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LATINO YOUTH MEDIA INSTITUTE PRESENTATIONS TO OPEN UMASS LATIN FEST SEPTEMBER 19th AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER

A special open screening by the Latino Youth Media Institute interns offering a showcase of media stories focusing on personal experiences, family, and community will open Latin Fest at the University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center Concert Lobby September 19th from 5 to 8 p.m.

The interns will share personal stories of their families in an oral presentation and will be followed by a series of digital stories about their community. In May students presented personal stories at an event at the WGBY studios in Springfield, MA. These stories will be on display at a viewing/listening station.

Made possible through a \$106,800 grant awarded to WGBY from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting The Latino Youth Media Institute was created to teach Latino youth essential television, radio and online journalism skills.

A collaboration developed by WGBY with The Republican Newspapers, WFCR Public Radio and independent filmmaker Jose Garcia, the project was inspired by TOLD (Telling Our Legacies Digitally) of Springfield. Vanessa Pabon, TOLD's digital storytelling director is project coordinator.

“Part of WGBY’s mission is to ‘help the people of our region fulfill their aspiration and enrich their lives.’ The Latino Youth Media Institute is an outstanding example of how we address that goal,” said Russell J. Peotter, WGBY General Manager.

In addition to the presentations, live Latin jazz music will be performed by Jose and Ahmed Gonzalez and appetizers will be provided by Salsarengue of Holyoke, MA. Also, the ‘Provisional Battalion of Puerto Rico N° 3’, an historical flag from the Spanish American War of 1898, and recently found at the Westfield, MA Athenaeum will be on display.

“I am glad that the UMass Fine Arts Center, Shawn Farley, has given us the opportunity to participate in the Latin Fest.” said Pabon. “The Latino Youth Media Institute interns will be able to share their media stories of personal experiences, family, and community.

This event will be one of many for those young Latinos who want to pursue a career in media, to share their stories, and be heard.”

“It was the best learning experience and I am grateful to have been given the chance to intern at WGBY,” said intern Zydalis Zayas. “I am excited and eager to show everyone at UMASS all the hard work we have done during this internship.”

John Rivas, who interns at public radio station WFCR is also looking forward to the event.

“The Latino Youth Media Institute would be a great experience for anyone. It not only teaches you about different media productions but how to be creative with it. Our showcase at UMass, Amherst will be extraordinary,” he noted.

Other events scheduled include a concert with La India: “The Princess of Salsa” and Jesus Paga y su Orchestra, Saturday, September 20th at 8 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center Plaza/Concert Hall. And from September 25th through October 25th, Nuestras Abuelas/Our Grandmothers, a photographic celebration of grandmothers through the eyes of their granddaughters will be on view at the Central Gallery, UMass Campus Center.

WGBY (www.wgby.org), a community supported public broadcasting organization, connects the people of western New England to events, ideas and each other through national PBS programming and locally produced series and specials. With an additional four digital television channels, video on demand, podcasting and streaming video, WGBY is one of the region’s most accessible community institutions, providing lifelong learning opportunities for all.