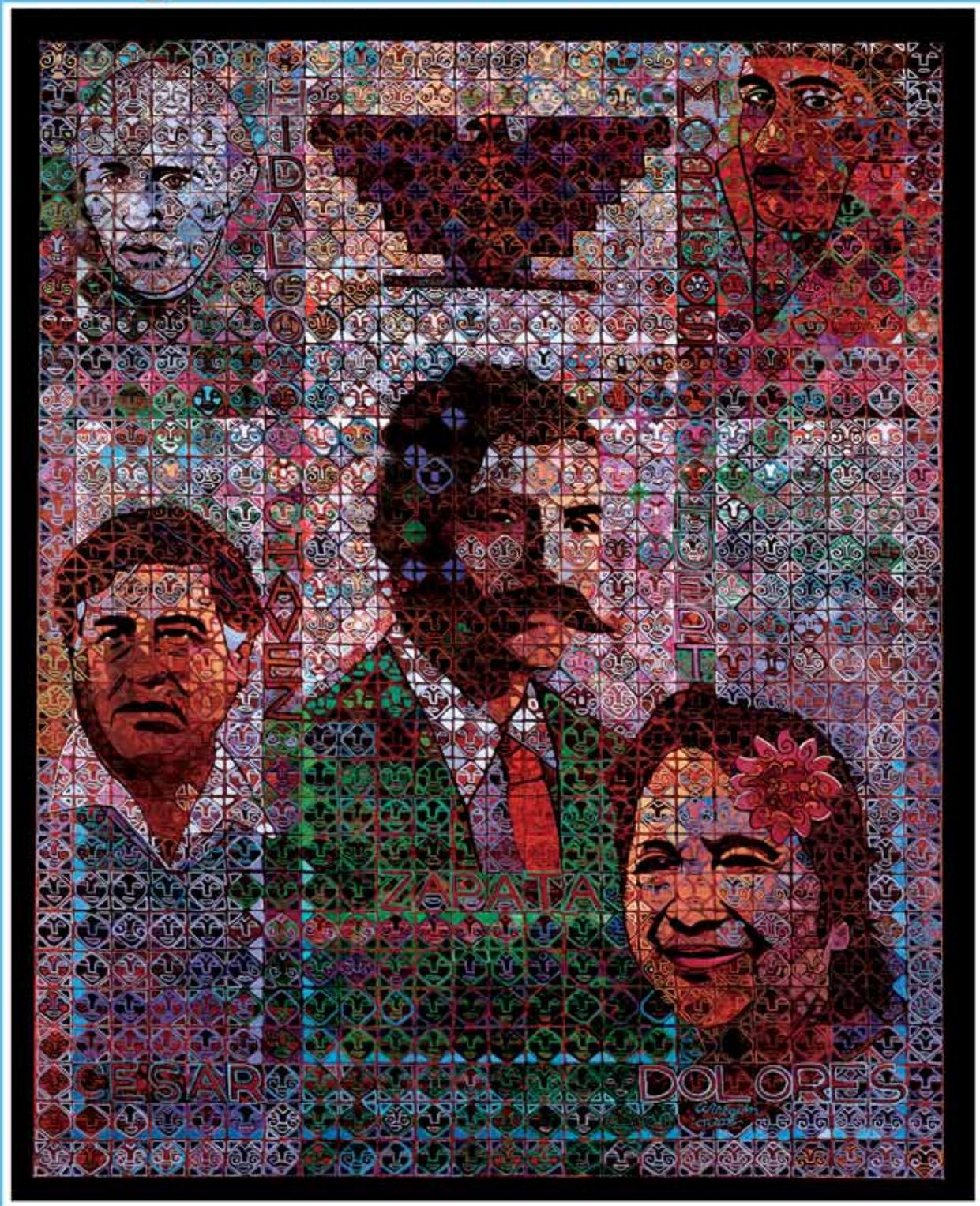


WASHINGTON STATE  
*Commission on*  
**Hispanic Affairs**



2011-2012 Washington State  
Latino/Hispanic  
Assessment Report





## ¡VAMOS COUGS!



Washington State University is committed to providing higher education to all Latinos.

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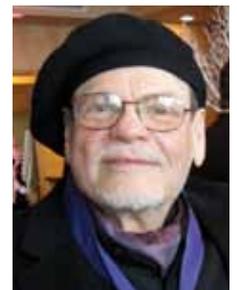
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## ABOUT THE COVER

‘The Return of Aztlan,’ by Alfredo Arreguin, features activists César Chávez (lower left), Dolores Huerta (right) and Emiliano Zapata (center) © Alfredo M. Arreguin. According to Ann Shumard, curator of photographs at The National Portrait Gallery, their movement expanded well beyond the West Coast to become a nationwide organization supporting labor opportunities and rights for migrant and agricultural workers. It also depicts images of Emiliano Zapata, leader of the Mexican revolution, and Jose Maria Morelos and Miguel Hidalgo, both leaders in the war for Mexican independence. The painting is part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alfredo Arreguin was born in 1935 in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico. He has lived in Seattle for decades and is nationally and internationally recognized as an artist of profound originality and importance. Arreguin excels in his use of color, line, light, and layered patterning. Arreguin’s work is now in the permanent collections of two Smithsonian Museums: The National Museum of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery.



## Acknowledgements

Our achievements would not have been possible without strong partnerships with organizations, individuals, institutions, Legislators, state agencies, and our interns and volunteers: Gloria Pitkin, Laszlo Jaress, Nora Iniguez, Osvaldo Guel, Francisco Villanueva and Jose Oliva.

We'd like to acknowledge our partners in the 2010 – 2012 Leading Change Through Advocacy project: Maru Mora Villalpando with Latino Advocacy, LLC., Familias Unidas, Community to Community, La Casa Hogar, and Mason County Literacy, as well as individual trainers Raul Silva, Estela Hernandez-Ortega, and Maria Guillen.

We are grateful for the help of the Washington Hispanic Media Association for their collaboration on our online business directory. Thanks also to our radio stations: Radio Luz 1680AM, La Nueva 103.3FM, Radio KDNA 91.9FM, and Radio Latino 1210AM.

We'd also like to acknowledge our state agency partnerships: the Office of the Governor, Victor Chacon with the Dept. of Social and Health Services, Chris Liu and Jose Diaz with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, Elena Granados with the Office of the Attorney General, Lisa Heaton and Delfina Gayle with the Dept. of Labor & Industries, Sharon Ortiz with the Human Rights Commission, Rick Stedman with the Dept. of Revenue, Norma Smith with the Dept. of Financial Institutions, the students from the S.I.F.E. program at Heritage University, and Helen Malagon with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Thanks also to John Fraire with Washington State University.

Thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their support in making our Leading Change through Advocacy Project possible.

Lastly but not least, our thanks and gratitude to the Commissioners that we bid farewell during 2010 – 2012: Manuel Villafan, Gilberto Mireles, Ernest Radillo, Juan Garcia, Teresita Torres, and Lourdes Portillo Salazar. Thank you for your dedication and tireless advocacy for our communities.

A special thanks to State Farm Insurance for their contribution to the development of the 2011–2012 Latino/Hispanic Assessment Report



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## Message from the Chair

It has been my honor to serve as the Chair of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs these past two years. I currently have the privilege to serve with a group of professional men and women from across the State of Washington who utilize their passion and dedication to their community to effect change. I thank all of them for the inspiration they provide me. I also want to give special recognition to the Executive Director, Uriel Iñiguez and our Administrative Assistant, Marena Lear. Under Uriel's leadership the Commission has been pushed to new heights. He has moved us to a place where we settle for nothing less than impacting legislation, and policies across state agencies. He has empowered us to represent



the voice of our community across life domains, addressing the numerous issues and barriers that impact our community. His vision and passion for the Hispanic community is infectious and serves as a foundation for our Commission. Marena manages to keep up with our Director and 11 commissioners across the state. She has a gift for staying calm under pressure and is our stabilizing force. We could not have functioned as successfully as we did without her assistance.

These last two years brought a lot of challenges. The Commission heard from the Hispanic community loudly and clearly regarding the hardship they would face with some of the legislation that was introduced these past two years. They spoke passionately when bills were introduced that affected access to driver's licenses, asked for gang injunctions, negatively impacted access and equitable educational services for our children and threatened to eliminate our Commission as a standalone agency. We heard their voices but more importantly our legislators heard their voices and these bills were defeated. We sincerely thank our partners in the House and Senate, Representatives and Senators that fight hard for all residents of Washington. Their partnership and advocacy for our Community is greatly appreciated, as we continue to eliminate barriers to resources and services that negatively impact our State.

We also want to give a special appreciation to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for entrusting us to serve our community by funding our Leading through Advocacy Project. This project has helped us educate and empower parents to understand, collaborate and advocate for their students' academic success across the state of Washington.

The CHA is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. 40 years of advocating for the voice of the Latino community to be heard. We have followed in the footsteps of those who have blazed a trail before us, and now we stand together with those who have helped us along the way. To all our community partners (too many to name) that strive along with us to address issues such as education, immigration, economic development, resource accessibility and public safety: thank you for your passion for social justice. We could not do this work without you. I am looking forward to the 41st year.

Con Mucho Cariño,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lillian Ortiz-Self".

Lillian Ortiz-Self, Chair  
Commission on Hispanic Affairs

## CHA Commissioners & Staff



**Lillian Ortiz-Self, Chair**

2nd Term Expires 08/01/2013

Lillian has a Master's in Public Administration and a Masters in Counseling from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She has worked across child serving systems, which gives her a deep appreciation and understanding for all human services. Her job experiences include: serving as the Clinical Director of a Mental Health Center, Regional Coordinator for the Illinois State Board of Education, Education Advisor for the Department of Children and Family Services, and Director and Founder of the CU Project, a center for Latino families and youth. She has extensive clinical practice serving youth with severe emotional disorders and their families. She is currently a Counselor at Everett High School where she has started the Latin Image Club to help Latino youth bridge barriers to achieve academic success. She is also the co-founder of The Neema Center; a center that provides counseling, consultation and training regarding youth and family issues. She is a National Trainer on topics regarding community based, collaborative services for youth with severe emotional disorders; parent involvement; cultural diversity issues; resiliency and strength training; educational issues, anger management; and mediation and conflict resolution.



**Ty Cordova, ViceChair**

2nd Term Expires 08/01/2013

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 StateFarm Insurance in DuPont, WA. His responsibilities include overseeing media, legislative, community and multi-cultural relations for the entire Pacific Northwest zone. Commissioner Cordova is the President of the Pierce County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed to the Public Safety Advisory Committee by the mayor of Lakewood, where he has lived since 2000. Cordova is also on the Board of Directors of the Clover Park Technical College Foundation. Born in San Francisco, CA, and raised in a small ranching community in northern New Mexico, Commissioner Cordova also worked in Tucson, AZ and Los Angeles, CA, where he was involved in several community and volunteer organizations. While in California, he was an adult facilitator and conference coordinator for the Chicano-Latino Youth Leadership Project. The primary goal of the project was to teach leadership and community involvement skills to Latino youths, while exposing them to higher education opportunities and role models from the Latino community.



**Gloria Ochoa**

1st Term Expires 08/01/2015

Gloria Ochoa is a graduate of Pasco High School and Columbia Basin College. Gloria earned her B.A. degree in Business Administration from Washington State University Tri-Cities and her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Idaho College of Law. Gloria commenced her legal career as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Benton County and then transitioned into private practice in 2002. Gloria is currently in private practice and admitted to both State and Federal Courts. Gloria is an Adjunct Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law and teaches Law Practice Management. She holds a judicial services contract with the Spokane Tribe of Indians and serves as Chief Judge for Spokane Tribal Court. Gloria is a member of the Hispanic Business Professionals Association and a member of the Inland Northwest Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Latina/o Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee, the Spokane County Bar Association's Diversity Committee and Indian Law Section, and the Washington State Bar Association Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection Board. Gloria is on the Board of Directors for the Little Spokane River Estates Homeowner's Association. Gloria has been named one of the Top 100 Lawyers in Spokane by Couer d' Alene Living Magazine for 2011 and 2012.



**Cynthia De Victoria**

1st Term Expires 08/01/2014

Cynthia works with Washington State Migrant Council (WSMC) as the School Readiness Liaison where she works to support the transition of students and families from preschool to Kindergarten. She also works with staff on professional development and meeting school readiness goals. She has worked as an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist with Big Bend Community College with the Even Start Program, a Family Literacy Program with four components: English classes, parenting classes, ECE classes and parent/child interaction activities. Cynthia directed the ECE component of the program. She has a passion for Early Learning and working with parents to strengthen their skills in working with their children to ensure they succeed in school through parent education, participation and advocacy. Cynthia has served as School Board Director for two years 2009-2011. She is a Red Cross volunteer with our local chapter, sits on the Grant County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) an infant/toddler intervention program, the Grant County Community Resource Committee, and formerly the National Children's Study (NCS) Grant County Community Advisory Committee.



**Rosalba D Pitkin**

2nd Term Expires 08/01/2013

As an ABE, GED, ESL Curriculum Advisor and Program Coordinator for ESL and Latino Outreach at Clark College, Commissioner Pitkin serves students and members of the Vancouver community who want to enroll in ABE, GED, and ESL classes. She advises and orients students wanting to pursue an associate's degree. Prior to joining Clark College, Rosalba held various positions with Coventry House and was a Spanish teacher for Katona József Gimnázium in Kecskemét, Hungary. She worked as a summer intern at the Office of US Senator Jeff Bingaman in Las Cruces, NM. She also worked as an Assistant of Protection for the Mexican Consulate in Portland, Oregon. Her duties in these last two jobs were to protect the rights of Latinos and assist them with legal issues.



**Anita E. Ahumada**

1st Term Expires 08/01/2014

Originally from Chile, Anita Ahumada acquired her formal education at the Universidad de Chile. She worked as a Social Worker in her native country until she moved to the U.S. in 1970. She worked for the Department of Corrections for many years, and served as a Court Interpreter. Anita was the first Latina state employee to obtain Interpreter Certification granted by the Washington State Supreme Court, and has been practicing the profession throughout the years. Anita co-founded the Hispanic Coalition of Snohomish County where she served as Executive Secretary and Co-Director. While in the Coalition, she collaboratively coordinated sports clinics for Hispanic children; she also worked in securing subsidized housing for minority seniors, Hispanic women's health education, ESL classes, literacy programs, and voting education. She co-founded the Language Interpreters Services and Translations (LIST) Office, a nationally recognized program which pioneered equal access to government programs for LEPs. Anita has participated in and provided language services for numerous Minority and Justice Community Forums under the leadership and guidance of Supreme Court Justice Charles Smith. She is a board member of the Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA).



