MEChA High School Conference 2012

Brief description of program:
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan (MEChA) is a nation-wide organization that emphasizes the central importance of higher learning and activism in the development of our communities. MEChA originated at a conference in 1969 at UC Santa Barbara. Together, various organizations created El Plan de Santa Barbara, and united under one symbol and name. MEChA was formed to unite and fight for justice. Today MEChA still serves as an inspiration to take part in our communities, seek a higher education, take political action, and learn about our indigenous roots and cultural history.

The high school conference provides a platform for Latina/o students to learn more about the opportunities that the University of Utah offers while simultaneously discussing issues pertinent to the community.

Who was asked to complete survey: Students who attended, parents, staff and teachers.
Respondents: 224
Administration Type: paper with data entry into Campus Labs

Summary of Key Findings:
- 51.13% of student participants agreed that this was a worthwhile event to attend.
- 65.14% of participants felt that the Workshops were the most helpful part of the conference while 55.49% that the Keynote Address (In Lak Ech) was the least helpful part of their visit.
- 52.07% of participants felt that they had the contact information of at least two people they can speak with should they have questions in the future.
- 58.80% of participants agreed with the statement: “As a result of my visit, I understand the admissions procedures at the University of Utah.
- 52% of participants agreed with the statement: “As a result of my visit, I have a better understanding of what it would be like to be a student at the University of Utah.
- 72.56% of respondents felt that as a result of their visit they are more likely to attend the U.

Actions Taken:
- The evaluations were distributed prior to lunch which was effective. Continue with this strategy next year.
- The participants really enjoyed the workshops and felt that they were really informative. Keep in mind for next year.
- Perhaps think about the outcome of the keynote address in relation to the message about higher education and age appropriateness. From the comments it seems that some of the students did not understand the underlining message of the presentation.
Which department and/or program goals does this survey align with?

- Educate future undergraduate students about the opportunities available through higher education and at the University of Utah. Specific target groups include in-state and out-of-state freshmen and transfer students, ethnically diverse students, underrepresented students, academically talented students, non-traditional students, and international students.
- Guide, support, and advocate for future students throughout the inquiry to enrolled process.
- Provide future student groups and their families academically enriching experiences and programs on campus.

Which Student Affairs goals does this program align with?

- Student Engagement
- Commitment to Diversity