



Leadership: Growing the next generation of global partners

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“Everyone wants to feel that he counts for something and is important to someone. Invariably, people will give their love, respect, and attention to the person who fills that need.”

John C. Maxwell, Leadership 101

Leadership

Real leadership is being the person others will gladly and confidently follow

Annual Conference

The CEPA Consortium is hosting its annual leadership conference October 27-28, 2016. The theme is *Leadership: Growing the next generation of global partners*. The conference site is the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

Scholars and educators



Ivan Acevedo is a Ph.D. student at the University of the Incarnate Word with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Ivan’s educational background includes a BA and MA

in International Relations from St. Mary’s University and a MAA in Organizational Development from the University of the Incarnate Word. His research interests include leadership, organizational surveys, cultural diversity and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS).

At CEPA 2015, Acevedo presented his research on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS), provided by universities and large organizations, as an alternative for providing professional development training. Recent college graduates are having a difficult time finding jobs or many young people have discovered that the salary they initially envisioned is even more difficult to come by during an economic downturn. Acevedo believes that despite these obstacles, however, college students and recent graduates can still put themselves on the right track to a high-paying career through proactive educational initiatives, rather than simply attending traditional classroom lectures. MOOCS, combined with collaborative forums, such as CEPA leadership conferences, can accelerate and promote the job-seeking process and career opportunities.



Ana Lopez is a doctoral student at New Mexico State University and an international student from Mexico. Ms Lopez is enrolled in the Special Education doctoral program with

a concentration in bilingual/multicultural special education. Prior to coming to NMSU,

she worked with students with visual impairments and their families during her undergraduate practicum preparation at Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. These experiences have awakened a deep interest in exploring the field of multicultural special education, and how this intersects with families along the U.S.- Mexico Border.

The title of Ana Lopez's presentation at CEPA 2016 is *Guerreras Fronterizas, the resilience mothers of children with disabilities on the Mexican side of the U.S.- Mexico Border*. This thought-provoking exposition will reveal how Mexican mothers are guerreras (warriors), who face different challenges and obstacles in the daily quest of a better life and education for their children with special needs. This young scholar, along with her mentor, Dr. Loretta Salas, not only make the connection to the conference theme, but also address critical social issues within the Americas. According to Dr. Salas, the Department of Special Education at NMSU offers a doctoral specialization in Multicultural Special Education studies thus offering students unique opportunities to study US Border issues at the forefront.

Follow me

Ivan Acevedo and Ana Lopez lead the way with bold leadership initiatives by embracing vision, risk, and change for the new millennium. Through their presentations, independence is gained, as well as a strong foundation of leadership: relentless drive to improve education, a deep sense of integrity and inner strength, and the ability to initiate a dynamic interchange of ideas with others dedicated to a common mission and philosophy.

Universities work in partnership

During the past fifteen years, universities have worked in partnership at the annual

CEPA conferences, to encourage students to engage their brains in extra leadership opportunities and combine it with a way for them to enhance their professional careers.

Universities nation-wide have been represented — from Pepperdine on the west coast, Indiana State University in the mid-west, to New Hampshire on the east coast. Delegates from Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean have also been represented.



Thomas Friedman in his book, *That Used To Be Us*, states that at many top-level universities, the direction has moved to “coach and inspire a new generation of leaders so that they will not only do today’s important work but also invent tomorrow’s.” Friedman goes on to say that “critical thinking alone just doesn’t buy what it used to buy. Critical thinking has become the basic price of admission.” Therefore, as colleges and universities know, if they want to succeed they must seek faculty and students with the ability to innovate and collaborate. Friedman believes, “with change coming as fast as it is, that is the only thing that will save them.”

Championing success

Join us for an empowering weekend. The conference recognizes dreamers and visionaries, their pursuit of goals, and a desire to grow and excel.

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