José Manuel Reta

1st Term Expires 08/01/2013

Mr. Reta is a decorated Vietnam War veteran, and he was also part of the bicentennial color guard for the Wagon Train in 1976. He attended Nooksack Valley high school, then Bellingham Technical Institution and Whatcom Community College. Mr. Reta has experience working in agriculture and in the dairy business. He is currently the owner of "Colima Design," a clothing design and alteration company. He has been an active member on several boards and committees, including the Bellingham Herald Advisory Committee, the F.D.A board, the D.V. Commission, and the Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board member association.

He was the vice-president of the F.D.D.A. from 2007 to 2008, and has been the president of the Northwest Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce since 2007. He has won several awards, including the Top Ten Whatcom County Most Giving Award in 2009, and the Whatcom county peace builder cross-cultural award in 2009.



Sharonne Navas

1st Term Expires 08/01/2014

A native of New York City, Sharonne has a BA and BS from St. John's University. She has more than 15 years of fundraising experience and has worked in social justice organizations like NARAL Pro-Choice America, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Weill Cornell Medical School/Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, Coalition against Domestic Violence and Para Los Niños. Sharonne volunteers as a community organizer for Planned Parenthood of the Greater Northwest and as a community leader for the South King Council on Human Services. She was a member of the Annie E. Casey Collaborative Leadership for Results Cohort in 2010 as well as the Promise Neighborhoods (White Center, Seattle, WA) Planning Proposal collaborative.

well as the Promise Neighborhoods (White Center, Seattle, WA) Planning Proposal collaborative.



Ana Ruiz Peralta

1st Term Expires 08/01/2012

As an interpreter, Ana has been in very close contact with different communities for the last 12 years. This job has enabled her to see the needs first hand and volunteer to help in several areas, such as education and community service.

Ana was born in Guadalajara and raised in Colima, Mexico, and attended the Universidad de Colima for 2 years. In her family, service to the community is planted into daily life at a young age. During difficult times like these, it is vital to have solid ties of communication between the community and the government, and therefore as a Commissioner Ana plans to keep constant dialogue a priority.

"To serve as a Commissioner is an honor and a big responsibility which I will carry with a spirit of humility."



AnaMaría Díaz Martínez

1st Term Expires 08/01/2012

AnaMaría Díaz Martínez, a native of Washington State, is the first generation in her family born in the United States. Born of migrant parents, she is the older of eight children and the first to go to college and graduate. Following her lead, five of her siblings have since graduated from college. Her parents firmly believed that education was the path to a fulfilling and prosperous life. In her upbringing, education took the form of many different experiences. She learned from her cultural and social family how to work hard and with integrity, have compassion for others, and to appreciate the diverse experiences that enrich all of our communities.

In 1997, AnaMaria graduated from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Community Health Education and followed in 2002 with a Masters of Education (M.Ed) in Instructional Media and Technology.



Jennifer Ramirez Robson

1st Term Expires 08/10/2014

Commissioner Ramirez Robson has over 20 years of management experience in the private sector, local government, and non-profit sector. During her career, she has served as a management analyst for the city manager of Burien, as well as a policy advisor, legislative analyst, project manager and technology professional with the City of Seattle. Currently she is serving as the Interim Executive Director for New Futures, a non-profit in South King County that provides free, on-site programs for children, families, and community-building in four low-income apartment complexes. She actively participates in the Highline Public Schools Equity

Workgroup and with various youth groups. She also serves on the Burien Community Accountability Board for the Partnership for Youth Justice. Previously, she served on the Board of Directors for New Futures, on the Advisory Committee to Latinos for Community Transformation, co-chaired the Seattle Latino City Employees association, and participated on the Latino Community Fund Grant Committees.



Uriel Iñiguez

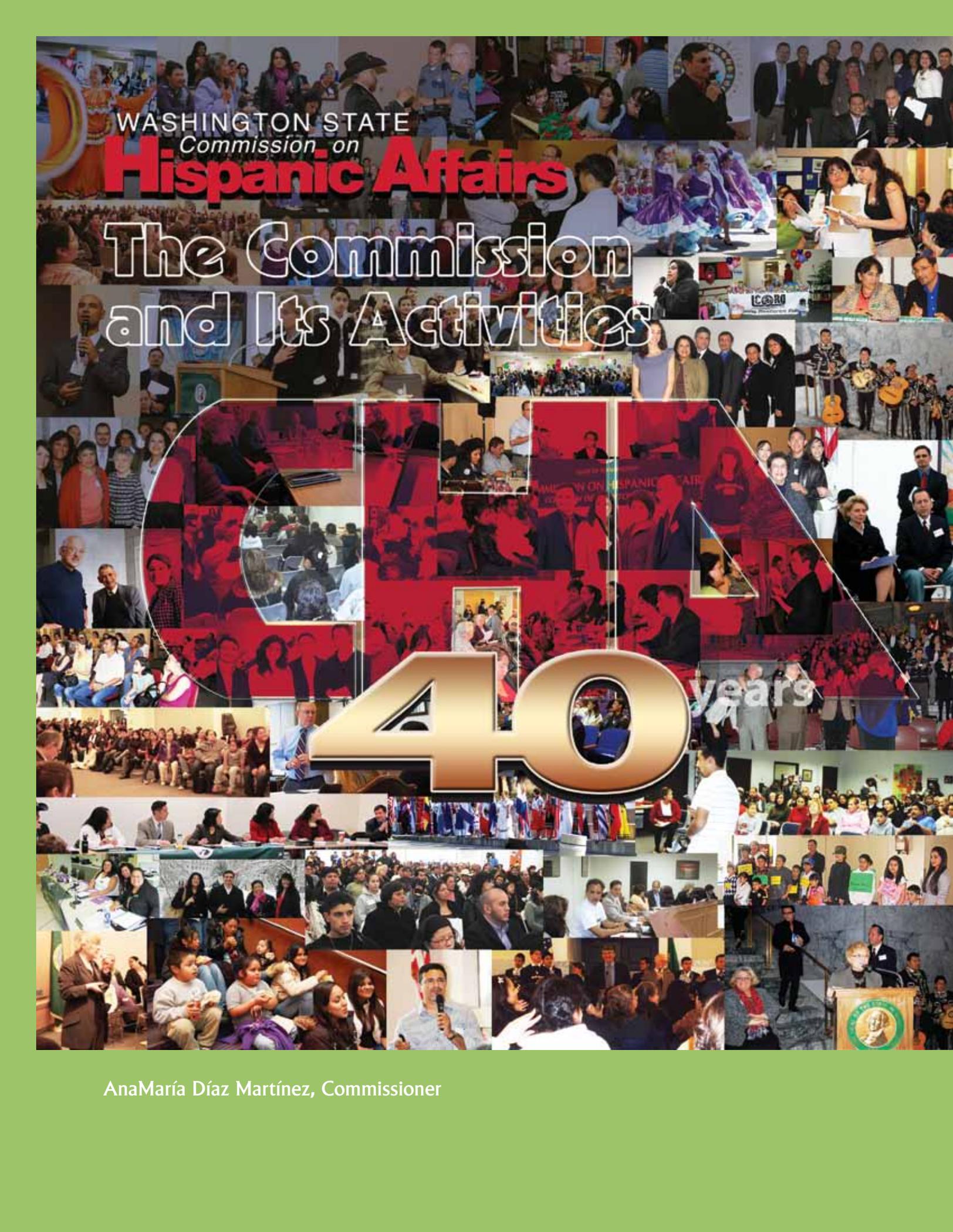
Executive Director

Mr. Iñiguez was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire as Executive Director of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs on June 2005. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, he worked for the Department of Corrections, and served as volunteer Commissioner for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. During his tenure in the Department of Corrections, he held the positions of Community Corrections Officer, Prison Counselor, Regional Correctional Manager, Associate Superintendent, Field Administrator, and Management Services Chief. Mr. Iñiguez holds a BA in Human Resources Management from Eastern Washington University and a Master's degree

in Public Administration from City University. He is an immigrant from Mexico, married, and has two sons.

Since his appointment as Director, Mr. Iñiguez has been instrumental in: Organizing the Healthcare, Economic and Educational Diversity Summits, Organizing the Hispanic/Latino Education Forum, Establishing a state wide Spanish radio program, Publishing four Hispanic/Latino Assessments in Spanish and English, Reinstating the Hispanic/Latino Legislative Day, Founder of the Latino Civic Alliance Organization, Developing a Parent training Educational Manual, Developing Parent Training Institutes on our Educational System, and, Developing a Latino Business Directory.

In the last few years, he has been active in these Hispanic-serving community organizations: Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, DSHS's Diversity Committee, DSHS's Economic Services Advisory Committee, Construction Center for Excellence Steering Committee, OSPI's Bilingual Education Advisory Committee, OSPI's Migrant Education Advisory Committee, Federal Way School District Heritage Leadership Camp, KCTS Hispanic Advisory Committee, Group Health Foundation, CIELO Project, an organization that provides services to the Olympia area migrant community, Thurston County Hispanic Roundtable, a group of Hispanic professionals who work to improve the lives of Latinos, OSPI's (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) Multi-Ethnic Think Tank (METT), Attorney General's Latino Consumer Protection Planning Committee, Local Neighborhood Association \*Carlyon/North Association), 2002 to 2005, Thurston County Community Network, 2003-2006, Pioneer Elementary School Site Council, Olympia School District Student Drop Out Prevention Committee, Olympia School District Budget Advisory Committee, Volunteer Youth Soccer Coach.



WASHINGTON STATE  
*Commission on*  
**Hispanic Affairs**

**The Commission  
and Its Activities**

**40** years

AnaMaría Díaz Martínez, Commissioner

## Introduction

The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (“CHA” or “the Commission”) 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; and
4. Establishing relationships with state agencies, local governments, and members of the private sector.

The Commission strives to improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Latino community and it is to this end that the Commission and its 11 Commissioners spend a significant amount of time collaborating with agencies, serving on committees, advising educational agencies, and advising the legislature on identifying and establishing policies that meet and/or address the needs of the Latino community.

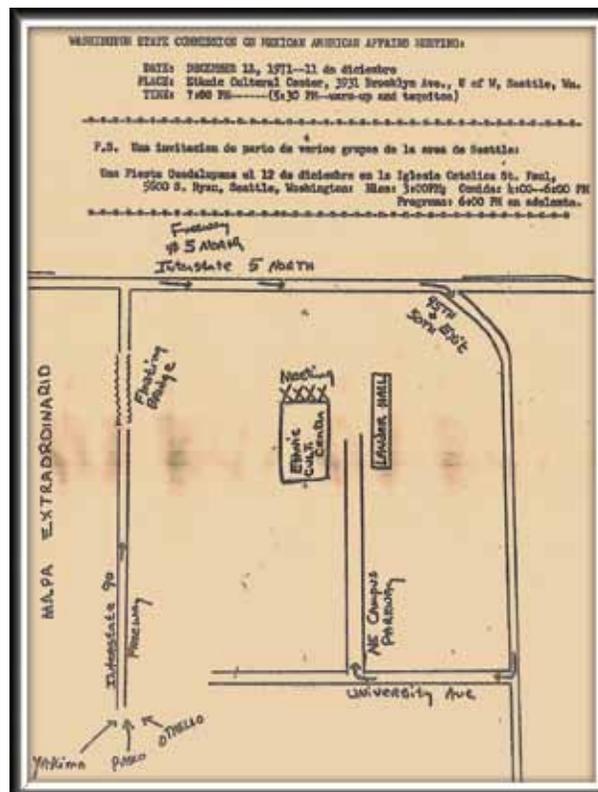
Over the last four decades the Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) has undoubtedly made important changes and improvements amongst the Latino community here in Washington State. Not only has the CHA made breakthroughs in the legislature, it has also been successful in increasing awareness and participation of constituents, and increasing other state agencies’ outreach to their Latino customers. Its success can be attributed to the constant communication and interaction between CHA and its community, as well as the creation of innovative

ideas that address the needs and concerns of the Latino communities.

This has been despite a dramatic increase in budget cuts in recent years, which has caused a decrease in CHA’s staff and production rate.

The substantial growth rate of Washington’s Latino population has increased the number and complexity of issues needing attention throughout the state. This has led to the expansion of CHA’s agenda to include issues such as youth violence, community outreach, immigration, civic engagement, parental involvement, bilingual services, education, and voter participation. Today, more than ever, the role of the Commission is imperative in shaping policy in the state.

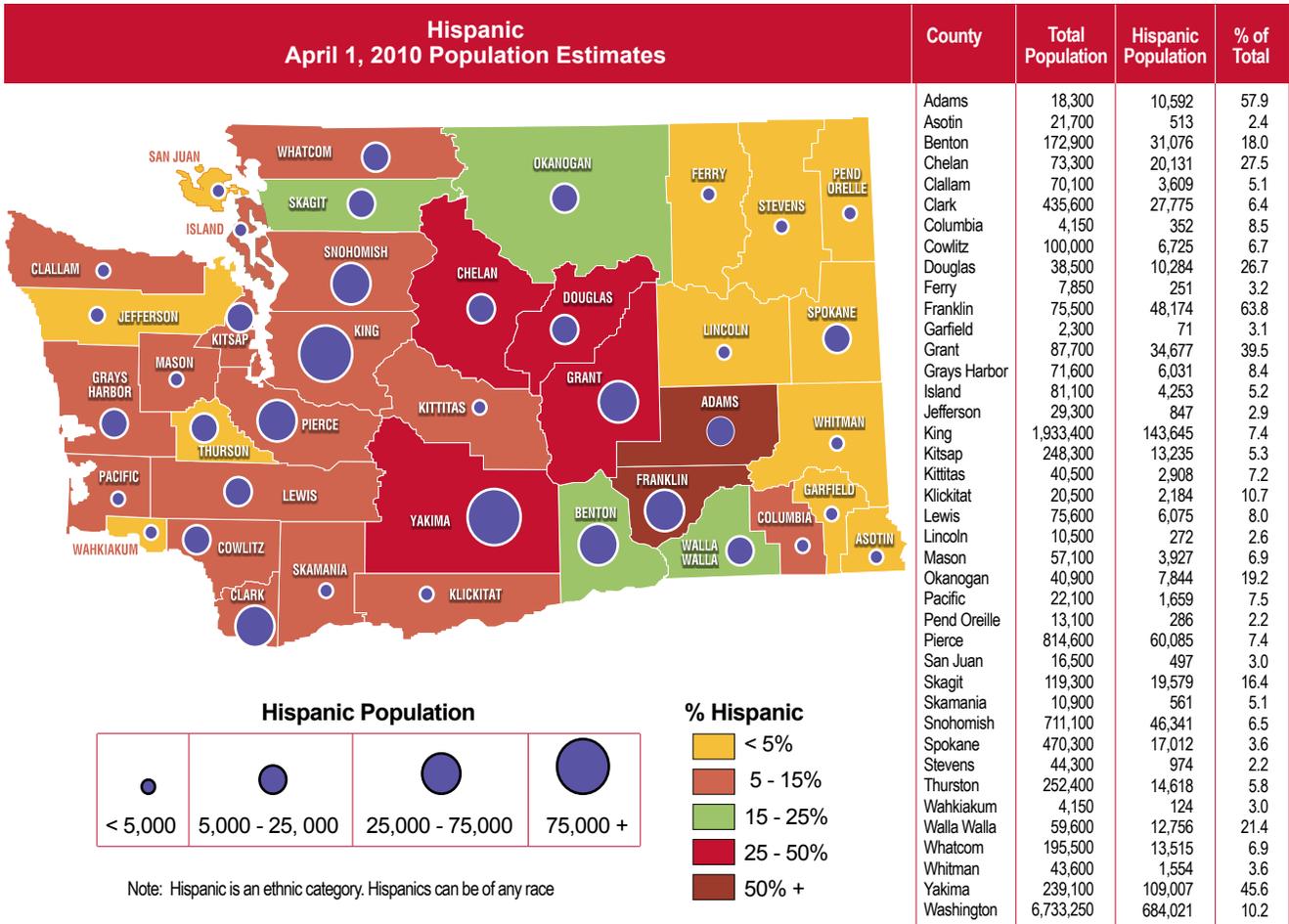
This report will highlight the activities of the Commission over the past two years, identify the Commission’s priorities and speak to the work and dedication of the Commissioners of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.



