



**An experience your students
will never forget!**

IMPACT! At a Glance

INSPIRE

DEVELOP

EMPOWER

EVALUATE

What is the IMPACT! Youth Empowerment Curriculum?

A two-tier student leadership development curriculum.

Tier 1) a 12 module, research-based leadership development program designed to create a team of young leaders in the field of service learning.

Tier 2) Student-led leadership program allows peer-on-peer development.

The Purpose

To inspire, teach and empower each participant to become a contributing member of society by channeling their energies into positive efforts that benefit their families, schools and communities by developing a consciousness for social change.

Who is the target audience?

The **IMPACT!** Youth Empowerment Curriculum is applicable for all students but designed with the “at-risk” student in mind.

Target Students

- Middle School
- High School
- High-Risk
- Low-Income

IMPACT! Modules

1. Respect
2. Relationships
3. Values, Beliefs and Culture
4. Conflict Management
5. Historical Lessons
6. Global Community
7. The Mind-Set
8. Money Management
9. Health & Wellness
10. Higher Education
11. Career Planning
12. Graduation

Who will benefit from the IMPACT Program?

The program is designed to have a ripple effect in every aspect of the IMPACT participant’s life. The curriculum will motivate and challenge each member to create a set of core values and standards for personal success, thus positively affecting the interaction with the following subgroups:

Family – School – Community - Peers

“Since our brain is designed to learn for survival, it is very good at learning that which it perceives to be useful, practical and real.”

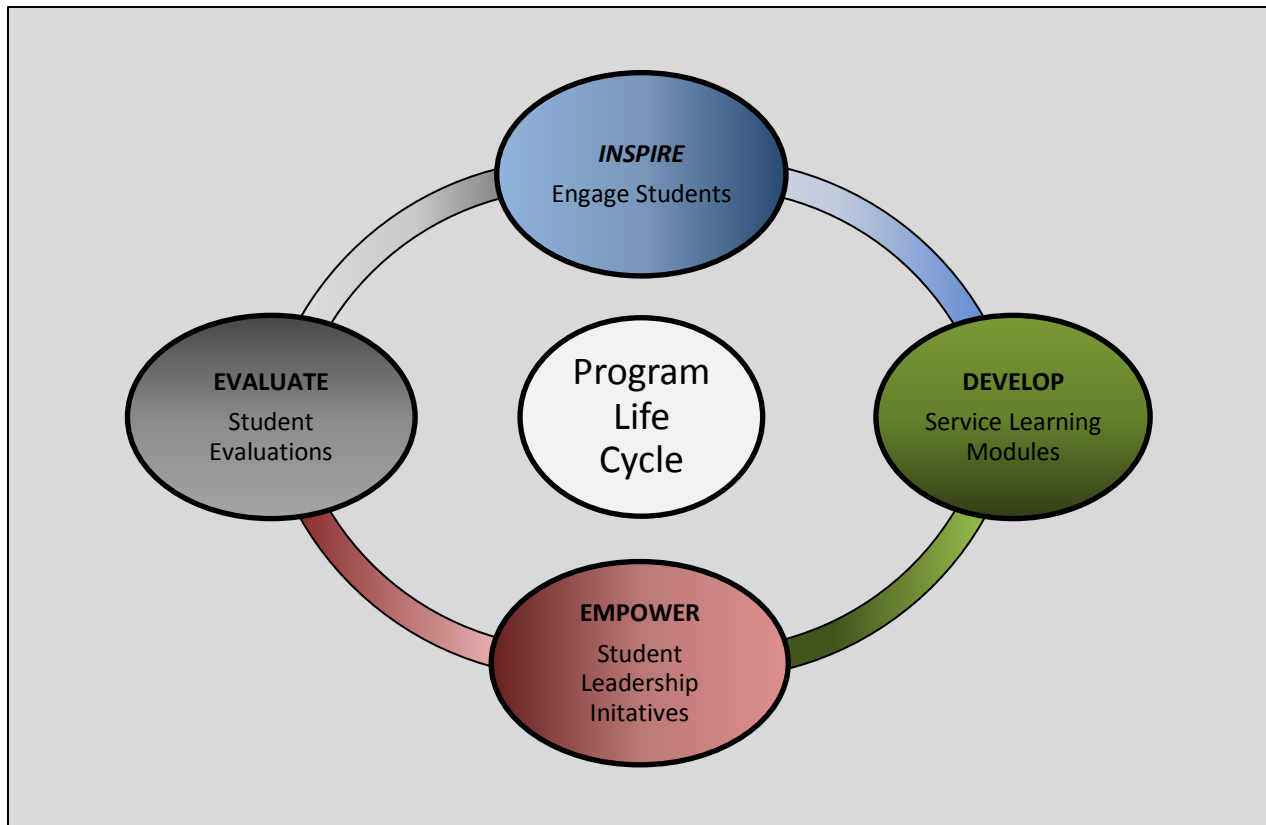
- Eric Jensen, Completing the Puzzle (1997)

