

Shift & Rise



For more information, please contact Consuelo Martin at info@easleadership.com or 888-354-4747

Why our Young Men need to Shift & Rise

- Latino children under 18 years of age are the second largest group of students after Whites. http://www.nclr.org/images/uploads/publications/file_SB8_HispEd_fnl.pdf
- Students of color face harsher punishments in school than their white peers, leading to a higher number of youth of color incarcerated. Black and Hispanic students represent more than 70 percent of those involved in school-related arrests or referrals to law enforcement. Currently, African Americans make up two-fifths and Hispanics one-fifth of confined youth today.
<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2012/03/13/11351/the-top-10-most-startling-facts-about-people-of-color-and-criminal-justice-in-the-united-states/>
- On any given day, close to 18,000 Latino youth are incarcerated in America. The majority of these youth are incarcerated for non-violent offenses. Most Latino youth are held in juvenile detention facilities (41%) and juvenile long-term secure facilities (34%). However, one out of every four (24%) incarcerated Latino children is held in an adult prison or jail even though youth in adult facilities are in significant danger of suicide and rape. http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/Latino_Brief.pdf
- The incarceration rates disproportionately impact men of color: 1 in every 15 African American men and 1 in every 36 Hispanic men are incarcerated in comparison to 1 in every 106 white men. <https://www.aclu.org/combating-mass-incarceration-facts-0>
- A significant majority of these incarcerated youth are non-violent offenders who only become “chronic offenders” after serving time behind bars.
http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/Latino_Brief.pdf
- As a result, Latino children are more than three times more likely to have a parent in prison than whites. <http://cronkitezine.asu.edu/latinomales/criminal.html>
- In 2007, 40% of Latinos ages 25 and older were not high school graduates, compared to 14% of whites and 18% of African Americans.
http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/Latino_Brief.pdf
- Hispanics are less likely to have expectations of completing higher education and receiving a bachelor’s degree or higher. In 2003, 28.2% of Hispanic 12th graders had expectations of attaining a bachelor’s degree, compared to 35.1% of White and 32% of Black 12th graders. http://www.nclr.org/images/uploads/publications/file_SB8_HispEd_fnl.pdf



MISSION

To provide a transformative experience that will contribute to the personal and social development of young men who are in the process of reforming and redeeming their lives.

CORE FOCI

- To identify and understand how “destructive manhood” limits young men’s educational and social mobility
- To identify and strengthen “empathic manhood” among participants

EMPATHIC MANHOOD DEFINED

Empathic manhood is the process by which young men embrace and adopt their community’s positive manhood practices. These practices include a hard work ethic, restorative justice, high academic aspirations, respect for self, respect for women, personal responsibility, peaceful conflict resolution, and the ability to understand and respect the experience and struggles of others.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS: *Sankofa* and *Tezcatlipoca*



We utilize *Sankofa* as a concept with which to teach young men to reflect on the past, present, and future. *Sankofa* is a mythical bird in the tradition of the Akan people from Africa. The bird that walks forward while facing backward serves as a metaphor that reminds us to never forget our foundations and constantly reflect on our actions as we fly into a brighter future.



Tezcatlipoca is an ancient Aztec symbol who could see the entire world in through the reflection of his mirror. The meaning of this cultural icon teaches individuals to engage in constant self-reflection, to ask, “how have my actions impacted others and how can I improve my actions in future representations of myself.” The program teaches young men that *Tezcatlipoca* is their conscious their self-reflection of who they are inside and how their actions have consequences for others.



OBJECTIVES

- By the end of the program participants will have a better understanding of their past and hone a practical guide to create a brighter future.
- By the end of the program participants will have identified a variety of paths to success.
- By the end of the program each participant will have a clear understanding of how to shape their manhood to improve their lives and have a positive impact on their families, peers, and community.
- By the end of the program participants will have developed a blueprint for personal, intellectual, and community empowerment; they will learn how they can impact the lives of others in a positive way even if they are not physically present.



THEMES

Decision-making

Self-identity

Coping skills

Communication

Empathy

Knowledge/Education

Culture

Faith

Influences

Action

Life stages

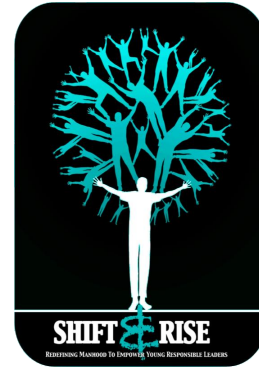
Sexuality

Empowerment

Leadership

Program Participants will receive the following:

- Shift & Rise journal
- Shift & Rise t-shirt
- Shift & Rise bracelet
- Certificate of Completion or Participation



Some Shift & Rise Participant Voices...

- “The program can make a change in this world. You guys put something in my head that is great. Thanks for taking and spending your time on us kids that really need it!”
 - 18 year-old, Imperial County, CA
- “I really like this program. It gives me confidence in myself. It makes me feel good about myself because I get to express myself with nobody judging me.”
 - 15 year-old, Imperial County, CA
- “This program can inspire people who think they don’t have a reason to live in this life, it helps you open your mind and free your soul to a better vision of your life.”
 - 17 year-old, Weslaco, TX
- “It is the best program I’ve gone to. It’s a great idea. It made me look at the world in a different perspective. Helps you feel like you belong in this world. I want to do this again.”
 - 15 year-old, Weslaco, TX
- “[Shift and Rise] is not only a transformation for our kids, but also a huge transformation for our staff”
 - Senior Director, Alternative Education, Imperial County, CA
- “The piece that still strikes me and resonates – that they want more of what the team offers to help the whole child.”
 - Assistant Superintendent, Student Services, Imperial County, CA