Invitation First CHA Meeting, 1971

## Happy Birthday CHA - 40 Years Later

The Commission on Hispanic Affairs is celebrating 40 years of service to the state and the Latino communities. Washington State continues to see significant advancements in growth of the Latino population and their contributions economically and socially. Washington State now has two Latino minority-majority counties, Franklin and Adams.



**Washington State Office  
of Financial Management,  
Forecasting Division**  
Thomas J. Kimpel 2010-09-03

In a report by Dr. Frances Contreras of the University of Washington, Status of Latinos in Education in Washington State: A Call for Greater Investment, one out of every five children attending school in Washington State is Latino. Additionally, the Latino population has experienced unprecedented growth in the past 20 years with the K-12 population in Washington increasing over 150% since 1990.<sup>1</sup>

While there has been change over the past 40 years, we still see that there is great need for improvement in areas that significantly impact our communities: high dropout rates and low graduation rates, immigration status discrimination, access to higher education and diminishing of vital social and health services. The Commission is committed to pushing forward, advocating for and giving voice to our Latino communities in Washington State.

## History of CHA

The Commission started out in 1971 as a strong grassroots movement to improve the conditions for Latinos in the state of Washington. A substantial amount of community action leading to the creation of CHA rose out of the Yakima Valley as well as other areas with high farm worker populations. During this time, a group of Latino community advocates saw the need to take their concerns to the state in order to advocate and lobby for community development. The official creation of CHA was part of a larger history of the Chicano movement that peaked in Washington in the late 60s and early 70s.

While unionizing was a key focus of the Chicano movement, a need to take on the unresponsiveness of state government drove a group of Chicanos to lobby Governor Evans for stronger representation. They were actively seeking to institutionalize the strength of Mexican-Americans in Washington, a necessary step in the possibility of improving conditions for Mexican-Americans. The Chicano group took their concerns to Olympia and demanded that Governor Evans include them in his Committee on Farm Labor, commonly perceived as overly "Anglo". The Advisory Committee compiled reports on the status of Latinos in areas of need like education, health, and farm workers' needs, such as unemployment compensation. Through these reports CHA eventually petitioned to have an official place in state government. At the first community hearing which involved selection of Commissioners, over 300 people showed up to voice their views and input. From the beginning, CHA did not withdraw from controversial issues or activist pursuits.

The Director has generally been identified as the official public figure of CHA. This does not necessarily mean that the Director dominates the CHA agenda but simply that he is to a great extent the spokesperson or the reference point. Uriel Iñiguez is the fourteenth CHA Director, and has been serving as Director since 2005.

In practice, CHA staff often determines the scope of action that the agency will take. They decide whether CHA can undertake new projects and the amount of time that can be committed to them. In the beginning of the agency, staff was made up primarily of field representatives. Due to funding from the Certified Employment and Training Assistance program, the agency was able to hire up to six staff members. They were able to serve their community directly on any issues or projects. These positions unfortunately were not funded in the early 80's. Throughout the 90's CHA was fortunate to have an immigration specialist, a voter registration drive leader, a public relations and outreach specialist, and a researcher/statistician; however, not necessarily all the time. Besides paid staff, CHA has relied on numerous interns. In the mid 90s CHA had between 10 and 15 interns. In recent years CHA has been faced with having to eliminate their legislative liaison position.

The eleven volunteer commissioners make up the official CHA board. They are appointed by the Governor with the goal of achieving a balanced representation of the Latino community of the state. The Commissioners represent their designated regions, interests, and expertise. The Commissioners select a chair, who typically runs the meetings and has the authority to speak for CHA.



The Commissioner position has historically had the most turnover. Over 100 people have served as Commissioners for a variety of terms and time. Tomas Cerna served the longest, 22 years, from the start of the agency until 1993. Being a Commissioner has always meant to encompass as wide a representation of the spectrum of Latinos as possible. The original legislation creating CHA called for the distribution of Commissioners amongst the areas of agriculture (two members), education, professional services, elected trade union officials, as well as two members from the general populace of the Spanish speaking population and four members from the Mexican-American community of Washington State. The 1987 legislation changed the name of the institution from the Commission on Mexican-American Affairs to the Commission on Hispanic Affairs and changed the area representation requirements to three members of the Spanish speaking population and three of the Mexican-American community. The biggest change in the shape of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs came in 1993 when new legislation regarding how the board was structured was passed. The new legislation changed CHA in that it limited the commissioners to two three-year terms and gave the Governor the power to hire the Director with input from the Commissioners. The change in the number of terms and make-up of CHA was intended to extend the diversity and keep CHA fresh and revitalized and to give as many people as possible the opportunity to be involved in matters of state government. CHA would serve its role as an advisory board but would also serve to develop Latino leaders.

Dr. Antonio Sanchez, currently in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, assisted with the drafting of this legislation and believes that the term limit system is working, stating that “they’ve had some excellent people who have served and are serving in the Commission”. This new legislation also impacted the dynamics between the Commissioners and the Director. While the parties still collaborated, the Director was required to develop more of a relationship with the Governor. The Commissioners have always been the

ones expected to steer the agenda, while the Director and staff are responsible for driving it forward. The Commissioners have often formed sub-groups based on their interests, area needs, and specialties.

Since 2009, Lillian Ortiz-Self has been appointed as Chair after serving on the Commission for 2 years. She was reelected in November of 2011 for a second term, which expires on November 11th, 2013.

The current make-up of the Commission reflects a wide range of interests, generations, and ethnic backgrounds. CHA has six commissioners who specialize in the area of education, two in higher education and four in K-12 education, two commissioners who specialize in economic development, and two who specialize in health and human services. Some commissioners are first generation immigrants, and some are second- or third- generation. We have a commissioner from Puerto Rico, one of mixed Guatemalan and Salvadoran heritage, and one from Chile. Others are of Mexican descent or first generation Mexican.

The different backgrounds of our commissioners bring different strengths to the table, and make for a dynamic team that draws upon those strengths to help one another effect change in the Latino community.



## Leading Change Through Advocacy Project

Due to continuing disparity in achievement and equitable service distribution in the area of education, much of the Commission's focus has been in that area, working to improve parent involvement and close the achievement gap. Through local community forums held by the Commission, Latino community members consistently articulate their frustrations and concerns that they do not have access, voice, and ownership in the education of their children.

In 2010, the Commission, through partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, started the Leading Change Through Advocacy Project (LCTA). The Commission has coordinated the LCTA project through help from Latino Advocacy, LLC. and The Office of the Education Ombudsman.

The Commission believes that it is imperative that Latino parents are empowered to partner with teachers to help them become effective educators of their children through culturally responsive curriculum development and pedagogical practices. In addition, parents who are trained in recognizing and understanding state and local educational governing systems, who have learned to advocate for change and improvement through civic participation and who are engaging with school leadership and teachers will work hard to create symbiotic relationships that are beneficial to students, parents, schools and the state of education in Washington.

CHA  
40 years

Parent Training Locations



*“Leading Change Through Advocacy is a series of statewide trainings that bring together parents, community members, and leaders to learn about the Washington educational system and how to better advocate for Latino children in public schools. The goal is to provide education on how to advocate for educational equity for all children on a local and state level. Through advocacy training, parents and community groups learn to dialogue with policymakers and other influential leaders on broad policy issues. They learn to generate public support for educational issues that will undoubtedly link them to other important social and economic topics , such as poverty alleviation and job creation”*. Lillian Ortiz-Self, Chair

The Commission is grateful to work with many organizations and agencies in helping our communities engage civically to advocate for greater success of our students in Washington’s educational system. We have successfully trained over 200 parents and their children, community and organizational leaders over 11 locations throughout the state of Washington.



The Commission will continue to work with parents as they continue meeting to reach their goal of creating local Latino PTAs, collaborating with school districts, helping other parents learn and navigate the school system, but most importantly, helping their children enjoy school and be successful in the future. As one mother in Everett said, “That is why I come every week, to make my children’s experience a positive one—that is my mission”.

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**CHA Priorities 2010-2012**

Since the printing of the last Latino Assessment Report, the Commission has continued to identify areas of greatest importance and impact to the Latino communities of Washington State. Commissioners continue to build relationships with the legislature, community and state leadership, government and non-profit agencies and organizations, and local and state educational systems. As Commissioners meet the public they represent and advocate for, they are constantly analyzing their needs and concerns. It is through this process that Commissioners and CHA are able to identify top priorities to focus on for the next legislative session and advise the Governor and the Legislators.

The Commission has worked with great effort to identify and make a plan of action to address issues in Education, Public Safety, Human and Social Services, and Immigration, to name a few.

In addition to the Leading Change Through Advocacy project, CHA advocates for education in many other ways. CHA Commissioners are always in communication

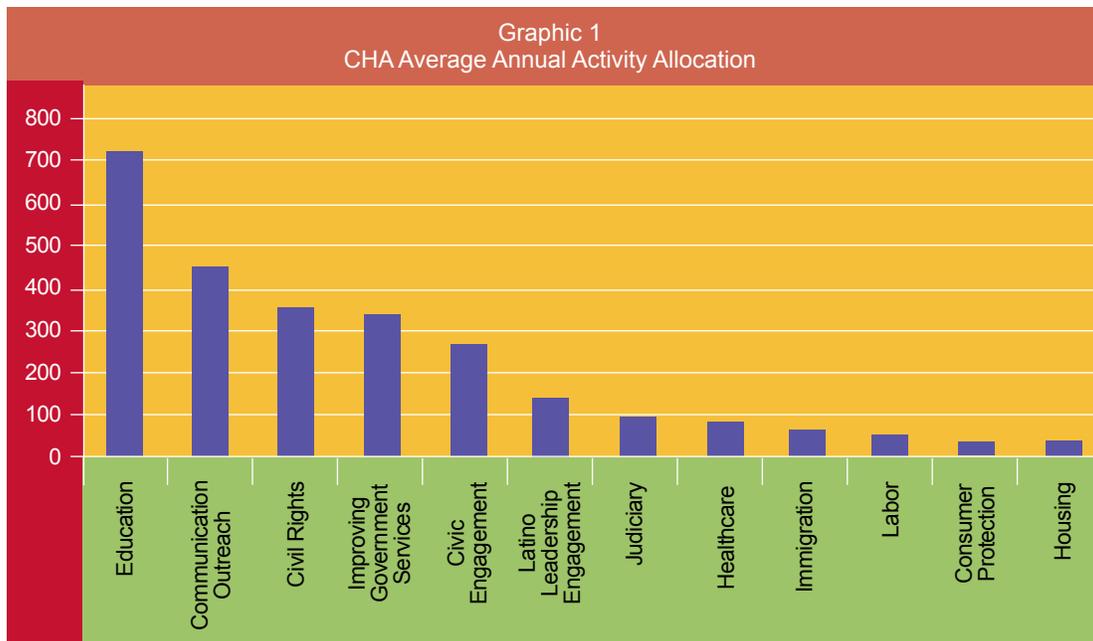
with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. CHA is represented on the Migrant Education Advisory Committee, as well as the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. Commissioners have worked closely with Representative Sharon Tomiko-Santos (Chair of the House Education Committee) in advising the Legislature regarding the impact on the Latino community of education bills that are introduced.

This is a crucial domain as it has ramifications in regards to public safety, economic development, etc.

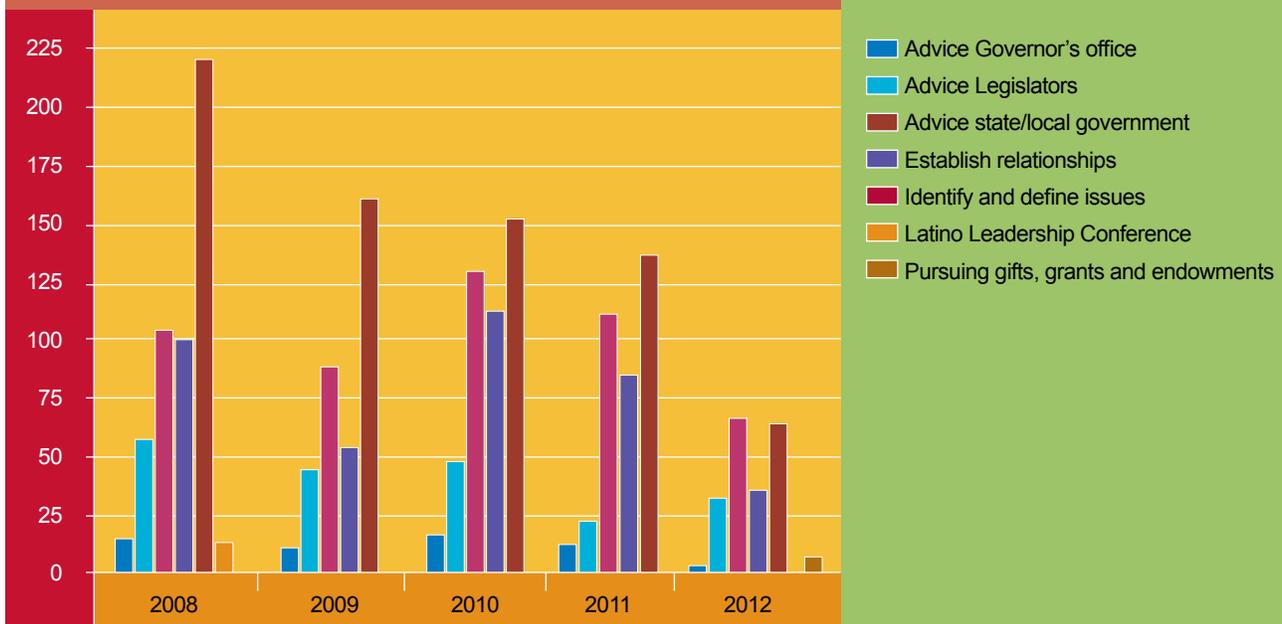
Stopping the school to prison pipeline is a top priority agenda item for CHA.

