

Commission on Hispanic Affairs

VOLUME I ISSUE X



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New CHA Meeting Protocol
- Aeromexico in WA State
- Gangs and Enforcement Measures
- TCC's Efforts on Parent Involvement

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Message from the Director

2007 Legislative Session brought us some triumphs in the education and health-care arena which undoubtedly will benefit all families and children of our state.

Of most significance in the education arena is the refunding of the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL) and assistance for students who are having difficulties with the graduation requirements. Another major victory was healthcare insurance access to 38,500 additional children. An in depth recap of this years legislative session will be presented in our 2007 Assessment Report due out later this year.

We launched a new meeting protocol at our April public meeting in Pullman. Washington State University was our gracious host. It was

certainly a pleasure to reconnect with WSU's staff. We thank them for their gracious hospitality and participation.

Our new meeting protocol is designed to better meet the goals of our strategic plan. It also provides a constructive venue for Latino communities and community leaders to unify and discuss issues affecting their communities. Panel participants include the Chief of Police, the school district superintendent, and regional administrators from DSHS. This new protocol is working well and we will continue to enhance it with each future meeting. Our June public meeting in Othello certainly ran much smoother and efficiently in spite of the fact that it is the second time using this format. We thank our host George Juarez, Othello School District Superintendent for his hospitality and for being part of

the panel. We recommend and encourage that you join us when we come to your communities.

Education continues to be first and foremost on our agenda. I met with Dr. Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction to discuss the bilingual program and the development of a resource fact sheet so that parents can be better informed. The commission also met with Dr. Bergeson in Othello on June 23rd to continue the dialogue concerning education issues amongst our Hispanic population.

We partnered and co-sponsored the following:

- Latina Style Magazine Business Summit
- National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) Seattle
- Health Disparities in Education Summit



Message from the Director *continued*

My Speaking engagements included the following:

- Center for Career Alternatives
- The Nurses Association Annual Conference
- Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health centers
- Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

We continue to work with several state agencies such as the Department of Revenue, Labor & Industries, Department of Licensing, Employment Security, and colleges to create a comprehensive outreach program that will better serve the Latino small business owners. Our recently completed University of WA study on “Washington Latino-Owned Businesses” dramatically emphasizes the impact of Latino business on our state’s economy, therefore, we sincerely hope that this report will be the catalyst for the improvement of outreach to Latino busi-

nesses by state agencies. You can access the report from our website.

We also continue to work with DSHS in the Yakima area to enhance services to the Latino community. Services that include lack of bilingual staff and community outreach.

Some upcoming projects for 3rd quarter 2007 include the following:

- Latino voter engagement meeting (with NALEO) in Ellensburg on July 27, 2007
- Partnering with the Executive Directors of the Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois commissions to deliver a workshop on how community organizations can work with state commissions; LULAC National Conference in Chicago
- 2007 CHA Assessment Report
- Walla Walla August 10-11 Public Meeting

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the 2007 high school, college, and university graduates.

I’d like to also thank Dr. Thuy Vu from Evergreen University and South Puget Sound Community College for providing us with a great group of interns to help carry out our work and mission during this quarter; Jean Bohling, Jared Gum, Zoe Hatzfeld-Hecht, Maggie Hooper, Peou Parker, and Chris Wade. Last but not least a heartfelt thanks to the community leaders of Othello and Pullman who joined us at our public meetings.

“Our new meeting protocol is designed to better meet the goals of our strategic plan.”

