Facts About Our Program

- Founded in 1984
- To date, 4,170 students have gone through our program
- 99% of program participants graduate from high school
- 90% of participants attend college
- 100% volunteer staff for all IELF program activities
- 96% of staff are program alumni

For additional information contact:

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Notice Me Everywhere
(John Meadows ’06)
The Mission of IEFLP is to:

• Provide leadership training that will create ethical leaders in school and community
• Motivate participants to complete high school and enroll and graduate from college, always striving for excellence
• Develop self-esteem and cultural pride in Latino youth
• Empower participants and their families through financial literacy
• Provide career information and encourage participants to explore career options
• Motivate participants to make positive contributions to their communities
• Promote love, respect, and responsibility for family and country

Description: IEFLP offers an annual six-day Latino Student Leadership Development Conference for 130 students, a majority of whom are from low-to-middle-income families. Our conference provides alumni a unique opportunity to serve as staff and to put into practice skills learned when they initially went through the program. In addition, we provide academic-year workshops for alumni and their parents.

Program Curriculum:

• Culture and heritage
• History
• Current Issues
• Cultural Activities
• Leadership Training
• Strategies for Running for Office
• Public Speaking
• Parliamentary Procedure
• College Preparation Information
• Career Information
• Financial Literacy


Requirements: Must be in 8th or 9th grade when applying, minimum 2.8 grade point average, an autobiographical statement, a description of school and community activities, and two letters of recommendation from school personnel and community leaders.

A Brief History of IEFLP
1984–2018

In 1983, San Bernardino educator Susan Castro attended a statewide conference of the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE). She was impressed with a presentation by high school students who had attended an AMAE high school leadership conference.

Back in the Inland Empire, believing that such a program would be of immense benefit to local students, Susan sought the help of other local educators, including Henry Vásquez, Bill Ellison, and Frank Acosta.

Knowing that the program needed support from a local university, Susan, Henry, Bill, and Frank contacted Dr. Tom Rivera, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at California State University, San Bernardino. Dr. Rivera’s support and direction proved crucial.

From the beginning, the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program focused on high school freshmen, thus affording Program alumni four years to put into practice skills and knowledge learned at its leadership conference. The conference setting, its strategies, activities, and topics are consciously designed to accomplish the Program’s mission and are completely unlike a typical high school setting and curriculum. The topics and strategies are modified as needed and have been greatly enriched by each year’s creative and dedicated staff. This has resulted in a program that for the last 34 years has changed lives and motivated and prepared participants to reach their highest potential.