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- Félix L. Negrón, Olympia**
- Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Bellevue**
- Graciela Villanueva Lopez, Yakima**
- Rebecca Villareal, Seattle**

Hispanic Websites

- www.cha.wa.gov
Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs
<http://www2.state.id.us/icha/>
Idaho Commission for Hispanic Affairs
www.oyetu.com
News for and about Pacific NW Hispanics
www.ahanabusiness.org
AHANA – African, Hispanic, Asian, Native American Business Assn.)
www.wlba.net
Washington Latino Business Association
<http://www.centroculturalha.org/index.htm>
Washington State Hispanic Calendar of Events
<http://latino.si.edu/latinsitio/explolatino/exploindex.html>
Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives
<http://www.sre.gob.mx/seattle/ingles.htm>
Mexican Consul, Seattle, WA
www.hispnews.com
News for Hispanics
www.hispanicbusiness.com
Economic Development and Business Opportunities for Hispanics
http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/issuedos/pages/webzine_2c.html
Smithsonian Latino Collections
<http://www.whatcomhispanic.org>
Whatcom Hispanic Organization
www.semy.org
Office of Secondary Education for Migrant Youth
www.perciba.com
Perciba Incorporated (Translations and Language Classes)
www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org
(Available scholarships in US for Hispanic students)
www.salsaspokane.com
Latino entertainment

CHA's Statement on Minutemen

A number of Latino community members have expressed concerns over scheduled border patrol activities by the Minutemen group at the international border with Canada. Community concerns are based on media reported incidents at the Mexico border. As a result, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs has been actively involved in participating in various community meetings with local officials and Minutemen organizers to share Latino concerns. Minutemen organizers have stressed that their goal is to bring attention to their perceived lack of security at our international borders. They have publicly stated that they are not targeting minorities, but instead intend to only report all illegal entry across the border to law enforcement officials. The Commission has been in contact with law enforcement officials and have been assured that they are actively communicating with Minutemen coordinators to monitor their activities, and stress that no violations of laws will be tolerated. The Commission on Hispanic affairs does not support Minutemen initiatives at the border. The potential for incidents by private citizen border patrols inherently alarms communities.

Governor Supports AgJOBS

On October 11, 2005, Governor Christine Gregoire announced her support for AgJOBS, recognizing its great importance for Washington State's sustainability of wage and working conditions. The immediate release stated that "agriculture is Washington's top employer, accounting for more than 33,000 full time equivalent employees statewide in 2003".

* "AgJOBS cuts cumbersome paperwork requirements and speeds the approval process through the U.S. Department of Labor." (Gov. Gregoire, 2005)

* Workers enrolled in AgJobs would be able to travel abroad legally, providing flexibility that would fix a system where hundreds of migrant workers die every year trying to re-enter the country through desolate terrain to better avoid border officials. (Voice of San Diego, 2005)

If passed, immigrants who performed at least 575 hours or 100 days of farm labor during any 12 consecutive months between July 2003 and December 2004 would be eligible to apply for temporary residency in the United States if AgJobs became law. If another 360 days of farm labor are performed over the next three to six years by qualified workers, the bill would grant them permanent legal residency. (Voice of San Diego, 2005)

To date, it appears that Gov. Gregoire is the only governor to announce her support of this bill.

