



MAMARONECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 W. Boston Post Road • Tel 914 220-3007
Mamaroneck, NY 10543 • Fax 914 220-3010

News Release

White House Initiative Highlights Mamaroneck as a “Bright Spot” in Hispanic Education

MAMARONECK, NY, September 16, 2015 – At a live press conference yesterday afternoon, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics recognized Mamaroneck School District (along with 230 other programs, leaders, schools, organizations or partnerships) as one of the nation’s “Bright Spots” in Hispanic education for helping to increase educational opportunities, improve educational outcomes and deliver a complete and competitive education for all Hispanics. The announcement was made in conjunction with the launch of Hispanic Heritage Month and in honor of the Initiative’s 25th anniversary in Washington, D.C.

MUFSD -- which was recognized for its PALMS and PATHS programs -- will be part of a [national online catalog](#) highlighting model programs that invest in key education priorities for Hispanics. The Initiative leverages these Bright Spots to encourage collaboration between stakeholders focused on similar issues in sharing data-driven approaches, promising practices, peer advice, and effective partnerships, ultimately resulting in increased support for the educational attainment of the Hispanic community, from cradle-to-career.

“We’re proud of the work we have accomplished in providing opportunities for all of our students and in helping to close the achievement gap. We’re thrilled to be selected as a Bright Spot,” said MUFSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaps. “Our data reveals a significant increase in the graduation rate among Hispanic students, including improved school attendance and better grade performance. We’ve worked hard, and will continue to work hard, to ensure that more of our Hispanic students enroll in Honors and Advanced Placement courses and participate in athletics and other school activities.”

Dr. Shaps talked about the District’s philosophy of having high expectations for all students and reiterated the importance of establishing a school-home connection with every child. “Our efforts focus on encouraging a high level of parent engagement,” he said. “And, beyond that, we are tremendously grateful for our outstanding community partnerships, such as the Hispanic Resource Center, that support our efforts with the Hispanic community.”

The Executive Director of The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics Alejandra Ceja said, “There has been notable progress in Hispanic educational achievement, and

it is due to the efforts of these Bright Spots in Hispanic Education, programs and organizations working throughout the country to help Hispanic students reach their full potential."

To learn more, visit <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/hispanic-initiative/>

###

About MUFSD's College Access Programs

PALMS (Post-Secondary Access for Latino Middle Grade Students) was implemented to strengthen Hispanic students' academic skills, provide learning opportunities for goal-setting, learn about higher education, and increase parent engagement. The following year, a District planning committee was established, Program Alignment Team for Hispanics Students (PATHS), through which several initiatives have been established, including Hispanic PTAs at the elementary, middle and high school, summer and after-school programs (JumpStart), over 32 local television shows in Spanish (Vistazos), all school information translated into Spanish, school meetings for Spanish-speaking parents, college programs and visits specifically for Hispanic students and parents, several workshops in Spanish on Special Education and technology, and increased enrollment in Honors and Advanced Placement courses, along with increased participation in athletics and other school activities. The data provided for Hispanic students demonstrates a significant increase in our graduation rate, improved attendance and grade performance.