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IMPACT! At a Glance



Step 1: INSPIRE

- 1.) Create commitment in partners at all levels (administrators, teachers, school staff, and students) through a school assembly or IMPACT! program workshop
- 2.) Sign students up to participate on a volunteer and/or school selection process

Step 2: DEVELOP

- 1.) Introduce students to the IMPACT! curriculum
- 2.) A monthly focus meeting with students and adult advisors dissecting each module
- 3.) Monthly leadership development assignments

Step 3: EMPOWER

- 1.) In school and community change initiatives – students-led reinforcing positive sustainable change in students, homes, schools and communities

Step 4: EVALUATE

- 1.) Program leads and school program advisors will maintain a strong link throughout the program to properly encourage and challenge each participant
- 2.) Each student will be continuously monitored based on their interactions with peers, school performance, oral interviews and participation in the program

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IMPACT: History

The **IMPACT! Youth Empowerment Curriculum** grew from the Homeless by Choice Tour in 2010. Founder Roy Juarez Jr. was on a two year benevolent project living “Homeless by Choice” with a goal to inspire over 100,000 students to never give up on life and understand the value of a higher education!

In April 2010, the tour was in Houston, Texas on its 4th month. Roy was feeling defeated and questioning his journey! There was only \$6 left in the tour bank account and he was unable to see how he would make it to the next city. His host family set up an interview with the Community Affairs Director for Univision Radio. As he attended the meeting Mr. Heredia was impressed with Roy’s personal story and mission but had one question.



Mr. Heredia asked, “Roy, I am impressed with all that you are doing for the young people in this country. However, let me ask you this; what are you doing to sustain the emotions that the youth go through after they hear your story?”

Roy sat there for a brief second and answered; “You know Mr. Heredia, I never even thought about it. I simply want to help make a difference. I will put more thought to how I can make this tour more impactful and help even more!”

That evening Roy sat at the dinner table with his host family. As he shared how the interview went he said, “All I am trying to do is circle this country and create some type of positive Impact every place I go!” Just then, Mr. Ornelas said, “I love that, Roy!” A bit confused, Roy asked; “You love what?” Mr. Ornelas replied, “Positive Impact! I love that.” It was as if a light was turned on in Roy’s head. He thought to himself, of course! IMPACT... There grew another dream.

IMPACT would be a student lead after school program designed to empower young people to prime their leadership skills while addressing important issues such as bullying, anger, poverty, violence, money management and many more.

“A man, who conquers himself, is greater than one who conquers a thousand men...”

– Buddha

“Be the change you wish to see in this world.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

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Purpose:

IMPACT! Youth Empowerment Curriculum is a 12 module leadership development program designed to create a team of young leaders in the field of service learning while bridging the gap between all learners, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender or creed. The program introduces each participant to relevant, real-life, social issues that affect them on a local, national and global level. Through a series of leadership development workshops students will be empowered to live and share the knowledge and skills that are required to make healthy lifestyle choices. The student will be challenged to exercise their new leadership skills and knowledge within their homes and communities.

Objective:

To inspire, teach and empower each participant to become a contributing member of society by channeling their energies into positive efforts that benefit their families, schools and communities; by developing a consciousness for social change.

IMPACT! is a researched-based curriculum. Each module is comprised of components that are based on current research on instruction for at-risk, low income students.

Who is the target audience?

