What Is PRLSP?
In 1980 the model was developed by Dr. Julio Morales to address the need for a culturally and linguistically competent workforce. It was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The innovative initiative aimed to provide a Puerto Rican studies curriculum to train graduate-level social work students to work with Puerto Rican clients and systems.

PRLSP is a pioneer program that has influenced other schools of social work and collaborated with community leaders to help create service agencies.

Mission
To prepare social workers to competently serve Latin@ communities, and to advocate and promote changes that safeguard and enhance the quality of life for Latin@ individuals, families and communities on local, regional and national levels.

Goals
1. Increase Latin@ recruitment, retention and MSW degree completion.
2. Train service providers.
3. Disseminate research findings about issues affecting Puerto Ricans/Latin@s in CT.
4. Advocate for change that enhances the quality of life for Latin@ communities.

Education and Training
PRLSP faculty shaped the school's curriculum to be relevant to the multidimensional challenges and realities facing various Latin@ groups.

Curriculum examines influence and practical implications of the political, social, economic and cultural realities on Latin@ communities.

Every year PRLSP brings together students, professionals and community-based organizations in an educational series titled Social Work Practice: The Puerto Rican/Latin@ Experience.

PRLSP offers unique educational experiences like a 13-day Travel Study to Puerto Rico and Vieques open to students, alumni, and human-service professionals as a three-credit course and CEC for social work licensing.

Student Recruitment and Membership
In the last five years, an estimated 85 Latin@ students graduated, creating a difference in the Latino workforce with Master Social Workers.

PRLSP faculty has been involved in mentoring doctoral students as reviewers, examiners, advisors and dissertation committee members.

PRLSP faculty work with and advise Latin@ students to actualize leadership skills through the School of Social Work Latin American Student Organization (LASO).

SSW students have initiated conferences and cultural events such as Latino leadership in promoting health equity, Latin@ vote counts, Latino youth voices, Hispanic Heritage Month and teaching conversational Spanish to students.

In 2007, PRLSP was a semi-finalist in a national initiative, EXAMPLES OF EXCELENCIA, in accelerating success for Latino students at the graduate level.

Partnerships
PRLSP collaborative efforts have focused on the socio-political, economic and health issues impacting the lives of Latin@s through the coordination of health summits, interdisciplinary panel discussions with St. Joseph College and political advocacy programs involving Latin@ voter registration.

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