

#inspiranj



YEAR OF CHANGE: OUR EDUCATIONAL NONPROFIT'S 2023 SUCSESSES

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Key Individuals



We are passionate about creating access to quality education for underserved communities! Join our mission by becoming our board member today!

Rosa Zaremba-BOD

Vilma Sierra-BOD

Michelle Saavedra-BOD

Yamillet Febo-Gomez-BOD

Cleopatra Jones-Member

Katherine Rodriguez-Student Ambassador

Johnathan Conaghan- Consultant

Daisy Saavedra- Consultant

Each Newsletter will have two key individuals highlighted.

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Can you briefly introduce yourself and your background? What inspired you to become an Inspira board member?



Rosa V. Zaremba

I am a first-generation College graduate Latina with a passion for education and community empowerment. Upon graduating, my commitment to making education accessible to all led me to found an educational nonprofit organization named “Mexican Alliance of NJ” however, in order to be more inclusive as we were from all backgrounds joining the mission, the name was changed in 2023 to "Inspira NJ."

The organization's mission is to be a catalyst for positive change by providing educational services that work to empower and support social-economic upward mobility through the power of higher education by offering services to underserved New Jersey students, as well as the community.

What specific responsibilities do you have as a board member, and how do you envision your role in advancing Inspira's mission and goals? What do you find most rewarding about being a board member and what challenges have you encountered in this role?

Over the years, my role in steering the organization has encompassed a diverse range of responsibilities. In essence, I preside over all Board and Executive Committee meetings, ensuring effective governance. I am accountable for the overall management of the organization, actively seeking new board members and partnerships as we are a new organization and we have a lot of grown work to do, which is why I am extremely grateful for the board members that put in their time and effort to make the organization even better, because we're all a part of it, it's not just me.

The most rewarding part would be knowing that Inspira is making a difference, that we are the hope to many students who have no idea of what options and opportunities they have. Knowing that we have made an impact on students that have reached out, taken our workshops or interned with us. On the other hand, the most challenging part of it is lifting the organization off the ground. Finding Board Members that are truly committed to making a difference and put in the work and sweat, this is a great ask and commitment and that is why I am grateful and commend all of the board members that have been with the organization.

How do you see Inspira evolving or growing in the coming years?

My vision for Inspira in the next five years involves establishing a robust Board of Directors, supported by a dynamic part-time staff and coordinator. This strategic team will not only handle day-to-day operations but also focus on fostering growth through partnerships, elevating our visibility within the community.

How can our newsletter readers get more involved or support Inspira's mission, and what message would you like to convey to them as a board member?

We welcome engagement from our audience at every level of commitment. Whether it's as simple as following and sharing our content on social media, suggesting ideas for new initiatives, or sharing thoughts on various educational themes, alternative paths, careers, and experiences, we value your input.



Rosa V. Zaremba

Your essays can find a home on our website, credited to you as a valued contributor and writer. There are opportunities on a more serious level, such as being a committee member. A meaningful impact with less time commitment, to stepping up as a board member, a role that demands dedication and effort but brings significant influence. I invite you to become a part of the change with us at #inspiranj!

Can you briefly introduce yourself and your background? What inspired you to become an Inspira Student Ambassador?

My name is Katherine Rodriguez. My family and I moved from Bolivia to the United States five years ago. I obtained my associate's degree in biology and chemistry at Middlesex College and transferred to Kean University for a Forensic Science in Biology major. I plan to go to graduate school to get my master's degree in forensic toxicology.



Katherine Rodriguez



Katherine Rodriguez

I was motivated by Inspira's mission of assisting high school and college students in many ways to help them improve their lives. Learning how to create and prepare your resume, conduct mock interviews, determine what you want to major in, and encourage young people that science is also enjoyable and not as terrifying as it seems resonated with me. This has made me understand that I can also share my knowledge and experiences advising and helping students on topics that are seldom spoken about in college.

Could you share a memorable or impactful moment from your time as a Student Ambassador that had a positive influence on the organization?