For more information visit our website, www.cha.wa.gov

The Washington State

THE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

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Fall Newsletter 2005

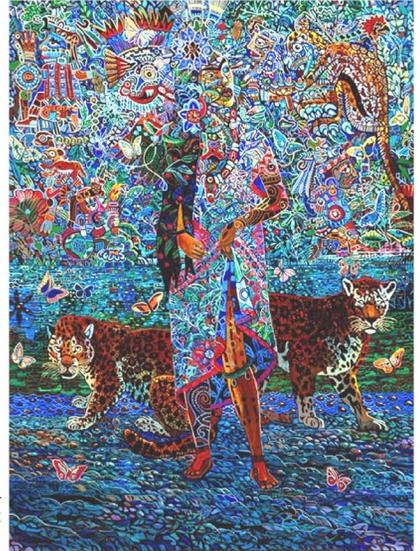


Governor's Diversity Health Summit: Challenging the Racial Health Gap

Over 400 health professionals, health advocates, and community leaders assembled on Sept. 30 for a full-day Diversity Health Summit at the Doubletree SeaTac Hotel. The state's ethnic commissions and health agencies joined foundations, local non-profits, and Gov. Christine Gregoire in sponsoring the event.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center, Latinos (35%) are more likely than whites (14%) or African Americans (21%) to report being without health insurance; according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are more pregnancy related deaths amongst Latina women (10.3 per 100,000) than amongst non-Hispanic white women (6 per 100,000); it is reported by the American Diabetes Association that diabetes is one of the five leading causes of death amongst Hispanics in the U.S.; according to the Washington state Department of Health 11% of all AIDS cases diagnosed between 1997 and 2000 were Hispanics; according to HispanicBusiness.com while minorities encompass more than 25% of the U.S. population, minorities comprise less than 14% of physicians, 9% of nurses and only 5% of dentists.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs was the lead agency for the Summit, with support from the Commission on African American Affairs, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, the State Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the State Board of Health, the Washington Health Foundation, and HumanLinks Foundation.



Featured Artist Arreguin

La Malinche en Tamoanchan by Artist Alfredo Arreguin. Mr. Arreguin is our featured guest artist this season. Born in Mexico in 1935, Arreguin has lived in Seattle for many years. A cofounder of the Pattern and Decoration movement, he continues to work within and to refine his unique treatment of the style. His work is in many collections, including those of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Academy of Sciences, the Mexican Museum of San Francisco, and the Denver Art Museum. We thank Mr. Arreguin for his support and contributions.

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Message from the Director

The Commission on Hispanic Affairs has been very active during the preceding months. We have joined with commissioners and other leaders in community planning sessions to strategize our Legislative Day Protocol, happening November 5th, 2005. We have a new current website and we are now aired every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on Radio KDNA - 91.9 FM. Just recently last September we had multiple agencies that serve the rights and needs of our Latino community join CHA and The Mexican Consulate in a community meeting in Mt. Vernon. I am proud to say that this was one of the most successful community meetings in CHA history. Our goal is to continue working with the Mexican Consulate in reaching out to the Latinos in our state.

We were part of the very successful Diversity Health Summit Conference held at the Doubletree SeaTac Hotel last September. We currently have two outstanding volunteers with the Commission who have helped with a myriad of projects including the Community Planning Sessions and our future Legislative Day Session in February.

I would like to introduce Rosa Cabrera and Félix L. Negrón, our two newest commissioners. A passionate advocate for immigrants and communities of color, upon graduation from law school, Rosa was chosen to be the Thurgood Marshall Law Fellow at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, a prestigious San Francisco civil rights non-profit law firm. Currently, Rosa is an organizer for SEIU, the largest union of health care workers in the nation.

Mr. Negrón is the current President of the Latin American Coalition of Washington State, a Hispanic organization concerned with equal access and participation of Latin Americans to Washington State education, government, community, economic development, health, housing, and justice.

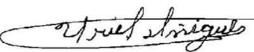
Presently, we are very busy planning the Legislative Day Session. Commissioner Félix Negrón has provided a wealth of information and we value his hard work and dedication on this project. We thank Félix for all his assistance and are overjoyed to have his support.

Some items of concern continue to surround educational assistance for Hispanic youth. Next year will mark the beginning of WASL required proficiency for sophomores in High School. After spring of 2006, OSPI will release test scores, and with the lack of response for the needs of our students, we anticipate only 60% of Hispanic youth will pass. We must continue to work hard to engage schools, to find ways to advance representation in the school system, to collaborate with our community in developing dropout prevention programs, and to ensure after-school programs assist and provide in the skills to pass WASL.

With elections this November and voting in progress, we must apply ourselves and raise our voice on state issues, local issues, and speak to the school boards. We must be involved in school and become familiar with the school system. We must volunteer in school, again, develop after-school programs, and assist in engaging communication. We must support fellow community leaders who are trying to address our disparity issues, immigration, economic development, health and education.

CHA continues to be involved with OSPI, and presently we are planning a 2006 Latino Educational Summit Conference to formulate a plan for the education of Latinos. We had a meeting with Terry Bergeson, the Director of OSPI, to express our concerns of the WASL, parent involvement, and the replacement of Dr. Richard Gomez, who served as the Director of Migrant and Bilingual Education. We will continue to work with OSPI, and together we hope to see programs to assist Latino students and aid them in planning for a brighter future.

Sincerely,



WSU's High School Equivalency Program. The first session began on August 21 with a record 22 students. Dates for upcoming sessions are listed below. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass the word. Students only need to pay for their transportation to and from Pullman, WA, and for miscellaneous expenses. Room, board and tuition are covered by WSU.

