ANNUAL LATINO ROLE MODELS DAY

LASER’s annual Latino Role Models Day brings more than 150 Latino high school students to Ohio State to engage with role models from the university and the community. LASER seeks to open doors and to empower the next generation of innovation and creativity produced by Latinos of the Americas. LASER Ambassadors build bridges with the community and incoming Latino undergraduate students.

AT A GLANCE

LASER is winner of Ohio State’ prestigious University Emerging Community Engagement Award and the Columbus City Council Award.

LASER’S GOALS:

- Develop a network for Latino students to thrive in college and beyond
- Create a welcome space at Ohio State for Latinos of all generations
- Help students gain an understanding of and plan for college, graduate and professional school
- Work successfully with LASER mentors for successful acceptance into undergraduate then graduate and professional school
- Challenge Latino students at various stages of their academics, including internships and post-secondary college course enrollment
- Offer workshops on financial aid, summer camps and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) enrollments
- Build bridges between the university, the Latino community in Central Ohio and corporate, public and non-profit agencies

The Ohio State University LASER (Latino and Latin American Space for Enrichment and Research) is a total mentoring system for Latinos from high school through college and professional schools. LASER seeks to open doors and to empower the next generation of innovation and creativity produced by Latinos of the Americas. LASER mentors work on-one-one to prepare students for successful entry into college. LASER offers internship opportunities and supports three graduate students per year as LASER/Humanities In-Residence Fellows.

A total mentoring system to open doors for Latinos
LASER MENTORS

The LASER Mentors serve as academic role models as well as bridge builders between Latinos in high school, the university and LASER partnership campuses, Otterbein University and Ohio Wesleyan University, among others. They also serve as academic role models between graduate and professional students and Latino undergraduates.

OUTCOMES

LASER helps expand the presence of Latinos in higher education and enrich the undergraduate research experience in college and supports students in their professional development, as they apply to and enroll in professional and graduate school programs.

“...I have been able to do so many things while being a LASER Scholar: attend study workshops that have helped me on test-taking skills and how to become a better student. This and much more has definitely helped me with moving my grades up. I’m proud of being a LASER scholar and being able to acquire all the academic mentoring they provide.”

(Carlos Hernandez, LASER High School Scholar)

“Our mission is to promote state-of-the-art research and exchange in the field of Latino and Latin American studies. With an eye toward building bridges internationally, LASER incorporates the research focused on Latinos in the US as it interfaces with the social, cultural and historical realities of those inhabiting the Americas.”

(Frederick Luis Aldama, Director, LASER)

“For me, LASER is more than just helping disadvantaged high school students get to college. It’s a program where students can be real about their failures, frustrations and victories as we strive toward our shared vision.”

(Carlos Mendez, LASER Mentor)