Public Safety also continues to be a priority agenda item

for the Commission. CHA continues to hear stories from various communities regarding the number of children being recruited into gangs and the little alternatives for success that Latino children feel are available to them. Gang prevention is of utmost importance to our community. This is why we are focused on eliminating the school to prison pipeline



Graphic 2  
CHA Activity 2008-2012



by closing the achievement gap, ensuring that prevention services are provided, and ensuring that parents are engaged and well informed.

Issues regarding Human and Social Services in the last two years included: equitable access to services, such as translation services in the areas of child welfare and mental health services. Crisis services that provide immediate intervention in times of abuse or trauma that are culturally and linguistically appropriate are still hard for families to access, which is why CHA works consistently with DSHS and other state agencies to find solutions.

The Commission continues to see the negative effects on our community of not having comprehensive immigration reform. Families are scared to access law enforcement agencies and are left in a very vulnerable state. Children are experiencing the trauma of having their parents taken away before their eyes and often times children are left behind without a plan of protection in place for them. We continue to hear from our community about incidents concerning racial profiling and harassment, which we are constantly working to eliminate through education.

Economic Development has also risen to priority status. Equitable access to contracts and grants for Latino

owned businesses is a concern shared by many in the Latino community. Helping small businesses to keep their doors open by understanding assistance that might be available is also of equal importance. As the Latino population continues to increase we are also seeing an increase in Latino owned businesses; this coupled with the financial impact the Latino community has on our economy makes it a very pressing issue.

In 2011, CHA initiated a proposal to create an online Latino Business Directory, working closely together with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises and the Washington Hispanic Media Association (WAHMA), a group of Hispanic leaders working towards developing and sustaining the professional development of the Latino community.



The purpose of this project was to increase access to state government contracts for Hispanic businesses, and to bring awareness of the benefits of OMWBE certification, and of the process for obtaining it, to Hispanic businesses.

CHA has worked with a number of agencies, including the Department of Licensing, the Liquor Control Board, the Department of Social and Health Services, Labor and Industries, the Department of Revenue, and all other agencies participating in the radio program on reviewing and revising their policies when it comes to interactions with Latino clients. In the last few years, due to CHA's advisory meetings and presentations, DOL has held trainings for its staff on policy interpretation and it has changed its customer complaint policy. As a result customer complaints have drastically been reduced.

Also as a direct result of council from CHA Director and Commissioners, L&I, DOR, and DFI have increased their number of bilingual staff, as well as the number of published materials in Spanish.

CHA is in constant communication with all the agencies listed above and serves in an advisory capacity for best practices in engaging with the Latino

community. Other agencies in the last year that CHA has met with include the Lottery Commission, the Employment Security Department, the Arts Commission, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and the Office of the Education Ombudsman.

CHA has also worked closely with the Mexican Consulate and the Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration Department to ensure that the needs of Latino children are being met and that the policies in place are being carried out in a manner that is culturally competent.

With the Office of the Attorney General, CHA has helped to increase communication and outreach to the Latino community on issues like fraud and consumer protection. The Commission has also been instrumental in the development of the new guidelines for the Department of Early Learning.

The CHA Director and Commissioners hold over 300 meetings per average year with many different agency heads, community members and leaders, non-profit organizations, legislators, and elected officials.



## CHA Legislative Activities and Session Review 2011-2012

The 63rd Legislative Session of 2012 started January 9th and progressed through March 8th. This session followed a very difficult session from last year and was further challenged with more tough decisions. Washington State entered the session faced with a 1.4 billion dollar budget gap which called for Governor Chris Gregoire to propose a new state budget. A special session was added in order to finalize the budget.

The Commission identified focus areas where bills were being introduced that would have a significant impact on the Latino communities. For Legislative Session 2012, K-12 Education, Higher Education,

Labor, Consumer Protection, Economic Development and Immigration were the top priorities.

The 2011 legislative session was equally difficult as all the ethnic Commissions faced elimination. Our budget was significantly reduced which forced the Commission to eliminate all but two of the public community meetings, and eliminated commissioner travel to meet with partner agencies and organizations who were working to help the Latino Community. The Commission also identified focus areas similar to the 2012 legislative session with a significant focus on issues related to the achievement gap.

## CHA Community Awards



On April 15, 2012, the Commission recognized and awarded Alex Gordon with the 2011 Commission on Hispanic Affairs Community Award at the Latino Resource Fair in Vancouver, Washington.

Alex has played an important leadership role within the Latino Community Resource Group. Alex has assisted this organization by facilitating the planning of both the spring and summer Latino community resource fairs. Alex works for Sea Mar Community Health Center as a customer service representative and assists the most underprivileged residents in Clark County in receiving medical insurance. Alex is always looking for opportunities to create partnerships with community organizations that provide resources to the community in order to better serve her customers. Alex is very enthusiastic and is always willing to use her bilingual skills to make resources available to the Latino community. She has demonstrated leadership, organization, and compassion that has positively affected the lives of many Latinos in Clark County. Alex works tirelessly for the benefit of the Latino community, and we believe she deserves recognition for her efforts. Alex, we thank you for your outstanding commitment and dedication, and we hope you continue sharing your insight and providing leadership for your community.

For the 2010 Commission on Hispanic Affairs Community Award, the Commission awarded and recognized Mr. Lupe Hernandez of Moses Lake, Washington. Mr. Hernandez was presented the award at the 2011 Latino Legislative Day in Olympia, Washington on March 4, 2011. Mr. Hernandez has



Antonio Flores Quin 2009 CHA Community Award Recipient Presented by Uriel Iñiguez, CHA Director (October 2009).

Alex Gordon, 2011 CHA Community Award Recipient Presented by Commissioner Rosalba Pitkin (April 2012).

worked tirelessly to help his community in Grant County. Through his work with the local Catholic Church and organizations that support the Latino community, Mr. Hernandez has impacted many families and has enriched the Latino community with his philosophy of service.

Mr. Antonio Flores of Pacific, Washington was selected to be the recipient of the 2009 Commission on Hispanic Affairs Community Award. The award was presented to Mr. Flores on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at Bellevue Community College during the 2009 Latino Community Fund Summit Breakfast and Banquet. Mr. Flores was recognized for his exemplary work, advocacy and efforts to enhance the quality of life for our Latino communities.

Congratulations to all of our Community Award recipients and for all the work they accomplish and will continue to accomplish. The Commission looks forward to recognizing many more outstanding community members in the near future.

[Advertisement]

## Sea Mar Community Health Centers

Clinica de la Comunidad

Sea Mar Community Health Centers is a community-based organization committed to providing quality, comprehensive health, human, and housing services to diverse communities, specializing in service to Latinos.



We are proud to support the efforts of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs and its many supporters in presenting this important report.

**Sea Mar Community Health Centers**  
**1040 S Henderson Street**  
**Seattle, WA 98108**

[www.seamar.org](http://www.seamar.org)

## Conozca su Gobierno con Uriel Iñiguez

In 2010 the Commission started the Conozca Su Gobierno (Know Your Government) radio program which airs every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 - 11 a.m. The radio program has now expanded its broadcasting range over 5 different frequencies, covering about 40% of the state. On the show, Director Uriel Iñiguez brings on different state agency representatives to discuss important topics (in Spanish) such as: tips on how to purchase a car, what you need to do to start a business, how to access important health programs, and how to take care of your child's health, among many other things.

The purpose of the program is to assist other state agencies in their outreach to the Latino community. Agencies each have one half hour to discuss anything they want to bring to the Spanish-speaking community and CHA staff moderate by asking clarifying questions

and providing phone numbers and other resources for the listening audience. Agencies currently participating on the radio are: The Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Financial Institutions, the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, the Human Rights Commission, the Department of Health, the Department of Labor and Industries, the Department of Revenue, and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

The Commission encourages community members to call in with questions or concerns. On Tuesdays, the show is broadcast live on Radio Luz 1680 AM Streamed by Centralia College, 91.3 KCED Radio KDNA, 91.9 FM. On Thursdays the show is broadcast live on Radio Latino 1210 AM Streamed by Centralia College, 91.3 KCED.



## CHA Community Meetings

In order for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs of Washington State to meet its mandate, it is imperative that the Commission understand the needs and issues of the Latino communities of Washington. One of the best ways to carry out this mandate is to meet with Latinos through public community meetings. These forums provide commissioners an opportunity to identify issues or concerns, such as equitable access to community and state services, community safety issues relating to Latino communities, areas concerning disproportionate educational services, and any other issue pertinent to the Latinos in that area. Community meetings are conducted in areas represented by one of the Commission's 11 Commissioners. Local Commissioners work with community leaders, state and federal agencies, local organizations and educational service districts to address concerns or issues identified at the public community meetings.

Due to budget cuts, in 2010 the Commission held only two public community meetings, the first in Yakima and the other in Burien. Panelists for the Yakima public community meeting represented the Regional Department of Social and Health Services, the Office of the Superintendent for Yakima School District, the

Chief of Police for Wapato, and the District Manager for the Department of Licensing. Panelists were asked to address questions from Commissioners, for example, what is the process and success rate of children being placed with Latino Families for temporary or permanent care; how are student attrition issues being handled and how are students being adequately and equitably encouraged to seek higher education; how is the school district working to meet an adequate and representative goal of teacher to student ratios.

In Burien, the Commission and the Latino community met with the City Manager's Office, Highline High School, the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE), the Governor's Policy Office, the Chief of Police for Burien and New Futures. Areas identified for further discussion included how to improve the City's relationship with the Latino community and the impact of cuts to human services on the local Latino community.

In 2011, the Commission held two public community meetings in Lacey and Lynwood, Washington. The panelists in Lacey included the Office of the Mayor for Lacey, the Chief of Police, the North Thurston

School District Superintendent, the Department of Social and Health Services, and OMWBE. Panelists addressed questions related to student test scores and parent involvement, DSHS and their priorities on placing Latinos in foster care with Latinos, and interpreter services for police officers on call.

The Lynwood public community meeting was held at Highline community college as a part of the 2011 Latino Community Fund Summit. Commissioners reported on their area activities and the public was invited to pose comments or questions to the Commission. Representative Moscoso discussed his participation at a criminal justice roundtable related to intervention and prevention services for gang activity in Washington and concerns about the gang bill that was being introduced.

In the first half of 2012, the Commission held meetings in Pasco and Forks, Washington. The Pasco public community meeting focused on economic development and gang issues. The economic development panel included Senator Mark Shoesler, Representative Larry Haler, Pasco City Councilmember Saul Martinez and the Director of the Small Business Association of Washington. Economic Development panelists addressed questions about creating access to higher education for immigrants, timelines and communication efforts to the Latino community regarding plans for revitalization, and the ways in which community members are engaged in revitalization efforts and leadership opportunities.

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to addressing issues of gang violence in the community. The gang prevention panel members included Representative Terry Nealy, Franklin County Prosecutor, Pasco Police Department Detective Nebeker, Father Daniel Barnett, Teen Challenge, and the Pasco School District. All gang prevention panelists were asked to address which initiatives are being created in order to start more extracurricular activities in this area and create collaborative efforts between agencies and the school system.

The most recent community meeting was held in Forks, Washington. The Forks Human Rights Commission requested and hosted the Commission's public community meeting to address the use of Border Patrol agents for interpreter services by the local police, the sheriff, and the State Patrol. Panelists

included two officers from the Washington State Patrol, a representative from the Clallam County Sheriff's Office, the Mayor of Forks, a civil rights investigator with the Washington State Human Rights Commission and the district regional manager for the Department of Natural Resources. All panelists were asked to speak about their activities related to ensuring a safe community with equitable and safe access of services to their community members.

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## Moving Forward

As the Commission has reflected on their work throughout the past two years, it is evident that our gains were not made through our efforts alone, but with the help and support of many who know the importance of making sure that all communities are safe, have equitable access to education and services, are civically engaged and contribute to the economic development of their communities and state.

The State's economy is fragile and government leadership will change in the upcoming election. The fiscal outlook for K-20 education and human services is unknown. The achievement gap is still very real and the research shows the impending impact on the state and nation. The ideal of safe communities is changing the way communities react, interact and request support. Immigration reform is polarizing the nation in turn causing a rippling effect through our communities. The landscape of jobs is changing for all segments in our state and nation.

The Commission is committed to furthering their work to help Latino communities reach their greatest potential. Commissioners are strengthening their



partnerships and building relationships that will support their work in the legislature and in their respective communities. The Commission will continue to look for innovative and effective ways to develop programming that supports community civic engagement, and to find ways to advocate for equitable access to education and services. The commission will continue to be actively engaged in their communities

so as to identify impacting issues and advise governmental systems of their need for action.

