Institute for Latin American Concern

“Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the Lord’s wounds at arm’s length. Yet Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. He hopes that we will stop looking for those personal or communal niches which shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune and instead enter into the reality of other people’s lives and know the power of tenderness. Whenever we do so, our lives become wonderfully complicated and we experience intensely what it is to be a people, to be part of a people.” – Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel

History

Built on values of faith and love through service, the Center for Comprehensive Health Education CESI/Mission ILAC was founded in 1973. This nonprofit organization was originally established to deepen the awareness of those in religious life to the realities of life in the developing world. Many of the participants came from North America. ILAC’s young Jesuit founders, Narciso Sánchez-Medrano, SJ, and Ernesto Travieso, SJ, were transferred to work with Creighton University in 1975.

ILAC then began inviting health professionals and students to offer their services during the summers in remote rural communities where no other governmental or private organization was reaching.

In 1986, through donations, the Center for Comprehensive Health Education was built outside of Santiago de los Caballeros. From there, projects continued to be channeled to those remote communities to meet their needs.

Today, ILAC has formed and organized a network of community leaders called Cooperators of Health, composed of men and women from their own rural communities who promote their development as key agents, driving awareness that range from improvement of agricultural techniques to creating active groups for the social development of their communities.

Since the 80’s, the ILAC Center, an independent Dominican non-profit organization, has grown tremendously and now has four different programs in organic agriculture, water, health, and education for children and adults.

Mission

The ILAC Center in the Dominican Republic is an international, Christian, Ignatian-inspired, collaborative health care and educational organization that exists to promote the integral well-being and spiritual growth of all its participants.

Its Vision is to be an institution recognized for the integral development of the human being by promoting self-management and sustainable development of communities. The ILAC Office at Creighton partners with the ILAC Center to organize and facilitate experiences for 550 participants in 26 high school, university, and medical/surgical programs annually.

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the DePaulan Center for Ignatian Spirituality.