The remaining entry dates for WSU HEP Students for the 2005-2006 School Year are:
January 8, 2006
March 19, 2006

We now have applications on our web site at <http://www.educ.wsu.edu/hep> or we can mail packets of them or fax them. Our main number is 509.335.5652 and there are people to answer the phone from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. most school days. The average age for this group is just over 22 with 4 students over the age 30. So most of our students know how difficult life is without a high school diploma or a GED.

Most of WSU HEP graduates go on to study at community colleges (50% to 60%). Some go directly into 4-year programs (10% to 15%). A few go to technical schools and other go into the military.

Whatcom Hispanic Organization Scholarship for the Academic Year 2006-2007

The Award: The WHO scholarship is designed to make higher education more accessible to promising Hispanic/Latino students. This scholarship will be awarded to Whatcom and Skagit County residents for a minimum of \$500.00 per academic year. Recipients may re-apply in subsequent years.

Scholarship Guidelines: Preference given to Hispanic/Latino students who demonstrate the following characteristics (but not limited to):

- Strong involvement in school or community.
- GPA indicating satisfactory progress towards a degree/diploma.
- Must enroll or be enrolled at least half-time at an accredited post secondary institution (community or technical college, public or private university).

You can print out a copy of the application on our website, www.cha.gov under News. Applications should be received or postmarked by Dec 5, 2005

Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarships for College

Applications Available at www.hsf.net
The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) is the nation's leading organization supporting Hispanic higher education. Founded in 1975, HSF's vision is to strengthen the country by advancing college education among Hispanic Americans. During its 30-year history, HSF has awarded more than 73,000 scholarships in excess of \$170 million to Hispanic students who have attended more than 1,700 colleges and universities.

Awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500

High School Scholarship Program (Sept. 1 - Dec. 15)

Be a graduating high school senior

Have plans to enroll FULL-TIME in a degree-seeking program at a U.S.-accredited institution in the U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Guam in the upcoming academic year

Community College Transfer Scholarship Program (Sept. 1 - Feb. 1)

Be enrolled PART-TIME or FULL-TIME at a community college

Have plans to transfer and enroll FULL-TIME in a degree-seeking program at a four-year U.S.-accredited institution in the U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Guam in the upcoming academic year

Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) (Aug. 1 - Jan. 13)

Available to graduating high school seniors. Eligible applicants must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, demonstrated leadership skills, and a significant financial need (Pell Grant eligible). For more information and to apply visit www.gmsp.org. You can e-mail questions and comments to gmsinfo@hsf.net.

Mercy Housing By Commissioner BACA

Erin Corday the Resident Services Coordinator for the STERLING MEADOWS FAMILY APARTMENTS HOUSING program in Bellingham, Washington recently held a community meeting entitled "Power of Housing Tour." Erin shared Mercy Housing's vision of creating stable, vibrant and healthy communities through affordable housing. She shared exciting individual success stories of families who have benefited from their programs. Sterling Meadows is a farmworker/ agricultural and fisheries housing community, it consists of 50 permanent housing family units. They currently have 200 residents with half of that number being children. And, in the case of Sterling Meadows the entire community is Latino.

Mercy Housing's goal is not only to offer affordable housing for low income families, but they do so by coordinating other community services such as: after-school & summer programs, job training connections, and accessing health and other social service programs. In Washington State, Mercy Housing has helped in excess of 2842 residents -including more than 1200 children. Mercy Housing is a national organization having helped over 50,000 people nation-wide. It is clear that Mercy Housing is committed to helping families by developing and operating affordable program-enriched housing. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs thanks you "Mercy Housing" for all that you are doing. Mercy Housing is a real success story.

If you are interested in learning more about their programs their web site is: www.mercyhousing.org

Factline: Tracking Health in Underserved Communities is a website sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and Meharry Medical College that highlights health disparities in underserved communities. The site is a project of the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved.
<http://www.meharry.org/FI/>

Sustainable Agriculture, Communities & Environments in the Pacific Northwest

Call for Papers, Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture, Communities, & Environments in the Pacific Northwest Sponsored by the WSU Dept. of Community & Rural Sociology Washington State University Tri-Cities, Richland, WA May 18-20, 2006.

For more information visit <http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/crs/>; or contact Dr. David Sonnenfeld, tel. 509.372.7375, e-mail: sonn@wsu.edu. or Dr. James Zuiches, tel. 509.335.8540, e-mail: zuiches@wsu.edu, symposium co-chairs.