The Commission looks forward to continuing to serve Washington State and the Latino communities with the support and efforts of many we currently work with and many we encounter along the way in meeting our mandate.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & EDITOR

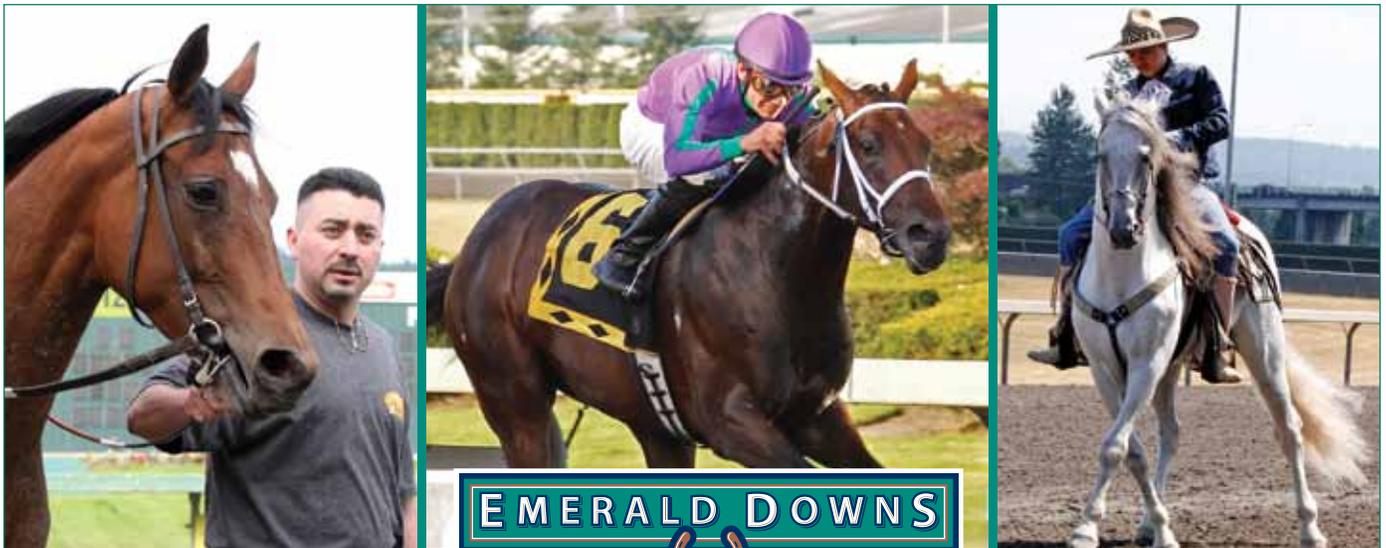
**AnaMaría Díaz Martínez**, a native of Washington State, is the first generation in her family born in the United States. Born of migrant parents, she is the older of eight children and the first to go to college and graduate. Following her lead, five of her siblings have since graduated from college. Her parents firmly believed that education was the path to a fulfilling and prosperous life. In her upbringing, education took the form of many different experiences. She learned from her cultural and social family how to work hard and with integrity, have compassion for others, and to appreciate the diverse experiences that enrich all of our communities. In 1997, AnaMaria graduated from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Community Health Education and followed in 2002 with a Masters of Education (M.Ed) in Instructional Media and Technology.

**Marena Lear** has worked for the Commission since April 2011. She previously worked for a translation company in Portland, Oregon, and as a private English teacher in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ms. Lear has a BA in English from Reed College.

## Notes and References

<sup>1</sup> Washington State Office of Financial Management, Population Projections, <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/race/projections.asp>

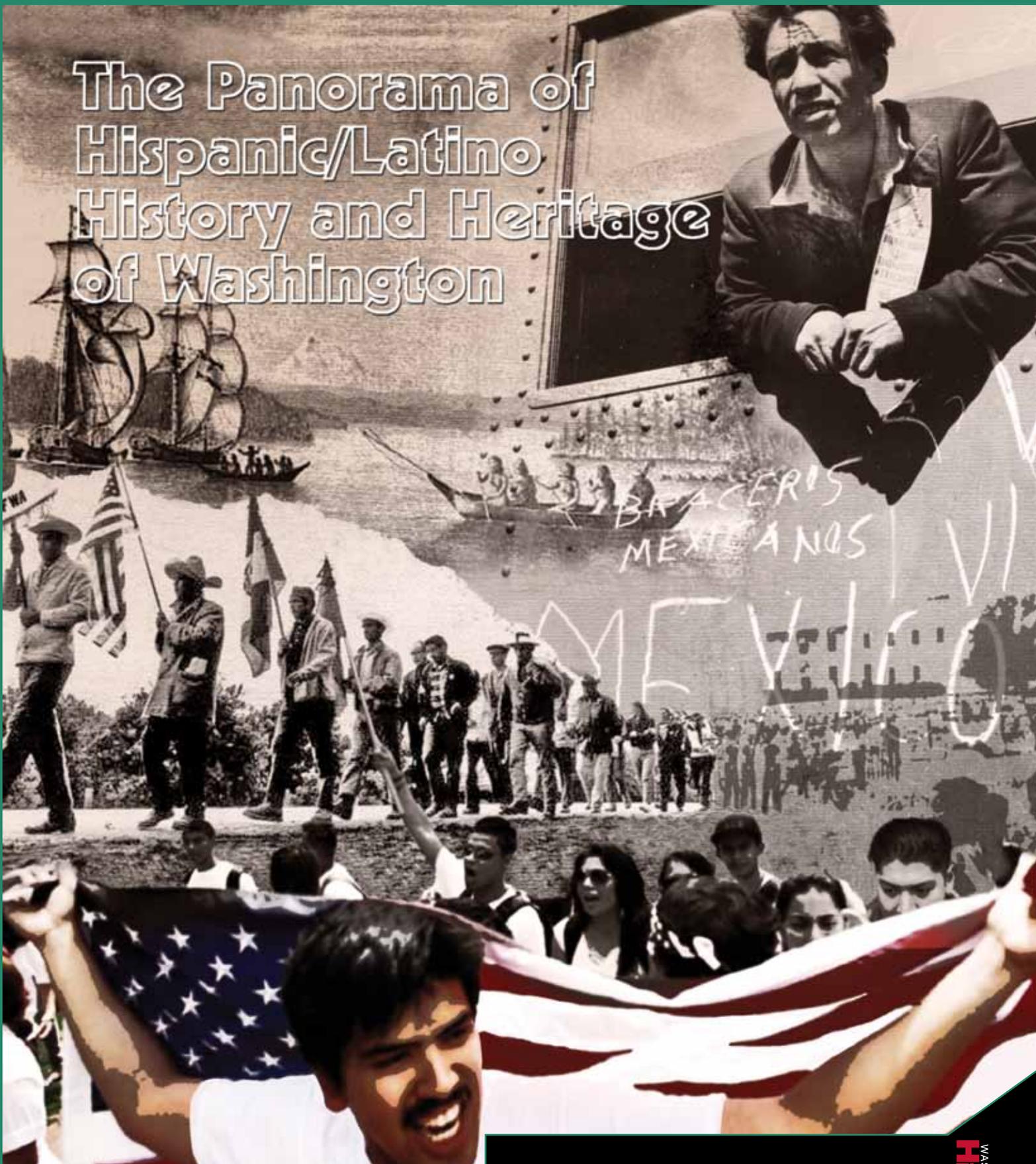
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# The Panorama of Hispanic/Latino History and Heritage of Washington



Erasmio Gamboa Ph.D  
Antonio Sanchez Ph.D

*The Commission was officially created in 1969, as part of the growing Chicano movement to lobby for stronger representation. Since then, the Commission has continued to function as an agency supported by a grassroots movement, working within the framework of state legislation.*

## I. Introduction

*Hispanics/Latinos represent Washington State's first and fastest growing non-Native American community. It is a community whose sojourn from the south is filled with tales of heroism, challenges, disappointment, accomplishments and hope.*

The intrepid sailors that made up the first wave of Hispanic explorers into this region sailed from San Blas Mexico and established an important cultural bridge that has remained continuous.

The odyssey into what is now Washington State began in 1774. It was initiated under the auspices of protecting a territory, considered by the Spaniards to be theirs, from the rapidly encroaching Russians, French, and English. As a result, it became a very deliberate and determined effort to explore, claim, understand, and settle the previously unknown Pacific Northwest region for the Crown of Spain.

The Mexican and Spanish sailors that plied these chilly waters under extreme maritime conditions established an important legacy and deserve to be credited with introducing many key items that, despite being lost to a faded and rewritten history, are now considered a major part of our state's economic and cultural patrimony.

The early Spanish and Mexican foray into this state brought the first maps, iron, wheat, tree fruits, onions, beans,

wine, livestock, Christianity, and first non-native settlement.

Spanish was the first European language spoken in this region and is now second behind English. The continued presence of Hispanics in this state during the late eighteenth and nineteenth century is quietly reflected in every phase of the region's history. From the mule trains that brought the equipment needed to develop our timber industry and to map our state's boundaries to the techniques that laid seed to our important agricultural industry, Mexicans have been and are now at the forefront of our state's economic and political progress.

Currently, in some of Washington's rural cities, Hispanics/Latinos are not a minority, but comprise a majority, if not the plurality, of the population.

Despite these and many more important contributions, the long established Hispanic/Latino presence in this state is one of the most under-recognized, misunderstood, and underrepresented chapters of our state's history. This story deserves to be told.



Encounter of Spanish Vessel and native canoes depicted by Gordon Miller

## II. Cultural Identification in the Hispanic/Latino Community

Latinos of Mexican descent make up the majority of the Hispanic/ Latino population in Washington State. However, it must be recognized that the group as a whole consists of an extremely diverse array of different racial and cultural groups, each with its own particular geographic history, immigrant experience, social and cultural background, linguistic preferences, level of formal education and economic status. Whether they are Americans of Mexican descent or recent immigrants from Mexico or any Latin American or Caribbean country, a thin tether of common social, cultural, linguistic, and historic attributes bind this population together into an amorphous but unique population group.

The use of the term Hispanic may not be the most accurate way to label this amazingly diverse population. Its initial use can be traced to the early 1970s when the U.S. federal government implemented the broad term “Hispanic” for census purposes in an attempt to lump together this large and almost indescribable population group. It was conveniently used by each of the various levels of government since then. This terminology was intended to be a convenient umbrella that would include those with linguistic, historical, or cultural background in Mexico, South and Central America, the Caribbean, and Spain living in the United States.

Strictly speaking, Hispanics are people of Latin American or Spanish ancestry residing in the United States. Unlike other minority groups, Hispanics are not an easily identifiable ethnic or racial community. In effect, Hispanics are a true mosaic of different, races, cultures and nationalities. Some of the so called Hispanics are of relatively unmixed ancestry. Others have multiracial African, Asian, European or Native American background. Culturally, the term Hispanic represents a rainbow of diverse lifestyles of Mexican and Central Americans. From this perspective, the term Hispanic tends to impose a racial, cultural and linguistic homogeneity where such similarity does not exist.

For this reason, the term Latino, which denotes the large diverse groups of the Americas from South of Rio Grande (Mexico) in the North to Patagonia (Chile) in the South is commonly utilized. The French invented the term Latin America at a time when this nation had focused imperial ambitions in Mexico. These ambitions were first put to their test during the famous battle of Cinco de Mayo at Puebla, Mexico in 1862. The French at that time argued that both France and Mexico were “Latin” countries, and they used this connection to impose a colonialist regime widely unpopular in Mexico. With time, the term “Latino”, which left a bad taste in Mexico’s memory, began to fade but gradually became adopted for most of the populations in the Americas, becoming a type of an umbrella term. Generally, this term reflects the origin of the population in the Americas, or more broadly, where an ethnic diversification of the Hispanic population has occurred (i.e., Latino from Mexico, Latino from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guatemala or Chile).

The historical background of Latinos also differs across groups. This is the case of Mexican Americans, citizens with Mexican ancestors born in the U.S. who are members of an “established minority” in the country and the State of Washington.

On the other hand, other Latinos, such as Nicaraguans, Salvadorians or Guatemalans, constitute the more recently arrived immigrant populations within this community.

Washington State is also home to a sizeable community of Spanish Sephardic Jews. This community constitutes one of the largest concentrations of this population in the United States. Sephardics speak Ladino which is a Romance language derived from Old Castilian Spanish. Sephardic Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492 and their diaspora continued until they arrived in Seattle in June 1902 via Marmara, Turkey and the Isle of Rhodes. Sephardic Jews have made significant contributions to the educational, business, cultural, and artistic history of Washington State.



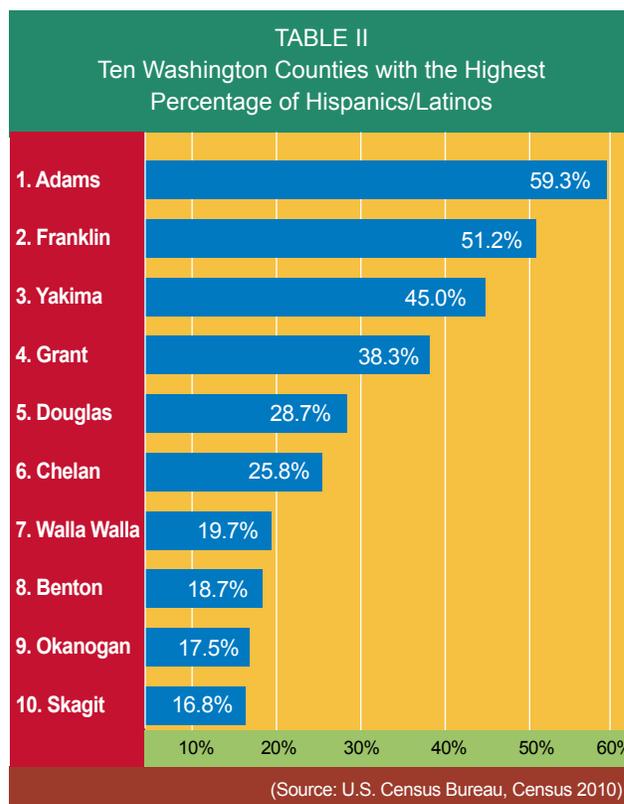
### III. Demographic Overview

Often Hispanics/Latinos are inaccurately described as one of the state’s newest immigrant communities. This misconception derives from several factors. Federal census data, which locates the number of people in any area, is not available for Washington’s Hispanic/Latino population prior to 1970. This assumption was reinforced again when the census bureau improved its accounting procedures and significant Hispanic population increases were noted in 1980 and 1990. In addition, because Latino immigration to Washington has increased significantly in the last decades, many persons are likely to base the expanded number of the Hispanic population solely to immigration. Finally, before the 1970s, Hispanics/Latinos were inconspicuous to Washingtonians due to the fact that the majority of the Spanish-speaking population lived in Yakima and other South Central counties of the state, thus escaping the media and other attention of the populous Puget Sound region of the state.

Category	1990	2010
Hispanic	214,570	755,790
Mexican	155,864	601,768
Puerto Rican	9,345	25,838
Cuban	2,281	6,744
Other Hispanic/ Latino	47,080	121,440

Until the 1970s, Washington’s Hispanic population was essentially of Mexican origin. Since then, South American, Caribbean, and Central American immigration has made the Hispanic population of the state more heterogeneous.

U.S. Census Bureau (2010 Census) indicates that between 1990 and 2010 Latinos of Mexican heritage were 3.2% and 8.9%, of the total State population. Latinos of Puerto Rican heritage were .2% and .4%, Latinos of Cuban heritage were .05% and .1%, and Latinos of other Hispanic or Latino heritage were 1% and 2% of the total state population.



