

Zavala Sponsored Programs

Hispanic Leadership Banquet

This event marks Zavala's best event of the year. At this event, Hispanic Person of the year is announced and scholarships are awarded to local seniors. The event hosts a special guest speaker, dinner and live entertainment. A committee is put together (months before the event) to prepare for the biggest event of the year!

Calle Ocho

The goal of this event is to celebrate and share our Hispanic culture while promoting the need for a united Wichita Falls community. Additionally, we hope to bring commerce to the Wichita Falls historic downtown area by holding the festival in the heart of downtown. Various businesses and individuals share their art and food with the community, while having entertainment and a children's area that focuses on passing on various cultural traditions to the youth.

Las Posadas

Las Posadas is a Christmas tradition of the Latina culture. The program includes a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage for lodging on the eve of Jesus' birth. Piñatas, sweet bread and hot chocolate are all part of the celebration. Zavala usually makes a contribution to this event by helping get the word out, supplying a piñata and candy and attending the event.

Café Con Leche

Café Con Leche allows Latino parents to learn more about education and career opportunities for their children in a non-threatening setting. Facilitated by Gonzalo Robles, Educational Consultant, these forums take place in familiar places, such as: schools, universities, community centers and churches around the state. Robles encourages parents to discuss the fears and obstacles they face when making decisions about sending their students to a post-secondary educational institution, and creating a "Culture of High Expectations" at home. Robles' vision is to have families thinking and planning for college from the time their students enter elementary school. Café Con Leche was first developed by the Institute for Public School Initiatives (IPSI) at The University of Texas at Austin.

Road To College

The Road to College Program is an educational engagement program for parents and students. It instills the value of education, while developing positive school-to-parent relationships and creating a college-going culture for 6th to 12th grade students and their families. The curriculum is comprised of monthly or weekly educational sessions that include: Creating High Expectations at Home, Understanding the Role of Parents in Education, Participating in School and Community Activities, College Life and Financial Aid 101, and Taking Advantage of College Access Resources. In addition, The Road to College Program is offered to families and students during the summer. The summer curriculum is seven weeks consisting of four

different segments: Academic Enrichment, Supportive Guidance, Nutrition, and Fitness. Current data shows that when parents are involved and have access to information about college from the time their students enter middle school, those students are more likely to graduate from High School and enter college. On the contrary, if we fail any of them, only one in five will graduate on time from High School.

Amo Leer

Amo Leer is a program funded by a grant through the Priddy Foundation. Zavala started this collaboration in 2011 and has been successful every year. The goal is to help increase literacy among Hispanic families and young children so they are prepared for success in life and school. Families can enjoy educational events that are centered on the love of reading, celebrating and learning about the Hispanic culture.