Abstract: Intercultural Development Research Association Youth Leadership Now EIR Proposal

Project Title: Youth Leadership Now (YLN)

Type of Grant Requested: (Early-phase)

Absolute Priorities: Absolute Priority 1: Demonstrates a Rationale; Absolute Priority 2: Field-Initiated Innovations – General, Absolute Priority Two: Field-Initiated Innovation; and Absolute Priority Four: Promoting the Development of Skills that Prepare Students to be Informed, Thoughtful, and Productive Individuals and Citizens and promotes social and emotional learning.

Total number of students to be served in the project: 650

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: Eighth Grade

Definition of high-need students: Students at-risk of dropping out, as defined by the Texas Education Agency, and economically disadvantaged students.

Brief project description including project activities: YLN positively impacts noncognitive, academic mindsets of middle school students by being placed as tutors of K-1 students and engaging families of YLN students in youth action research equity projects.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: After a year of participation in YLN, students will show a 50% improvement in academic mindsets, a 40% decrease in absenteeism, and a 35% increase in middle school Texas exams for 8th grade math and English language arts.

Partnering organizations: Education Service Center – Region 19; Twelve school districts in West Texas that include Canutillo ISD, Dell City ISD, Fabens ISD, San Elizario ISD, and Sierra Blanca ISD. Hatch ISD in New Mexico is also a YLN partner.