Remaining 2007 Meeting Dates

August 10-11
Walla Walla

October 19-20
Sunnyside

November 30 &
December 1st
Vancouver

Annual Hispanic Graduation Celebration & Ceremony by Yvonne Lopez Morton

The Spokane Hispanic Business Professional Association HBPA, along with Spokane Community College hosted the 12th Annual Graduate/Young Scholar Recognition Ceremony and Reception on May 3rd at the Lair Spokane Community College. The focus of the event is to award the

HBPA Scholarships to recipients and recognize all Hispanic/Latino high school, community college and university graduates as well as the young scholars (7th-11th graders with a 3.0/higher GPA) in Spokane County. It is also an opportunity to celebrate educational success among the His-

panic/Latino students, increase enrollment in college, encourage students to establish lifelong educational goals, and promote the partnership between HBPA and education institutions in supporting Hispanic/Latino students. The theme was "Honoring our Roots and Wings."

"The focus of the event is to award the HBPA Scholarships to recipients and recognize all Hispanic/Latino high school, community college and university graduates."

Aeromexico now in Washington State



Aeromexico representatives Carlos Caso and Gabriella Cavallheiro.

A model B-777 was presented to Governor Christine O. Gregoire at the 17th Annual Cinco de Mayo reception held at the Columbia Tower hosted by Washington Mutual.

Governor Gregoire took one of the first flights on her trade mission to Mexico.

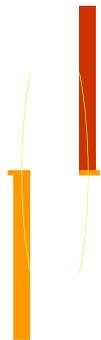
"Washington is Open for Business" Small Business Roundtable Series

The "Washington is Open for Business" roundtable series were hosted by the Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance, the Department of Revenue, Labor & Industries, Employment Security, and the Office of Minority

and Business Enterprises. These discussions which were held in Bellevue, Spokane, Kennewick, and Vancouver were part of the Governor's "Open for Business" program, which will help to position Washington as the

most business-friendly state in the nation.

Input received at these roundtable sessions will be used to develop follow-up plans and take appropriate actions.



When It Comes To Gangs, No Tolerance Should Be Our Key Message to Our Youth

Recently the Sunnyside, Washington City Council passed a tough anti-gang ordinance and similar legislation is being considered in many other communities throughout Washington in response to an alarming increase in gang related crime.

In Sunnyside and other Yakima Valley communities crime statistics are up and gang initiated drug trafficking plays an important role. In Sunnyside alone, 250 gang members have been identified in a city with only a total population of 15,000 and almost 200 of them are juveniles. Those statistics are repeated in many of our large and small cities.

According to recent reports, the Sunnyside ordinance has already had a positive impact on negative youth behavior. However, enforcement is only one piece when it comes to finding solutions to address gang activity. The entire community must be committed to working on strategies that will prevent our

youth from considering gang membership. The process must be inclusive and include law enforcement, faith leaders, city government, educators, justice, parents, youth, and Hispanic leaders who come to together to begin an honest dialogue about gangs and their negative impact on our families, communities, and resources.

While it is critical we support any enforcement effort to confront gang activity and hold gang members who have broken the law accountable, we must also be realistic that for youth to make good choices they must be provided with positive options. We need to work together to identify and support activities and opportunities in our communities which engage our youth in recreational, educational, and athletic programs which keep our kids safe.

I encourage you to contact your local law enforcement and city and county governments to set the stage for individual meet-

ings and community forums that will begin the collaborative discussions that will be necessary to address gang activity and look for options that will ensure the safety and health of all citizens. As Hispanics we must also be aggressive in sending a loud and clear message to our youth that gang activity will not be tolerated in our families, schools, and communities.

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

Chair, Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs



Gang Workshops were held in May in Leavenworth for both the public and for law enforcement. These workshops were presented by the International Latino Gang Investigators Association (ILGIA)

Website: www.ilgia.org

Phone Number
253-948-7567

“In Sunnyside alone, 250 gang members have been identified in a city with only a total population of 15,000 and almost 200 of them are juveniles.”