Overall, Washington’s Hispanic population grew by 71.2 % between 2000 and 2010; well above the state’s overall growth of 14.1%. In point of fact, Washington ranks 13th (755,790) nationally in the number of Hispanic/Latino residents. In spite of increasing immigration from other Latin American nations, Mexican heritage Hispanics/Latinos outnumber other Latinos in every Washington community. Mexican Americans are especially concentrated in the state’s smaller rural communities (see Table II).



According to the US Census Bureau, in 2010 Latinos made up 11.2% of the total population of Washington State. That is, one out of every five new Washington State residents in the 2000's was of Latino origin. Washington State gained an additional 314,261 Latinos between 2000-2010. The total population of the State increased by 830,419 people during this period, according to the 2010 Census.

Rank City/Town	Total Pop. (County)	Latino Pop.	% Latinos
1. MATTAWA (Grant)	4437	4245	95.7%
2. MABTON (Yakima)	2286	2100	91.9%
3. ROYAL CITY (Grant)	2140	1899	88.7%
4. GRANGER (Yakima)	3246	2862	88.2%
5. WAPATO (Yakima)	4997	4209	84.2%
6. TOPPENISH (Yakima)	8949	7388	82.5%
7. SUNNYSIDE (Yakima)	15858	13043	82.2%
8. BASIN CITY (Franklin)	1092	892	81.7%
9. GRANDVIEW (Yakima)	10862	8655	79.7%
10. WARDEN (Grant)	2692	2075	77.1%

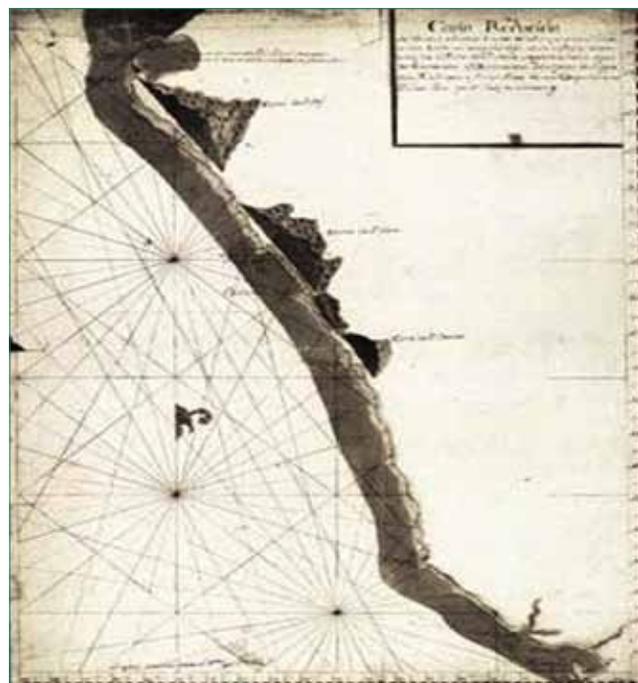
(Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2010)

#### IV. Historical Context

Hispanics are no strangers to the Pacific Northwest. In 1774, two years before the liberty bell's famous echo became the rallying cry symbolizing the American Revolution, Spanish, Peruvian, and Mexican sailors had already claimed the land which is now Washington State for Spain. It is not by mere coincidence that in Washington State, familiar names such as the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Lopez Island, Port Angeles (originally Puerto de Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles), the San Juan Islands, and Rosario Strait dot our maps. They are clearly a legacy of the early Spanish influence in the state. The first period of Hispanic history in Washington was permanently marked by these place names, however, the Spanish and Mexican legacy goes far beyond these geographic indicators. Between 1774 and 1819, the treaty date marking the final official claim to this region by Spain, this region witnessed many voyages from Mexico and a corresponding cascade of many new ideas, products, and customs that would alter the people and region forever.

In 1774, the Spaniard Juan Perez skillfully navigated the ship Santiago from the port city of San Blas, Nayarit,

Mexico, to the coast of the future Washington State. The Spanish sent this expedition in response to other European claims to the area. All Spanish expeditions



Map made on 1774 Juan Perez expedition, recently discovered and proving that this was the first expedition to map the Pacific Northwest, 1774. Courtesy National Archives

from New Spain (present-day Mexico) were always composed of a majority of Mexican mestizo and Indian sailors, not just Spaniards. For the next 23 years, at least 43 vessels plied the coastal waters and permanently etched a Hispanic legacy that remains until to the present.

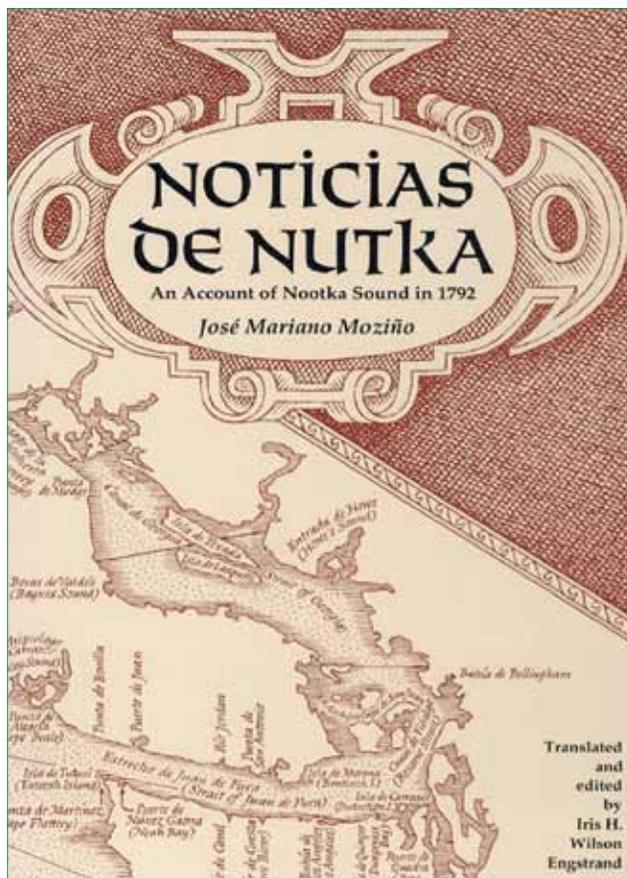
It was Juan Perez and his Mexican crew that led the way for Spain to claim all of the Northwest Territory and Alaska from 1774 until 1819. The Santiago was also one of the first vessels to record the Strait of Juan de Fuca. On the day that the Santiago entered the strait that separates Washington from Canada, the ship's Spanish-speaking crew witnessed a towering snowcapped mountain that was named Sierra Nevada de Santa Rosalía. Today the peak is known as Mount Olympus.

In 1775, Bruno de Hazeta, a 24-year-old explorer, also sailed along what is nowadays called the Washington coast. As he continued his voyage back to Mexico, Hazeta recorded the mouth of a large water way. He named it Bahía de la Asunción de Nuestra Señora. Seventeen years later in 1792, the British Captain Robert Gray also “discovered” and entered the same river. Thereafter, it became known as the Columbia River.

During their many voyages the Hispanic mariners found and named other key geographical places in the region. Many of the Spanish place names first noted during these voyages from Mexico were simply renamed when later English speaking explorers conveniently identified these geographical locations on their maps using English terms. The Spanish also established the earliest non-Native settlement in Washington in 1789 at Neah Bay (Fort Nunez Gaona) and at Nutka (Friendly Cove) on Vancouver Island. It was the Mexican crewmembers of all four Spanish expeditions who were also pioneers in the creation of these two settlements. Most of these Mexicans were reported to be of mixed or mestizo race (Indian and Spanish) or pure Mexican Indians.

At Fort Nunez Gaona, the Mexican and Spanish sailors brought and introduced the first iron, brick constructions, planted the first tomatoes, beans, corn, garlic and other vegetables, introduced Christianity, and established a tradition of trade. At another settlement

called Nutka (Nootka Sound) on Vancouver Island they planted orchards, gardens and brought the first cattle, pigs, fowl and other livestock. A bakery, hospital, soldier barracks, forts, and carpenter shops defined this important settlement. Later in 1792, Mexican and Spanish crews conducted extensive and important ethnological and botanical studies in the Pacific West region. Also, they produced the first in-depth cartography, topography, and other scientific studies of the state.



Two Mexicans in particular contributed greatly to early knowledge of Washington State. Jose Mariano Moziño participated in the 1792 expedition, known as the Malaspian Expedition. As one of the chief scientists he prepared a comprehensive ecological index of 200 species of plants, animals, and birds. Moziño documented his research in a book called *Noticias de Nutka: An Account of Nootka Sound in 1792*, one of the region's oldest scientific and ethnological studies of the Native culture and their physical environment. Another member of the Malaspian Expedition, Anastasio Echeverría, one of the best artists in Mexico at the time, sketched one of the first detailed landscape profiles of the area.

The Spanish expeditions to Washington State made many key discoveries, but by the late eighteenth century, conflicts in Europe and Latin America forced Spain to abandon its claim to the region. The first chapter of the Hispanic/Latino history came to an end at the beginning of the 19th century. In 1819, the United States and Spain signed the Adams-Onís Treaty in which Spain sold Florida to the U.S. and gave up its claim to the Pacific Northwest. The Washington area became part of the Oregon Territory in 1848, became Washington Territory in 1853, and became a state in 1889. Thus, after 45 years, the early Hispanic/Latino presence in Washington ended, but its legacy remained, and the door was opened to further inland exploration and settlement from Mexicans using land routes from California. A look at a current Washington map still proclaims our early Spanish history in key place names. Spanish and Mexican scientists conducted extensive scientific experiments, collected and recorded thousands of plant specimens, collected important native artifacts through trade, carefully observed and recorded the native culture, language and music and produced intricate renderings that provide an important snapshot of the Northwest Coast's Native past.

Following the Adams-Onís Treaty in 1819, forty years lapsed before the discovery of gold in the Northwest stimulated another period of Hispanic/Latino presence in Washington and the Northwest region. The mineral discovery initiated an advance of miners from California and as far away as Mexico, Chile and Peru. Latino miners who reached Washington and the surrounding areas brought with them important Mexican mining technology. Consequently, before Washington became a state in 1889 Latinos contributed greatly to its early economic development through the sharing of valuable technology, needed supplies, and specialized labor.



After 1819 two economies arose in Washington State: fur trapping and mining. Latinos were not directly instrumental to the fur trapping business, but they created the backbone of the mining economy of the late nineteenth century. The arrastra and mule pack train system mulepackers/arrieros were a combination of transportation and mining techniques used in Mexico.

The arrastra was in use for hundreds of years in California, Mexico and Chile before its application in the Pacific Northwest. The arrastras were animal powered mills used to crush gold bearing rocks. In the Northwestern mining economy, the arrastra was adapted to water power but the basic principle and design remained essentially unchanged.



Drawing by J. Ross Browne of a Mexican arrastra.

The Mexican mule train also proved essential to the successful organization of the mining activities and economy of the region. The Mexican mule-pack system was in regular use in the mining economy of California during the mid-eighteenth century. As quickly as the first miners arrived, small towns exploded serving the varied needs of the booming population of miners. The discovery of gold in British Columbia and Idaho during the late 1850s prompted many miners to go through the future Washington State and stop there to purchase provisions. Before the 1870s, lack of commercial overland transportation hindered the development of Washington Territory. Walla Walla was the center of mining activity and by 1870 had a large Mexican population, which developed the region's first dependable means of commercial transportation. Therefore, from the onset an organized system of transportation supply was critical. In view

of the fact that nothing was produced locally and roads were nonexistent, the mule pack system became fundamental to the economic growth of this region. Since most Anglo-Americans preferred mining to loading, most packers throughout the Pacific Northwest were Mexicans.

Together with the arrieros numerous other Hispanics/Latinos came to the Northwest. In the mining districts of the Oregon, Washington, and Idaho territories the population was a curious mix of nationalities and cultures which included the Hispanics/Latinos. At the

Dalles, Oregon, Walla Walla, Washington, Lewiston and Idaho, Hispanic men and women were among the local populace.

In summary, during the 19th century and in particular the mining period, Hispanics played an important role in the development of the Pacific Northwest. These men and women were true pioneers. Even when they themselves were not present, their particular skills, knowledge, and language were reflected in every aspect of this early American frontier culture.

## The 20th century

Until the early years of the 20th century, Latinos never settled permanently in Washington State in large numbers. Instead Latinos (mostly Mexicans) traveled to Washington as repairmen for wagons, miners, ranchers, and to lead mule-packing commercial transportation. However, the political turmoil of Mexico during the most destructive years of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1917) influenced many Mexicans to immigrate to the U.S. The agricultural development of Washington State influenced many Mexicans and Mexican Americans to settle in Washington during a time when their labor was readily available and skills needed.



From Vicente Serrano's documentary *A Forgotten Injustice*

The United States' entry into World War I coincided with the restriction of Asian and European immigration. Since these traditional sources of labor were curtailed at a time of expanded war production, serious labor shortages resulted in many sectors of the economy. One of the most impacted were agricultural industries requiring large volumes of cheap labor. To meet the increasing labor shortages, the Secretary of Labor issued a temporary suspension of all restrictions on Mexico. As a result, the First World War drew thousands of Mexican immigrants to all parts of the United States, including Washington and other Northwestern states.

The Great Depression of the 1930s witnessed the deportation of many Mexicans and as a result Washington's Latino population did not grow appreciably.

Meanwhile, Latinos already in the state resided mostly in rural agricultural communities. Those that came to Washington during the 1930s were migrant workers who traveled along well established migratory trails leading out of the Southwest to the hop, pea and sugar beet fields of Washington.

The decade of World War II signaled an important development of a significant and permanent Latino community. From the outbreak of War World II forward, an accelerated demand for agricultural commodities resulted in a need for large numbers of agricultural laborers. The call for agricultural laborers intensified until federal and state governments placed two different farm labor recruitment plans into effect.

One of the plans was the *Braceros Program* (contract labor) which employed Mexican workers in agriculture and later in the railroad industry from 1942-1947 in Washington State, though it lasted from 1942-1964 nationally. The other program was an accelerated recruitment of migrant Mexican American and Mexicans to Washington.



Braceros were single men allowed to come to Washington under a binational agreement between Mexico and the United States. Employers were obligated to pay a minimum wage, provide adequate housing, and guarantee employment. Health care, liability insurance and protection against racial discrimination were added conditions of the bracero contract. Between 1942 and 1947, approximately 15,000 men came to lend a hand to Washington's war effort.

The first wave of Mexican Americans came from the Northern Mountain states of Wyoming, Montana, and from the Southwest states of Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. The Utah-Idaho Sugar Company directly recruited a number of Mexican American migrants to the state. Some of them settled in Wapato-Harrah area, establishing one of the oldest Latino permanent settlements in the Pacific Northwest. Wapato-Harrah during the second world war was a prime area for labor-intensive beet harvesting.

