Named after Dennis deLeon, former president of the Commission and a tireless advocate on behalf of Latinos, people of color, LGBT and other marginalized populations, The Dennis Deleon Sustainable Leadership Institute is a space for emerging community leaders to enhance and develop leadership skills in order to impact HIV/AIDS local, state and federal health policy affecting Latinos in the Deep South.

The institute is a platform to promote participatory and honest dialogue about how to address the pressing social and structural issues affecting Latinos in the Deep South.

In its first year, this institute aims to become an ongoing initiative in the Deep South, happening yearly with a different set of emerging leaders each year. The 2011 Dennis Deleon Sustainable Leadership Institute will take place from April to September 2011 and will focus on leaders in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Louisiana.
GOALS OF THE INSTITUTE

- Engage local emerging leaders in the Deep South who are advocates for the Latino community, and assist them in a leadership growth process.

- Assist emerging leaders in examining how health policies for Latinos in their respective regions are being impacted by the following issues: a) health disparities and lack of access to HIV/AIDS services, b) human rights violations, and c) the criminalization of HIV.

- Assist emerging leaders in identifying local resources and key players for coalition building, in order to collaborative impact current local health policies that are detrimental to Latinos in the Deep South.

- Enhance emerging leaders’ current abilities to identify local cross-strategy policy areas, create policy-oriented community organizing goals, and develop action steps to proactively address their projected local actions.

- Serve as an ongoing source of support for emerging leaders in the carrying out of their community organizing goals through active coaching and tutoring.

- Ultimately, the leadership institute serves as an instrument to bring the local voice to national platforms regarding the local pressing social issues and health policies impacting Latinos in the Deep South.

THE LATINOS IN THE DEEP SOUTH

Latinos in the Deep South is a program coordinated by the Latino Commission on AIDS that aims to build local leadership, develop networks and coalitions, enhance knowledge and cultural competency, and spur actions to address the needs of the emerging Latino/Hispanic populations in the Deep South. The program accomplishes these goals through capacity building, community organizing, leadership development and networking initiatives, with a focus on community-based participatory research and information dissemination.

THE LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS

The Latino Commission on AIDS (The Commission) is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1990 dedicated to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Latino/Hispanic communities. The Commission is the leading Latino AIDS organization coordinating initiatives like National Latino AIDS Awareness Day and other prevention and advocacy programs across the United States and its territories. For more information visit: www.latinoaids.org or www.nlaad.org
ABOUT DENNIS DELEON

Dennis deLeon (1948-2009) was the president of The Commission and a former human rights commissioner in New York City; he was a tireless advocate on behalf of Latinos, people of color, LGBT and other marginalized populations. Under his leadership The Commission developed a national clearinghouse for AIDS treatment information in Spanish, the first and largest network of religious leaders offering HIV prevention programs in Spanish-speaking congregations, and the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day which has been adopted by over 450 organizations in 45 states.

THE CURRICULUM

This institute takes place over a 6 month period and employs a leadership development curriculum implemented through face-to-face and distance learning mechanisms. A comprehensive 8 module curriculum will be implemented covering the following topics:

- Understanding Leadership in your region
- Self-Insight: Understanding Personality Types and Leadership Styles
- Leadership as Shared Purpose: Working Toward Goals
- Effective Communication
- Understanding the Policy Arena in the Deep South: Health Disparities, Human Rights and HIV Criminalization
- Creating Empowering Climates: Creating a Vision and Influencing Others
- Developing Strategies for Community Organizing
- Developing Goals and Action Steps for Effecting Policy Change in the Deep South

These eight modules will be implemented throughout the course of four months via bi-weekly webinars. Each webinar involves an informational session blending discussion and didactic styles. An activity follows each webinar, where participants will get to practice the skills they learned through specific assignments in their community. Participants are provided with useful printable guides and fact sheets to help them conduct their community activities.

During the last webinar participants will be tasked with developing policy-oriented goals and action steps that will be conducted in their communities during the last two months of the institute. Coaching and tutoring will be available for participants throughout the institute.

The institute culminates in a face-to-face meeting in South Carolina during the second week of September 2011, where participants present the outcomes of their efforts and share their overall experience.
PARTICIPANT CRITERIA

Candidates for the institute can self nominate or be nominated by a local organization or leader with demonstrated background in working with the Latino community in at least one of the following southern states: North Carolina, South Carolina, or Louisiana. The ideal candidate for the leadership institute will have the following characteristics:

• Be an emerging leader in the field, with at least 3 years of experience working in the public health arena.

• Have been engaged in developing advocacy work on local social pressing issues affecting Latinos/Hispanics for at least 3 years.

• Demonstrated personal and professional readiness for taking new leadership roles.

• Has promoted community engagement and new leadership within her/his organization, and has experience with community collaborations.

• Experienced with cross-strategy collaboration and desire to strengthen such work.

• Play a decision-making/leadership role within their organization.

• Is currently engaged in advocacy work focusing on Latinos in one or more of the following states: North Carolina, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

• Can commit to attend all eight webinars and the face-to-face meeting to take place during the fall of 2011.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply please submit a brief one page essay explaining why you are interested in the institute and how you meet the eligiblity criteria. If you were nominated by a local agency you would also have to submit a nomination letter.

Fax both documents no later than March 15th, 2011 to (917) 591-5438 with attention to Yanira Arias or via e-mail yarias@latinoaids.org. Please make sure to include the following information in your essay: name, title, organization, address, telephone, fax, cell, e-mail.

QUESTIONS?

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PARTICIPANTS COMMITMENT

• Willing to commit to the six month period institute.

• Attend all eight (8) bi-weekly webinars and conduct the corresponding monthly local community activities in order to practice the concepts learned.

• Attend at least one (1) additional monthly coaching or tutoring session provided by the institute to help enhance the implementation of the planned community activity.

• Attend the the face-to-face meeting during fall 2011 (to be held in the Deep South), and present the outcomes and experiences of your actions in the community.

• Willingness to promote this institute in your community and mentor participants for future Dennis Deleon Leadership Institutes.