First Annual Latinos Unidos Abriendo Caminos con la Educación by Isabel Perez



TCC co-sponsored the first Annual Latinos Unidos Abriendo Caminos Con La Education/ Latino Parent Conference on Saturday April 28, 2007. The purpose of the conference was to make possible the following important objectives for the Latino community:

- Build community awareness
- Provide Latino parents with the tools to advocate for the education of their children
- Participate in the K-12 system
- Increase the educational attainment of Latino parents, which will ultimately increase the educational attainment of their children

This conference was unique in the sense that parents were part of the decision-making process. They served on every committee (including, but not limited to: Community Resource, Food committee, Entertain-

ment, Educational workshops) and helped shape this event. There were over 400 community members, local organizations, and campus volunteers taking part in the festivities. The day's event included a flag parade of Latino Nations, cultural performances, youth activities, education and career workshops, several keynote speakers, and a proclamation by Governor Christine O. Gregoire.

There was strong support externally and internally; working collaboratively to make this event happen. The event was sponsored by TCC, the TCC Foundation, the United Latino Club, the Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Office of the Education Ombudsmen, the Office of the Governor, the Assistant Superintendent of OSPI Bilingual/Migrant and Center for Teaching and Learning Departments, and Centro Latino. Several other external groups, including Tacoma Public Schools, Click!, Radio Sol, El Mundo, Spanish newspapers, SeaMar, many grassroots organizations, several local churches and restaurants. ECIE also played a major role

in the success of this event.

Although the event was successful, fear of the "migra" and deportation impacted the attendance at the conference. This fear is very real in the Pierce county area. Also, many Latinos are unaware of the resources available in the community and/or if higher education is a safe place for them to begin or continue their education especially among the undocumented population. Last but not least, many lack awareness of the help that is available.

TCC hopes to make this conference an annual event. TCC is also working diligently to create a lasting partnership with the Latino community.

This conference helped TCC take key steps towards effectively meeting the needs of the Latino community while showcasing our campus and course offerings.



"There was strong support externally and internally; collaboratively working to make this event happen."



State of Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs

210 11th Avenue SW
Suite 301A
P. O. Box 40924
Olympia, WA 98504-0924
Phone: 360-725-5661
Fax: 360-586-9501
Toll Free: 1-800-443-0294
E-mail: hispanic@cha.wa.gov

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs is to represent the Hispanic community in state government in order to empower Hispanics to exercise their right to equal opportunity in education, housing, health and economic development. The Commission strives to define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Hispanics in order to provide recommendations to the Governor, the legislature, and state agencies. The recommendations can have a profound effect on state policies and lead to the improvement and the overall quality of life and future for the Hispanic community in the State of Washington.



CHA's Newly Appointed Commissioners



Commissioner Cordova is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Marketing. He is on the management team of the Public Affairs and Marketing Department for State Farm Insurance in Dupont, WA. Commissioner Cordova is the Executive Director of the Pierce County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and serves on the City of Lakewood Latino Police Advisory Board. He was appointed to the Public Safety Advisory Committee by the Mayor of Lakewood, where he's lived since 2000. He was born in San Francisco and raised in northern New Mexico. He can be contacted on 253-912-7252.

Commissioner Jorge R. Chacón is a mental health practitioner and administrator who has been involved in the mental health field in the State of Washington for the past 40 years. He's been instrumental in establishing mental health and social services in several cities. Dr. Chacón was instrumental in establishing the Wenatchee Community Center and recently The Community for the Advancement of Family Education, both in Wenatchee, WA. Dr. Chacón has a Doctoral degree in Psychology from the Southern California University for Professional Studies. He can be contacted on 509-337-1926.

CONGRATUALTIONS!

CHA Staff & Commissioners

CHA Staff:

Uriel Iñiguez, Executive Director
Alicia Luna, Executive Assistant

COMMISSIONERS

Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Chair

Gabriel Portugal, Vice-Chair

Ruben Baca, Mt. Vernon

Jorge R. Chacón, Wenatchee

Victor Chacón, Walla Walla

Tu Córdova, Tacoma

Ninfa Gutierrez, Yakima

Félix L. Negrón, Olympia

Rosalba Pitkin, Vancouver

Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Bellevue