One of the more impactful moments came when I volunteered at the Bridgewater Mall's science fair earlier this year.

I saw how these children came to the table out of curiosity and we were able to teach them how to use a pipette and what specific laboratory tools are used for. Seeing the kids leaving our table enthusiastic and excited to learn about science really showed me how much of a difference we can make in their academic lives.

What do you find most rewarding about being a Student Ambassador and what challenges have you encountered in this role?

I believe that the most fulfilling aspect of being a student ambassador is being able to participate and assist different students regarding important choices while also helping this organization grow. Some of the difficulties I faced were figuring out the best ways that I could assist Inspira with organizing events or workshops that would benefit both the attendees and the organization. Determining how to help or contribute effectively with the resources available while remaining simple to understand was another small challenge I faced.

How can our newsletter readers get more involved or support Inspira's mission, and what message would you like to convey to them as a board member?

Our newsletter readers can get more involved by informing their friends and family that we are an organization dedicated to assisting students from all backgrounds. They can also urge friends and relatives to join the Inspira team. We are here to help students succeed and are seeking to impact the world in a positive way!

2023 Events



Inspira participated in three impactful events: the Engage Conference, Founders Panel, and Social Entrepreneurship Panel. The common thread throughout these gatherings was Inspira's commitment to empowering students through the power of education. By actively engaging in these events, Inspira reinforced its dedication to fostering student growth and development.

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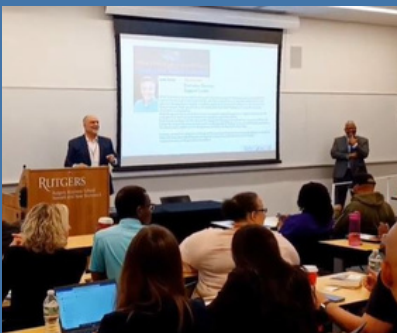
Engage Conference

Inspira unveiled its new logo and conducted workshops at the 2023 ENGAGE NJ Thrive Student Conference hosted at Middlesex College. The event, attended by over 130 students from various institutions such as Middlesex College, Brookdale, Essex County College, Fairleigh Dickinson, Hudson County College, Kean University, Lehman College, NJCU, Passaic County Community College, Ramapo College, Rutgers University, and many more, was made possible through an invitation from Dr. Saul Petersen.



Funders Panel

Inspira NJ attended the Funders Panel 2023 organized by the Office of Faith Based Initiatives at Rutgers Business School. The event provided valuable insights into state, federal, and private funding resources for project development and grant applications. Attendees also had the chance to network with like-minded individuals. Special thanks were extended to the Executive Director of the Office of Faith Based Initiatives and Rutgers Business School for orchestrating this informative event.



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Social Entrepreneurship Panel

Had a fantastic time engaging with Rutgers Business School students in Professor Eddie LaPorte's Social Entrepreneurship class! Grateful for the opportunity to share insights and tackle some incredible questions.



2023 Workshops



Inspira completed a series of five dynamic educational workshops aimed at enhancing various aspects of student development. These workshops covered critical topics such as Professional Development, Financial Aid, and strategies for overcoming Imposter Syndrome. Additionally, Inspira dedicated two workshops to the exciting realm of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Throughout these workshops, Inspira reinforced its dedication to fostering student growth and development.

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Imposter Syndrome

The Imposter Syndrome workshop was designed for students and young professionals seeking empowerment and confidence. The focus was on helping participants believe in themselves and overcome barriers, emphasizing the importance of celebrating small victories as a means to achieve significant accomplishments. The workshop aimed to provide practical tools and strategies to break free from self-doubt and foster a mindset conducive to personal and professional success.

Financial Aid

The workshop provided insights into various methods of financing college education in New Jersey, offering practical tips and recommendations on navigating the financial aspects of pursuing higher education.