These *braceros* clearly made the difference between lost and harvested crops in many state's farms. While indispensable to farmers, the braceros were sometimes treated badly by their employers and suffered much racial discrimination, poor housing facilities, and inadequate treatment from farmers.

When the war ended in 1945, bracero labor became too expensive for farmers and they searched for a more economically feasible way to exploit labor. They quickly found that they could skirt the worker's rights of the bracero program, which were not outlined or guaranteed by contracts, and the cost of bringing them

from the Southwest was considerably less than train fare from Mexico. The program ended in the state in 1947, but revived again during the Korean War (1950-1953). The major unintended consequence of the bracero program included Mexican American settlement in the state.

With the help of the federal government, Washington labor officials initiated a bilingual information system consisting of maps, charts and information to guide migratory labor to the Northwest. In great measure this program was very successful in bringing many people to Eastern Washington especially areas like the Yakima Valley. By the 1950s, Latinos began to move out to the Puget Sound area and to the Skagit Valley. Mexican heritage Latinos had become the principal source of labor in several agricultural areas of Washington. Most of them came from Texas, New Mexico, and California and began to settle permanently as Mexican American labor replaced the bracero labor of World War II.

Once in Washington, many of these families sought to establish permanent residency. By 1950, the outlines of today's Mexican American communities in Eastern



Washington were becoming evident. During this period Catholic churches in Yakima saw the dramatic rise of Mexican American parishioners. In some communities like Toppenish, Mexican American children represented over 73% of all baptisms. School enrollment records also point to increasing populations of Hispanics/Latinos.

As Latinos made strides during the 1960s and 1970s resulting from civil rights activism, an important event also took place in 1965 which changed the Latino makeup of the state. The 1965 Immigration Act eliminated racial quotas in the U.S. immigration system. This encouraged a change of Latino immigration into Washington State from Mexican American to primarily Mexican. By the 1970s, a significant number of Mexican Americans resided in Seattle. At that time, South American immigrants began arriving to Seattle and Tacoma as exiles and refugees under federal immigration legislation. Prime examples were Cubans who left their country after the Cuban Revolution of 1960 and Chileans who escaped from the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet in 1973. Peruvians, Argentineans, and Ecuadorians also left the economic, social and political problems plaguing their homelands to Washington. During the 1980s and 1990s Central American immigrants comprised the last significant



Lyndon Johnson signing the 1965 Immigration & Nationality Act that allowed mother and father to immigrate to the U.S.

Hispanic/Latino groups to arrive in the State. The addition of South and Central American immigrants added a new mix of folkloric, linguistic and cultural values to the Washington community. In addition to South Americans, Mexican immigration also began to increase during the 1970s until the present. Mexican immigration has significantly strengthened Washington's Latino culture and sense of community.

### Political Action

There was a large change in the migrant circuit as more and more Latinos opted to settle in Washington. Although Latinos' work was welcomed in Washington State, they faced several problems and as in the Southwest, this led to confrontation during the late 1960s-1970s. Latinos in Washington State joined the civil rights movement and established a distinct movement of their own in Washington State. In effect, following the movement started in California and the Southwest by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, Mexican and Mexican American farm workers from Washington played an important role during this social and political movement.

In 1968, the first class of 30 Mexican American students in Seattle established a presence at the University of Washington (UW), and Mexican Americans and



Centro de la Raza Opening article, Seattle PI October 14, 1972

Latinos in Seattle established the social services building El Centro de la Raza, and later Sea Mar Community Health Center, Consejo Mental Health, Concilio for the Spanish Speaking and other community based organizations were established to provide services to this community. In the Yakima Valley the Farm Workers Clinic (est. 1972) was founded to serve migrant workers. Numerous Latino civil rights organizations emerged throughout the 1970s, including a muralist movement. Radio KDNA was also established to serve the Spanish speaking migrant workers in the Yakima valley and beyond.

By 1968 the ripples of the Civil Rights movement in the South and Southwest reached Washington. Mexican American (Chicano) students in the Yakima Valley recruited by

African American students from the Black Student Union at UW became very active on campus. Influenced by the farm workers movement in Southern California and the Mexican American (Chicano) Movement, the Latino students formed United Mexican American Students [UMAS].

UMAS later joined with the national Chicano Movement and became MECHA [Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán]. UMAS joined the national grape boycott of 1968-1970 and by 1969 was marching in the streets of Seattle for Latino civil rights. The students also went back to the Yakima Valley to participate in the farm worker strikes in the Yakima Valley.

From 1969-1970 the Yakima Valley witnessed a number of wildcat strikes from Latino farm workers. Many of the Chicano UW students participated in the strikes and negotiated during the strikes. In the spirit of the farm workers movement led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, a United Farm Worker Co-Op in Toppenish was set up.

The wildcat strikes in 1970 at Granger and Mabton targeted Yakima Chief hop ranches for better pay and working conditions. The strikes succeeded. However, unionization did not occur until after the strikes and much of what the workers gained did not last.

During the 1980s and early 1990s Washington State was the site of a short revival in the Latino farm workers movement. In 1986 Cesar Chavez visited the Yakima Valley and led a march for the improvement of farm working conditions. Also in the same year the United Farm Workers of Washington State became official.



On March 10th, 1968, Cesar Chavez breaks his 25-day fast by accepting bread from Senator Robert Kennedy, Delano, California. Left to right: Helen Chavez, Robert Kennedy, Cesar Chavez. Photographer: Richard Darby



The UW Daily announces the formation of United Mexican American Students (UMAS) January 28, 1969

The movement culminated in the first union contract for farm workers in 1995 with Chateau St. Michelle winery, leading the UFW of Washington to join with the national UFW union.

As the Chicano Movement waned in Washington State and across the U.S during the late 1970s, the Mexican immigrant population increased. During the 1960s, many Mexican Americans left the migrant farm labor circuit, and during the 1970s, many left farm work altogether. In an ironic twist, Mexican immigrant labor supplanted Mexican American farm worker labor and low skilled labor altogether.

Just as the early twentieth century ushered in an era of large Latino immigration into Washington State so did the end of the century. The Latino immigrant influx increased during the 1990s as Latin American countries experienced economic and political turmoil, especially in Mexico.

Most Latino immigrants settled in established Mexican American communities of the Yakima Valley and Eastern Washington, but others moved to areas such as King County.

The political landscape is now charged with new and very divisive issues. Immigrant rights have taken center stage and marches in support of these rights have been held that surpass most of the farmworker rallies of the 1970's. Political leadership has also found its way to the halls of our state capital. Sea Mar Community Health

Center, with now over a million patient encounters and clinics statewide, has a firm and respected presence in the political discussion on health care, housing, and farmworker issues. Many capable women and men are taking up leadership positions and are standing up and being heard. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs has served as an incubator and focal point for building leadership and understanding the pulse of the Hispanic Latino community. The good news is that the pulse is growing stronger with the political will and actions by this community.

### Latino Presence in Washington State

Any observer traveling through the Yakima Valley, Pasco, Burien, or Mt. Vernon will notice an undeniable Latino influence. In the Yakima Valley alone, from Wapato to Prosser, Latinos make up the majority of the population. Yakima County as a whole has a population of 231,586, of which 38.6 percent, or more than 89,000 persons, are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

The presence of bakeries, taquerías (taco restaurants), Spanish newspapers, and Spanish radio stations are as common as or more common than their English counterparts. This characteristic shows that Latinos have transformed these communities and have become the foundation of what were previously

Anglo American based rural towns. In Wapato, many Latinos are still farm workers but many have become farmers themselves. The city has elected Latino authorities, their highest grossing businesses are owned by Latinos, and the town is more than 76 percent Latino.

On April 11, 2006, more than 15,000 people marched in Seattle for immigrant rights. The majority were Latino residents, both U.S citizens and undocumented.



depts.washington.edu

This historic rally was followed by one on May 1 in Yakima, which is considered the Latino center of the state. The marchers responded to current legislation regarding immigration. The proposed federal legislation would criminalize illegal immigrants and fortify the U.S-Mexico border. Marchers instead pushed for a clear path to citizenship, assistance in uniting families of undocumented residents and

ensuring workplace and civil-rights protections.

To many people, the marches illustrated the first time Latinos were apparent politically in Washington State. Many residents consider Latino issues to be a recent phenomenon but, as we have seen, Latinos have a long history in the state of

Washington and since 1970 have been the largest minority.

Latinos still face major challenges similar to issues that arose in the past. Latinos are disproportionately affected with high school dropout rates, poor housing facilities, poverty, and minor political participation. This new decade has shown a Latino people willing to take on the challenges they currently face, as they have done since the 1770s.

While the majority of the state's Hispanic's population is underprivileged economically in comparison to the general population, they have made significant advances. Many Latino men and women have served in the state legislature. They are also represented in positions of superior and municipal court justices and as members of the Washington Latina/o Bar Association that represents the interests of the State's Latino attorneys and law students. University, college, and public school students now have the opportunity to model themselves after educators of the own ethnic background. The Hispanic Chamber

of Commerce represents the growing number of successful entrepreneurs in banking, restaurants, consulting, construction and sales. Still others are distinguished artists, and media personalities. With the Mariners baseball team and the Sounders FC professional soccer franchise, a host of amateur and professional athletes are also now a permanent part of the state's landscape. In short, Hispanic men and women are successfully surmounting many of the racial, cultural and other obstacles while becoming a true American success story complete with their own proud history.



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Dr. Antonio Sanchez** is a 12th generation New Mexican. He is the Director of Economic Development and International Relations for the Office of Lieutenant Governor in Washington State. His other professional duties include instructor of Chicano Studies for the Department of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington and founder and president of AMERICAS: Institute of Art, History, and Culture - an organization dedicated to understanding, preserving, and promoting the history and heritage of Hispanics in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Sanchez was knighted by King Juan Carlos of Spain under the order of Isabella La Catolica in 1994 and in 2007 under the Order of Merit. He was also awarded the Medal of Merit from President Toledo of Peru in 2004. He is the first Hispanic recipient of the Washington State Historical Society Peace and Friendship award. He received his Doctorate Degree in Anthropology from of the University of Washington in 1983. Dr. Sanchez has written several articles and a book chapter pertaining to the history and heritage of Hispanics in the Pacific Northwest and has been involved in numerous student and faculty development projects at the University of Washington promoting Hispanic educational projects. The most recent was the successful effort to save the historic Chicano Murals on campus, the development of the Spanish studies program, helping establish the Cervantes Center, and the UW Studies Center in Leon Spain. He successfully led the effort to establish Jalisco Mexico as one of only three official sister states to Washington and is a charter member of the Jalisco/Washington State Sister State Association.

**Erasmio Gamboa** was born in Texas, a child of Mexican immigrant parents and spent his youth in the Yakima Valley of Eastern Washington. After attending Yakima Valley Community College, he enrolled at the University of Washington in 1968 where he quickly became a leading student activist. Gamboa helped found the UW Chapter of MEChA and was chairman of the University boycott committee supporting the United Farm Workers' boycott of non-union grapes. Gamboa was also instrumental in the establishment of the UW's Chicano Studies program. He earned an MA in History from the UW in 1973, and his PhD in 1984. He is currently Associate Professor of Chicano Studies and Adjunct Associate Professor of History and Latin American Studies at the UW. Professor Gamboa is the author of numerous articles and books on the history of Latinos in the Pacific Northwest, including *Mexican Labor and World War II: Braceros in the Pacific Northwest, 1942-1947*; and *Nosotros, the Hispanic People of Oregon: Essays and Reflections*, which won the Helen and Martin Schwarz Prize from the National Federation of State Humanities Councils.



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# Voting Rights and Political Representation



Paul Apostolidis, Ph.D  
Zachary Duffy

*CHA has worked with the Secretary of State's office and the county auditors to promote voter registration among the Latino population. We have also always given our support to legislation that encourages younger Latinos to register to vote.*

## Summary

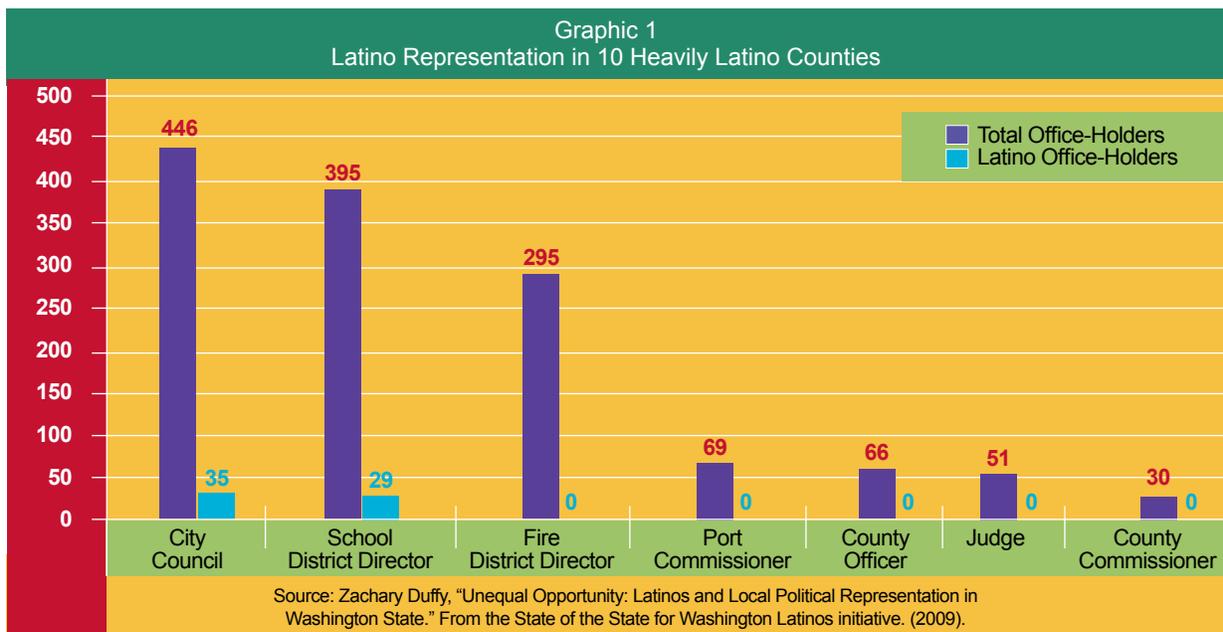
Washington State, with an 11.2% Latino population as of the 2010 Census, is home to the 12th highest population of Latinos in the United States. Yet for the last thirty years and continuing into the present day, Latinos have been dramatically underrepresented in elected offices at the state and local levels. The reasons for this underrepresentation are numerous, but include the ubiquity of at-large elections for local offices, documented patterns of racially polarized voting, and

a lack of leadership training and candidate recruitment initiatives. The Washington State Voting Rights Act, introduced to the legislature this year, would help to address many of these issues, and the Commission encourages its passage. Naturalization efforts, candidate recruitment and leadership development opportunities are also keys to the political empowerment of Latinos in Washington.