- The **IMPACT!** Youth Empowerment Curriculum is applicable for all students but designed with the “at-risk” and low-income student in mind.
- Target students
 - Middle school
 - High school

Although all children go to school, the background of some puts them behind their peers academically from the start. Impoverished students are far more likely to enter school as linguistically disadvantaged because they have not had experiences that promote literacy and reading readiness. (Strickland, 2001).

- Dropout rates of 16 to 24 year-old students who come from low income families are seven times more likely to drop out than those from families with higher incomes.
- Less than 30 percent of students in the bottom quarter of incomes enroll in a four-year school. Among that group – less than half graduate.

What is the foreseen benefit?

- Empower each student to take charge of their future, regardless of their current situation
- By laying a foundation of hope and understanding
- Inform a generation of the importance of the 12 modules listed
- Develop a new generation of leaders
- Build a stronger community

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How does the program work?

The IMPACT! Youth Empowerment Curriculum is designed as a two tier program.

Tier 1: IMPACT! Leadership Development Workshops

Through a series of 12 interactive modules, students are provided the tools and knowledge necessary to enhance their effectiveness as role models for their peers and community.

The **IMPACT!** Twelve Modules:

- 1.) Respect
- 2.) Relationships
- 3.) Values, Beliefs, and Culture
- 4.) Conflict Management
- 5.) Historical Lessons
- 6.) Global Community
- 7.) The Mind-Set
- 8.) Money Management
- 9.) Health & Wellness
- 10.) Higher Education
- 11.) Career Planning
- 12.) Graduation

Today's students are a part of a multimedia world from birth. They don't just listen; they participate. They don't just sit; they move. Three-year-olds can perform simple computer skills. Why, then, would we think that today's students would be happy learners sitting and listening all day? They aren't restless to make us crazy; their brains are wired to participate. *10 Best Teaching Practices* (Tileston 2005)

Tier 2: IMPACT Student Meetings

The students who participate in the IMPACT! Youth Empowerment program will be challenged to exercise their new leadership skills in their schools and communities by conducting a monthly meeting that focuses on creating positive change. Students will be given a monthly topic of discussion and interactive activity for each meeting.

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A deeper look into the objective of each module: Each student will gain a better understanding of the following:

1. Respect – Servant Leadership

- Defining respect
- Words that hurt
- Breaking environmental cycles
- The importance of life
- Self-respect & respecting others

2. Relationships

- What is a healthy relationship?
- How do you know it's love?
- When relationships end
- Sex and STD's
- The power of networking

3. Values, Beliefs and Culture

- Defining our values and beliefs
- Celebrating different cultures
- Applying our values and beliefs to our lives
- Diversity

4. Conflict Management

- What is conflict management?
- Effective communication
- Conflict; how can we manage it?
- Expressing our emotions
- Emotional decision making

5. Historical Lessons – National Leadership

- The students will build parallels between history and their own lives
- My history - developing a family tree
- Students will review historical events and individuals such as the Holocaust, 9/11, Martin L. King and genocide
- The student will reflect on gangs, race and human rights
- The importance of having a voice in society

6. Global Community – Global Leadership

- The global marketplace
- Peace Corps
- The world is flat

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7. The Mind Set – Transitional Leadership

- The poverty mind-set
- Understanding classism
- Understanding racism
- Popular psychology theories

8. Money Management – Financial Leadership

- How to make money work for you
- The 411 on credit cards
- The importance of a credit score
- Impulsive and emotional spending
- The difference between a need and a want
- Managing a bank account

9. Health & Wellness – Individual Leadership

- Healthy hobbies
- Dealing with stress
- Nutrition and exercise
- Common myths of dieting
- Keeping a healthy mind and emotions

10. Higher Education

- College field trip
- Write out a degree plan
- Financial aid opportunities
- Scholarships
- Career assessment

11. Career Planning – Visionary Leadership

- Crazy careers you might not know about
- Develop a 5 year plan
- Understand the power of a mentor
- Learn to identify and deal with distractions
- Dress for success
- Interview skills
- How to start a company

12. Graduation

- Presentation of their 5 year plans
- Awards
- Graduation ceremony

The **IMPACT!** Youth Empowerment Curriculum was designed as a twelve module program but can be broken up to fit the needs of any organization or school.

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