

# Youth Leadership<sup>1</sup>

Thursday May 10th



## **Summary of Panel Discussion and Workshop:**

- “No one knows more than what we all can know together” There is a need to share our struggles and our experiences, whether they are positive or negative.
- Concepts and points that are important when discussing Leadership:
  - *Concept of Leadership:* “Influence, the art or process of influencing other people to voluntarily put forth their best effort and enthusiasm in order to accomplish the goals of the group. A person should be encouraged to develop not only a disposition for doing the work but doing it because it is something they want and they feel passionate about.”
  - *Two ways to understand the concept of leadership:* a) as a personal quality b) as a function
  - *Characteristic of Leadership:* vision; commitment, being well informed, ability to delegate and give power to others, politically savvy
  - *The 8 abilities of leadership:* 1) ability to work with others 2) ability to be assertive 3) ability to resolve conflicts 4) ability to process information 5) ability to make decision even when they are not thoroughly structured 6) ability to distribute resources 7) initiative ability 8) introspective ability
  - *PEIMA of Leadership:* Spanish acronym for Power, Understanding, Inspiration, Motivation and Action
- Testimonies on how the presenters started the Chicago-Mexico Club
- What is the reality for these youth? How can they be put in a leadership position?

## **Principal Points of Agreement and Recurring Themes:**

- *Conflict Resolution:* Diagnose the situation, analyze it and make strategic decisions. Analyze the magnitude of the conflict, communication is key. Respect, listen and be open to suggestions. Negotiate to reach a win-win situation for all parties involved.
- *Reality for youth:* Youth are targeted and viewed as criminals. There is too much violence in the communities. There are no sports facilities or training programs for youth to be involved with. In other words there is a lack of opportunities and orientation for youth to develop. Leading many to have no goals in life and feel disconnected from society.
- *Factors that allow this situation to continue:* Lack of communication, with adults, the government and among themselves. Disconnect from the adult’s world. Moreover, the government is disconnected from the youth. Media is the only avenue that shapes youth given that there is little cooperation between adults and youth in projects.

## **Points of Disagreement:**

- To the PEIMA acronym add values. Leaders should be those that serve the interest of the group.
- PEIMA is a good start to identify leaders but is not promoting the leadership of migrants

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<sup>1</sup> Notes by Adriana Insuarralde

**Measures Proposed:**

- Changing the migration phenomenon in our countries needs to be kept in mind
- One has to model leadership
- Plan strategies making youth full participants in the change, giving them power and responsibility
- Work in a global context of community
- Advocate that youth need to create their own perspectives on life and not follow stereotypes
- Make a social change. Identify our values