

The North American Educational Initiatives Foundation, Inc., proposes that an alliance of North American universities establish a rigorous Dual Enrollment leadership academy for promising high school juniors and seniors aimed at attracting the best and the brightest applicants of their generation. The participating university sponsors would obtain the appropriate program and course accreditation.

The **North American Dual Degree High School Program** would be marketed to the most promising sophomores in their second semester who would apply for two academic years of virtual study and two summers of on campus study (Mexican universities that operate on a unique academic calendar would decide which of their students might best participate). The faculty would be of the highest caliber and would emanate from a variety of institutions of higher learning. Almost all classes would be given in English or with English subtitles and presentations. The summer sessions would include a remarkable blend of academic, cultural, and networking opportunities and would take place at a rotating set of campus locations.

The curriculum would be based on the common values of the three North American cultures including those of the pre-Hispanic communities. The courses would be grounded on their shared traditions of natural law, classical philosophy (with special emphasis on Aristotle), economics, historical experiences (i.e., colonization, independence movements,

and industrialization) as well as philosophical, political, and religious systems. In addition, students would study leadership theory and practice.

During the program, students would have the opportunity to do independent study, collaborative work, and a final capstone project. Ideally, the academic program might constitute one year of academic credit at the most prestigious of the partner universities. These credits would be transferable to a variety of participating universities. Each participant would be assigned an academic advisor of their choosing. Upon completion of the program, students and their families would be invited to a special graduation ceremony. In due time, a program alumni association would be created.

The application process would be comprehensive and highly competitive. While it would be understandable that standards might have to be more flexible for the initial cohorts, the goal would be for the program to lean towards excellence as soon as possible. Students would need to be fluent in English and have a working knowledge of Spanish.

Cohorts would be composed of a comparative representation from the three countries which would include proportional representation from their indigenous populations. Applicants would be strongly encouraged to evaluate the potential program workload as

they consider enrolling in local advanced placement courses for their junior and senior years.

All parents of applicants would pay for the program to a common vendor according to a pre-arranged schedule. Potentially, families would spend less money on room and board were the participants ultimately to attend the university of their final destination. Financial aid would be available to eligible applicants who have been accepted into the program.

The proposed North American Dual Degree High School Program might obtain significant support from supporters and foundations for its path-breaking and cross-cultural model of youth leadership secondary studies for the purpose of an endowment, program marketing, research, scholarships, program travel, and replication to other institutions and regions.