Rise, Peak and Decline: Trends in U.S. Immigration 1992 - 2004

A new report by the Pew Hispanic Center, provides the first detailed analysis of recent year-to-year immigration flows to the United States.
www.pewhispanic.org

Board Doesn't Want WASL as a Grad Requirement

http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2005/09/21/local_news/04news.txt

The Uninsured in King County, 1995-2004

This Data Watch describes lack of health insurance in King County for the last 10 years of available data (1995-2004). Steep rise in the uninsured leads to the highest rates on record.

Real Issues, Real Stories, Pay Day Lending

How has payday lending made a difference in your life or the life of a loved one? Has one payday loan turned into another and another? Have you or a family member fallen into a cycle of debt that you can't seem to get yourself out of? What does payday lending mean to you or your loved ones? AARP, American Association of Retired Persons, in conjunction with the WA Responsible Lending Coalition is working for stronger consumer protection for payday lending borrowers. We're putting a name and a face on the policy, that's why we want to hear from you! Please contact one of our AARP representatives: Lauren Moughon at lmoughon@aarp.org or via phone 206.517.2324 Eva Coblenz at ecoblenz@aarp.org or via phone 206.517.9394

The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) was created by a Governor's Executive Order and established in statute in 1971. As mandated by the state legislature, the Commission's functions are to improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community through the following means:

1. Identifying and defining issues concerning the rights and needs of Washington State's Hispanic Community.
2. Advising the Governor and state agencies on the development of relevant policies, plans and programs that affect Hispanics.
3. Advising the legislature on issues of concern to the state's Hispanic community.
4. Establishing relationships with state agencies, local governments, and members of the private sector.

My Reflections as New Commissioner:

It's been an honor to be appointed to CHA by Governor Gregoire. I support her efforts and commitment to work with our Latino community. Current Commissioners are more than willing to seek solutions and engage our legislators, state agencies, local government, and community leaders but the commissioners can't do it alone!

Latinos need to work with the commission and accept responsibility to participate in the decision-making process.

Félix L. Negrón

Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) and The Mexican Consulate held a Community Meeting in Mt Vernon.

Over 200 Hispanics from Whatcom and Skagit counties met with the Commissioners from the WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at St. Charles Church. The Commission session provided an opportunity for the Hispanic communities of Whatcom and Skagit Counties to address their concerns with several State Officials who attended the session.

Hispanics are the largest minority in Washington State and one of the fastest growing populations in the country. The Hispanic population in Washington State grew by 105% in the decade of the 90s.

As of July 2004, 41.3 million individuals in the U.S. called themselves Hispanic. The Pacific Northwest Hispanics represent a buying power of over \$1.5 billion. Current estimates show that there are

891,000 permanent Hispanic residents with \$9 billion to spend, save, and invest annually.

Unlike migrant workers, only about 1/3 of permanent Northwest Hispanics are engaged in agriculture or unskilled labor. Their average household income is in the \$35-40K range. Seventy-five percent of the NW Hispanics are under age 35.

A big concern for the Commission is the educational gap between Hispanics and non-Hispanic students and the paramount issue regarding the mastery of the WASL as a graduation requirement.

Washington State has the second lowest Hispanic student retention rate in the nation. The annual dropout rate for Hispanic students is 39 % and Hispanic students with Limited English Proficiency had graduation rates below 50 percent.

Director of the Commission, Uriel Iñiguez stated that "this was one of the most successful community meetings in recent CHA history, and our goal is to continue working with the Mexican Consulate in reaching out to the Latinos in our state."

Representatives from the Department of Labor & Industries, Northwest Justice Project, Columbia Legal, NW Immigrants Rights Project, Agricultural Employment Mediation Program Project, WA State Human Rights Commission, WA State Department of Community Trade & Economic Development and the Consulate of Mexico were present.

Spokane has a Hispanic Resource Fact Sheet available by request.

To receive a copy e-mail
yvonnem@spokaneschools.org
with subject line: Hispanic Resource
Fact Sheet Request and information
will be sent to you via e-mail as a
Word document.

**COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS**

2006 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

EDUCATION

Encourage the development of more programs to address the high drop out rate of Hispanic students in our K-12 schools. Education is essential to the economic health, cultural diversity, civic vitality, and political well being of Washington state and the nation. Our state education system and all local educational agencies must respond accordingly with resources, programs, and policies that address the factors which impede Hispanic students to reach and gain a meaningful education.

