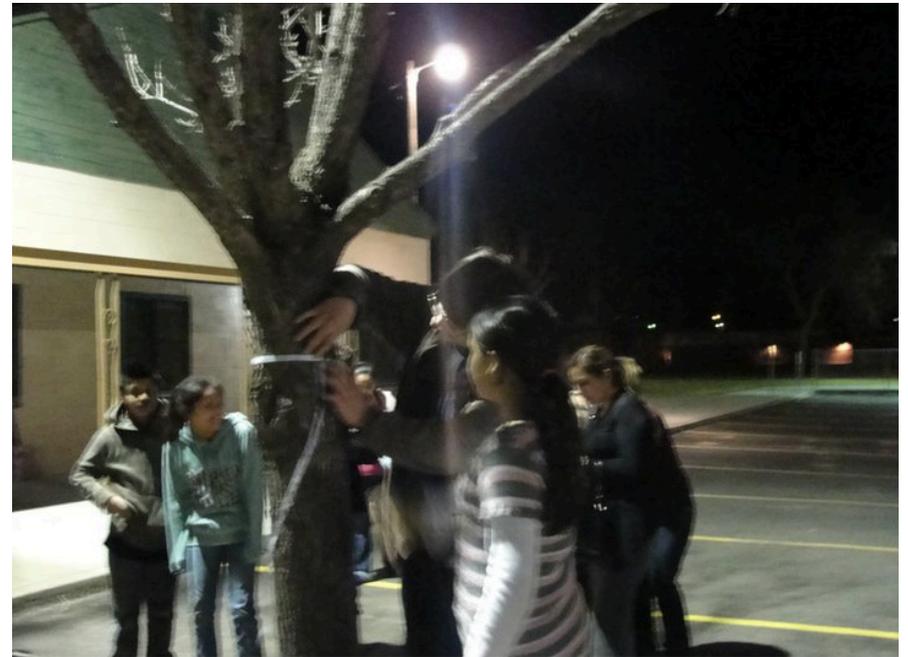
Culturally Competent Staff

- ▶ Demonstrate that participant feedback is key



Culturally Competent Staff

- ▶ Be aware of challenges to parent participation and open to making changes that address these



Outcome: Student Success

Roman Lara:

- ▶ Senior Ambassador at Washington State University Tri Cities
- ▶ President and founder of Hispanic Cultures Club
- ▶ Continues to volunteer for Acceso events



Outcome: Life past the grant

Silvia Ramirez:

- ▶ Sophomore at Washington State University Tri Cities
- ▶ NEW Acceso Program Coordinator



Parent Comments

Any other comments?

“Si porque seguimos aprendiendo cosas nuevas, interesantes, y a la vez compartimos con nuestros hijos.”
(Yes because we keep learning new, interesting things and at the same time share with our children.) – Mother

“Me gusto y lo disfrute completamente todo. El que la maestra diera la presentación en una manera bilingüe me animo a venir otra vez.”
(I liked it and enjoyed everything completely. The teacher’s bilingual presentation encouraged me to come back.) – Mother

SciGirls en Familia workshops, 2011

Recap

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Questions?



CONTACT INFORMATION

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