<u>Isabella Cruz</u>

The National Hispanic Institute also known as NHI was a life changing experience for me. The National Hispanic Institute is an organization that helps high school students develop public speaking and leadership skills. High school students from different parts of the world come to these programs to develop these skills. NHI offers 3 programs: The great debate, LDZ Lorenzo de Zavala Youth legislative session and the Collegiate world series. Throughout these programs I learned how to make decisions. I learned how to express myself using my voice. I met people through these programs and learned about them as well. At NHI, I discovered that I can do a lot for others in my community. I learned to speak up for myself and to share my opinions; I have the power to make my own decisions and I can teach others they can do the same. Personally for me the Collegiate World Series had the most impact on me because we learned about the college process. We learn the IBL process, which is Inquiry based learning and it helps you make decisions in your life. I wanted to get a better picture about the college process. This program has offered me with a lot of experiences and I am grateful for that. Some of the experiences I had were getting to meet new people. It has shown me how to let my voice be heard and to share my opinions. To be an NHIer means I can not just help myself but I can help out with all communities. We want future students to join these programs because it will help them develop these skills. We need future leaders to change the world and use their voice because everyone's voice matters.