Encourage bilingual college students to become teachers in Washington State. School districts face significant difficulties in recruiting, hiring and retaining sufficient bilingual teachers. According to OSPI, more than 90% of teachers and administrators are Caucasian, and in some school districts the Hispanic student population is over 50%. Bilingual teachers are crucial in improving the academic success of English Language Learners. CHA supports legislation that will give bilingual college and university student's incentive to become teachers while securing their commitment to work in Washington State.

Address barriers faced by English Language Learners in attaining the Certificate of Academic Achievement. Only 12% of 10th grade English Language Learners (ELL) students meet the WASL standard in mathematics and only 28% of ELL students meet the WASL standard in reading. School districts must work to address these disparities in WASL results and help to reduce the barriers faced by ELL students. Potential solutions may include extra individual help and instruction for ELL students who are identified as not meeting WASL standards, alternative assessments to the WASL for diligent ELL students and options for retaking the examination.

Support the DREAM ACT. Hundreds of thousands of children are brought to the United States by parents hoping to achieve the American Dream. These children have no recourse to adjust their immigration status and become contributing members of society. For those successful immigrant students who graduate from high school and seek to go to college and pursue a career, the federal DREAM ACT provides an avenue for accomplishing this as well as adjusting their immigration status. CHA recommends efforts by the legislators to support this important federal legislation.

Encourage post-secondary institutions to bring their admission processes closer in line with recent US Supreme Court decisions. Since 1997, admission of Hispanic students at our state's higher education institutions has not kept up with our population growth. While the Hispanic population comprises almost 11% of the population in Washington State, Hispanic enrollment in the University of Washington's graduate and professional programs is less than 3%. Colleges and universities are becoming less and less diverse while the highest court in the land has declared that individualized consideration of race and ethnicity in university admissions is acceptable. Our state should follow the guidance of the Supreme Court and pass legislation that recognizes the importance of diversity in our institutions of higher education.

IMMIGRATION-RELATED

Discourage the local enforcement of immigration laws. Enforcing federal immigration law is the responsibility of INS, not of state and local agencies. A positive relationship between local law enforcement and immigrant communities benefit our community, however, positive relationships cannot exist when people are afraid to contact police because of fear that the police will inquire into their immigration status. State and local agencies should make clear to clients that they are not immigration agents and will not inquire into immigration status unless required by federal law.

Encourage the State to allow Mexican nationals to use the Mexican Consular photo identification card for identification purposes. Mexican nationals in our state who may not have immigration documents should still have the ability to identify themselves before law enforcement, banks, and other venues as needed. The Matricula Consular would allow for proper identification and is already officially recognized in many cities in our state, including: Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima, Bellevue and Renton.

HEALTHCARE

Encourage the state to improve affordable and accessible healthcare coverage for all Washington State residents. Changes in funding healthcare programs in Washington State, over the past three years, has had a huge impact on communities of color and low income families. Changes in Medicaid funding and the Basic Health program have made it more difficult for Hispanic children and adults to access healthcare coverage. These changes have increased non-insured rates among Latinos in our state. Almost one in three Hispanics go uninsured, compared to only one in ten Caucasians. The state should develop alternative funding programs for providing healthcare coverage for non-insured low income residents, so that they may access much needed healthcare services.

Encourage state agencies to provide certain public notices in languages other than English. Require state agencies to provide public notices regarding public health, safety or welfare in the language of the community being addressed. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) households in predominant LEP communities in Washington have the same right to be informed about these matters as English-speaking households. In order to be effective, notices as to placement of sex offender housing, emergency information about water and food safety, or disaster recovery for example, should be available to all people within the community.

FARM WORKER PROTECTION

Encourage the continued monitoring of Cholinesterase. CHA encourages refining the process of blood monitoring for handlers of pesticides containing the cholinesterase enzyme. Farm workers who thin crops are more likely to have detectable levels of pesticide residues in their homes than other farm workers. Their children are more likely to have detectable levels of pesticides in their urine. Farm workers who believe they have been exposed to pesticides are not likely to seek health care out of fear of retaliation, lack of trust in doctors to diagnose pesticide exposure, and costs associated with health care.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support legislation that addresses the ability of minority and women's business enterprises to access available resources. Funds shall be used to create jobs and more economic opportunities by providing additional resources to the community economic revitalization board's program. CHA also encourages the state investment board to invest in start-up and expanding business and to create economic development grant programs.

