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Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the Lehigh Valley

Letter from the Chair

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In this article I wanted to take the time to write about a very special program offered through the Fé Foundation of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the Lehigh Valley. The FE Program (Futuros Empresarios or Future Entrepreneurs) was established in 2009 in an effort to cultivate future generations of entrepreneurs and business leaders. The program is geared towards high school juniors and seniors who have an interest in either starting a business or aspire to hold a leadership position.

Each summer, the program admits between 20 and 30 students and places them in various size businesses throughout the Lehigh Valley. The students receive a stipend for their work as well as a scholarship upon acceptance to a higher education program. As part of their summer internship, the students participate in a one week academic training on business topics at a local college. The training is intended to simulate a real college experience with professors and professionals offering advice and guidance. During the academic portion of the program the students divide themselves into teams with the assignment of creating a business plan.

This year's graduating class was as impressive as ever. The graduation was held at DeSales University and included a variety of FE Alum, including sponsoring businesses, Hispanic Chamber board members and family members of the interns. I am always impressed with the student's business plan presentations and their general bright eyed eagerness to learn. It is my hope that the FE Program will continue to expand and offer more students this invaluable experience. It is the dedication of all those involved that is really making an impact on the program and the individual students lives. For more information about the FE Program go to: www.fe-foundation.org. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.