Professional Development

Inspira's Professional Development workshop at Middlesex College was a tremendous success, focusing on resume editing, mock interviews, and providing LinkedIn headshots. The dedicated team of experts played a crucial role in sharing their knowledge, insights, and experiences, contributing significantly to the participants' professional development. The personalized feedback and tips received were invaluable, and heartfelt gratitude is extended for their guidance and expertise.



STEM Workshops

Inspira's STEM workshops at the Science and Technology Showcase were a resounding success, featuring an introduction to Pippette 101 and our AI Visual Game. Hundreds of students attended from all over NJ.



2023 Financials

Inspira is a nonprofit startup, officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization. Currently, we are in the midst of a transformative process, evolving our brand and undergoing a name change from Mexican Alliance of NJ to Inspira NJ. Our IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 83-1132538.

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Financials

Inspira's team takes great pride in the deliberate growth the organization has achieved, appreciating the immense support received from our dedicated volunteers and generous funders. We urge you to contribute any amount to assist in preparing New Jersey students and youth for the workforce, whether pursuing traditional education paths or the crucial trade school and blue-collar sectors. Your donation can make a significant impact. To contribute, please use the following link: <https://donorbox.org/inspiranj>.

INSPIRA'S FINANCIAL REPORT

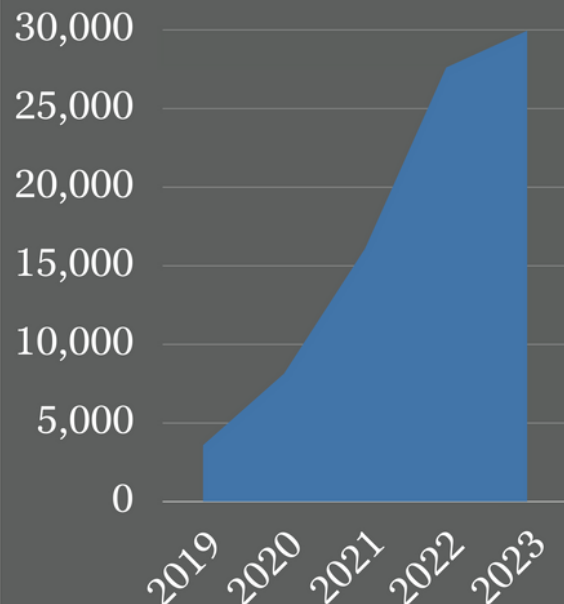
Funding Sources



Breakdown



By the Year



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Financials

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2023 Inspira by the numbers...



People:
7 key members
2 Interns



Outreach:
800 students
4 Core workshops
3 Key events
100% growth in social media
3 new partnerships



Impact:
5% Funding increased
3% Student involvement
2% Volunteers increased

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*This increase is from 2022 to 2023. Inspira is a start-up nonprofit, 501c3 organization, undergoing a new branding from Mexican Alliance of NJ EIN 83-1132538

Ignite Impact: Your Turn to Get Involved!



We're on a mission to make a positive impact in our communities, and we need YOUR support to make it happen! Whether you're able to contribute on a grand scale or make a smaller, but equally meaningful, commitment, every bit counts in creating positive change. Let's work together to transform our communities and create a better future for our youth. Your support at any level can be the catalyst for significant change.

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Became Inspira



Board of Directors: Passionate about leadership and governance? Consider joining our Board of Directors. Shape the future of our organization and contribute to meaningful initiatives.

Committee Members: Make a difference in your community by joining our volunteer team. Whether it's lending a helping hand at events or contributing your skills, every bit counts.



Internships & Student Ambassadors: Unlock valuable experiences and skills through our internship program. Gain hands-on knowledge in a dynamic environment and be part of positive change. Students, become ambassadors for change! Join our team to inspire and engage your peers in impactful projects. Make your university experience even more meaningful.



Sign up & Blog with Us: Express your thoughts, share experiences, and showcase your expertise. Sign up to be a guest blogger and contribute to our platform. Your voice matters!

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**LET'S WORK
TOGETHER!**



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