## Present Underrepresentation

In the ten counties of Washington State with the highest percentage Latino populations (Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Okanogan, Skagit, Walla Walla, and Yakima), Latinos make up more than 33% of the counties' residents. Yet in 2009 only 78 out of 1,891 local offices in these counties were held by Latinos, or just 4.1% of the total seats. This underrepresentation extends to every political office. From local city councils to school boards to countywide offices to special service districts, there exists an enormous gap between Latino population and political representation.

Such dramatic underrepresentation of Latinos is troubling. Right now, our local elections are broken; they yield local governments that do not represent our local communities. In Adams County, which is almost 60% Latino, Latinos hold only 3.6% of local elected offices. As a result, Washington State's Latinos are missing out on the substantive benefits of political representation. Many scholars have found that Latino representatives are most effective at representing the interests of the Latino community, playing key roles in determining everything from the average salaries of city employees to the educational prospects of local students.



As such, the potential costs to Latinos in Washington State when they lack adequate representation in many local offices are likely to be severe. Likewise, the potential benefits garnered by the presence of Latino representatives in local offices are likely to be transformative.

## Historical Representation

Washington State's Latino population has surged in the past 30 years, jumping from about 1/12th of the total population in the ten most heavily Latino counties in 1980 to nearly 1/3rd in 2010. With this rise in population has come an increase in total Latino representation—more seats were held by Latinos in 2011 than were held by Latinos thirty years ago. But because the Latino population is growing faster than this rise in seats, the representation gap is bigger than ever.

From 1983-2011, Latinos won fewer than 6% of all city council and school district elections in the ten most heavily Latino counties (by percentage of total county population). But this figure is actually misleading, because Yakima County accounts for a disproportionate amount of Latino representation. The reality is that there has been an almost complete lack of representation in every other county. In the heavily Latino counties other than Yakima County, Latinos have won only 2.6% of all city council and school district elections over the last thirty years.

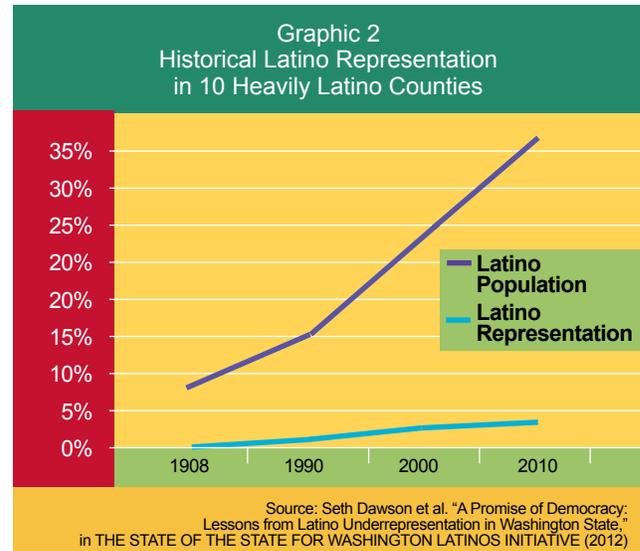
The reality is that there has been an almost complete lack of representation in every other county. In the heavily Latino counties other than Yakima County, Latinos have won only 2.6% of all city council and school district elections over the last thirty years.

The elections that Latinos historically have won are elections in which they have run unopposed, suggesting that the race of candidates may influence voter behavior. Between 1983 and 2011, a total of 173 Latino candidates ran for 4753 city council and school board seats. Of these, 122 were elected. This success is largely due to the fact that 103 of those elected – nearly 85% of all Latino victors – were able to run unopposed. A further 6 were elected over other Latino candidates. Of the 58 Latinos who were opposed by non-Latinos, only 13 were elected. This 22.4% rate of success is less than half of what we would expect to see if race played no role in these elections.

## Causes of Underrepresentation

There are many reasons that Latinos are underrepresented in Washington State, but a few of them are especially significant. First, 99% of local elections in Washington State are effectively conducted "at-large." (This means that a city, for example, is not divided up into geographic districts for city council elections, so that one city councilmember would be chosen from each district.) The drawbacks of this kind of election are well-documented: at-large systems tend to depress both the level and quality of representation for minority groups. In most cases, Washington State's communities can't fix this problem on their own. The Revised Code of Washington prevents many special districts from conducting their elections by neighborhood.

Second, racially-polarized voting has been documented in several Washington State communities. When racial or ethnic groups consistently vote in blocs for their preferred candidates in jurisdictions employing at-large



electoral systems, the minority will virtually always lose. Researchers have documented this phenomenon in Sunnyside's city council elections, as well as school district elections in Toppenish and Wapato. The historical data on Latino representation presented above also suggest that racially-polarized voting has influenced Washington State's local elections.



Third, there are simply not enough Latino candidates. This problem might be addressed through candidate recruitment or leadership training programs meant to build a pipeline of Latino leaders into political office. In Sunnyside, which has struggled to find an effective solution to Latino underrepresentation, there is a leadership training program nearby—but it costs over \$10,000 a year. Given the low median household income in Sunnyside and communities across Eastern Washington, it is unlikely that many Latino residents can afford this program or others like it.



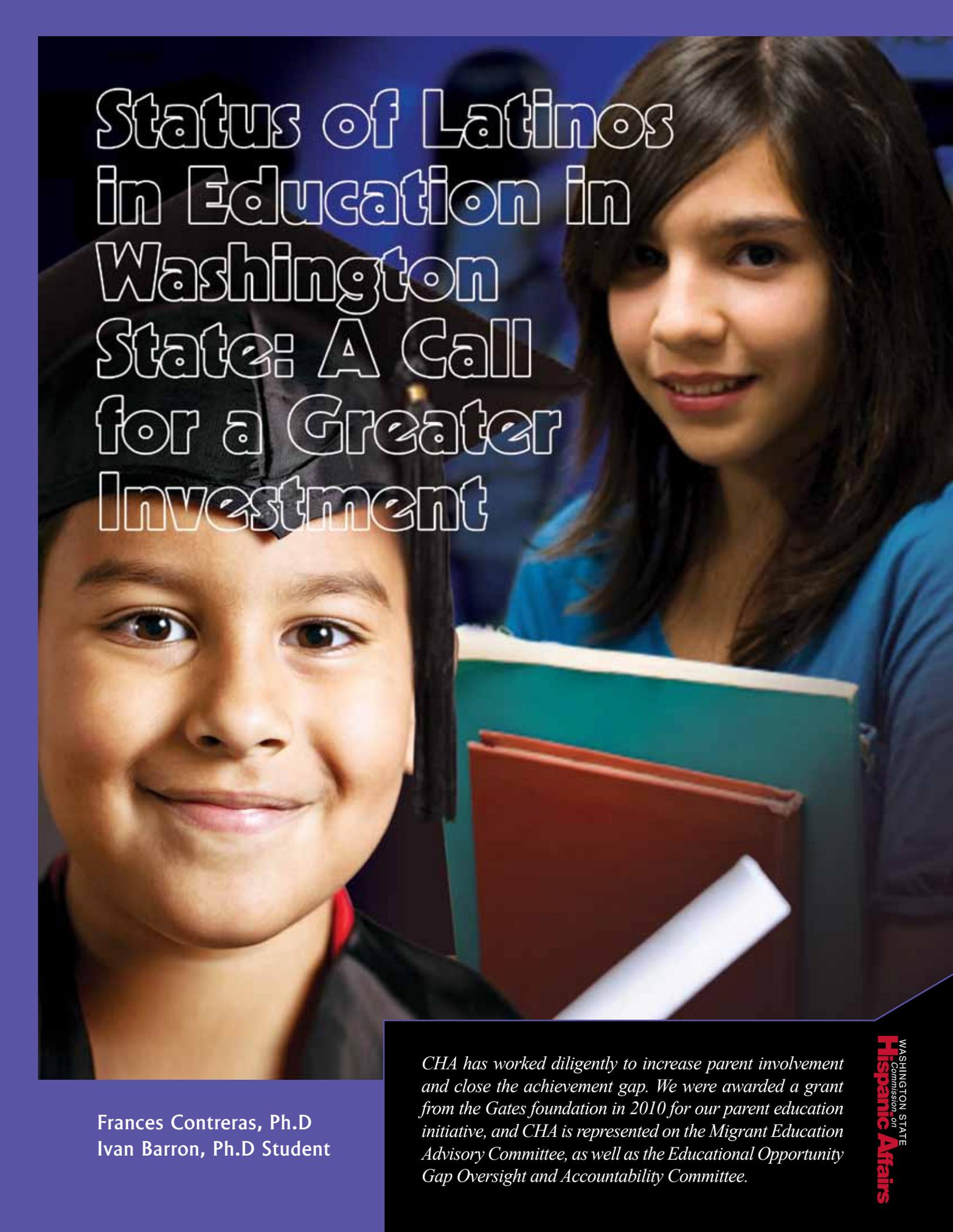
### Recommendations:

1. The first barrier to examining underrepresentation is informational, and researchers have had to contact county auditors individually to obtain the figures contained in this report. In order to more fully diagnose the scope of underrepresentation in the future, the Washington State Secretary of State's Office should begin maintaining a current and comprehensive list of local offices in Washington State, the race and ethnicity of candidates for these offices, and the electoral systems under which each of these offices are governed.
2. The Legislature should act to pass the Washington State Voting Rights Act (WVRA). A wide body of evidence now suggests that the winner-take-all, at-large elections in many local districts produce minority vote dilution by systematically reducing the influence of the Latino vote. With challenges through the national Voting Rights Act prohibitively expensive and difficult to file, the WVRA would level the playing field for minority communities in Washington State by making Washington's local elections fairer and local government more representative.
3. The Legislature should amend the Revised Code of Washington to allow all local voting jurisdictions to change their voting method to a pure district-based or alternative system, either by referendum of the voters, discretion of the county auditor, or another suitable option. All types of municipalities and special purpose districts would be granted equal abilities to construct single-member or alternative election districts. In particular need of reform are the local electoral systems in Washington State which are currently locked into at-large methods of election. There are many of them: school districts, hospital districts, park and recreation districts, cemetery districts, special districts, conservation districts and airport districts. Given that the negative impact of at-large elections on minority representation has already been demonstrated several times in Washington, amendment of their statutes should be an immediate priority.
4. Finally, Washington State should bolster minority candidacies and voter turnout by prioritizing the funding of community organizations that conduct nonpartisan candidate recruitment, voter outreach, naturalization and leadership development. Combined with structural reforms, more candidates and more votes will translate into greater representation.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Paul Apostolidis, Ph.D** is Professor and T. Paul Chair of Political Science at Whitman College, and directs Whitman's community-based research program on The State of the State for Washington Latinos ([www.walatinos.org](http://www.walatinos.org)).

**Zachary Duffy** graduated in 2012 from Whitman College where he analyzed Latino political representation for The State of the State for Washington Latinos and also served as State of the State Scholar, mentoring other student researchers, in Spring 2012.



# Status of Latinos in Education in Washington State: A Call for a Greater Investment

Frances Contreras, Ph.D  
Ivan Barron, Ph.D Student

*CHA has worked diligently to increase parent involvement and close the achievement gap. We were awarded a grant from the Gates foundation in 2010 for our parent education initiative, and CHA is represented on the Migrant Education Advisory Committee, as well as the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee.*

## The Importance of Educating Latinos in WA

In Washington State, one out of every five children attending school is Hispanic/Latino, and the Latino population has experienced unprecedented growth in the past 20 years—with the K-12 population in Washington increasing over 150% since 1990.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the future of Washington State education is directly tied in with the success of Latino children today. Now more than ever, educational opportunities will shape the careers and economic prospects for Latinos in this state and around the country.

non-institutional labor force seasonally adjusted and spanning the last 12 months) was 15.8% in Washington compared to 9.7 percent for Whites.<sup>2</sup> This level of unemployment is nearly 50% higher than that for Whites (Table II). Another noteworthy point from this data is the fact that Latino workers have higher unemployment rates than Whites over the five years of data presented below. In addition, data from the same report showed that median family earnings for Latinos are just over half that of their White and Asian counterparts (Table III).

Table I  
K-12 Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity  
2007-2012 (Percent)

Race	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2.7%	2.6%	2.5%	1.7%	1.6%
Asian	7.8%	7.9%	7.9%	7.2%	7.1%
Black	5.5%	5.5%	5.6%	4.8%	4.6%
Hispanic	14.7%	15.3%	15.9%	18.2%	19.5%
White	66.2%	64.8%	63.9%	62.2%	60.2%
Pacific Islander/ Native Hawaiian	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Multi-Racial	2.1%	2.6%	2.8%	4.8%	6.0%
Unknown	0.5%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

SOURCE: Washington KIDS COUNT, 2011

According to data from the U.S. Census Current Population Survey compiled by Washington KIDS COUNT and published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2010, the Latino unemployment rate (number of unemployed as percentage of entire civilian

Table II  
State Unemployment by Race  
and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity

Race	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Non-Hispanic White	4.9%	4.6%	5.3%	8.8%	9.7%
Non-Hispanic Black	7.8%	9.3%	7.1%	12.9%	21.1%
Latino or Hispanic	7.2%	6.8%	7.9%	12.3%	15.8%
Total	5.0%	4.6%	5.3%	9.0%	10.2%

SOURCE: Washington KIDS COUNT, 2011

Table III  
Median Family Income by Race and Ethnicity

Race	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Non-Hispanic American Indian/ Alaskan Native	\$39,307	\$37,798	\$51,241	\$47,656	\$41,709
Non-Hispanic Asian	\$68,238	\$71,653	\$77,365	\$79,618	\$80,134
Non-Hispanic Black	\$47,936	\$44,064	\$45,811	\$45,826	\$43,681
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	\$55,464	NA	\$67,099	\$59,892	\$49,759
Non-Hispanic White	\$67,456	\$70,806	\$74,130	\$71,826	\$71,772
Hispanic or Latino	\$35,306	\$40,165	\$41,751	\$42,662	\$38,798
White	\$66,409	\$69,436	\$72,706	\$70,241	\$70,352
Some Other Race	\$32,231	\$38,584	\$37,630	\$41,291	\$33,543
Two or More Races	\$54,200	\$58,762	\$56,437	\$58,641	\$51,343
Total	\$63,705	\$66,642	\$70,498	\$68,360	\$67,328

SOURCE: Washington KIDS COUNT, 2011

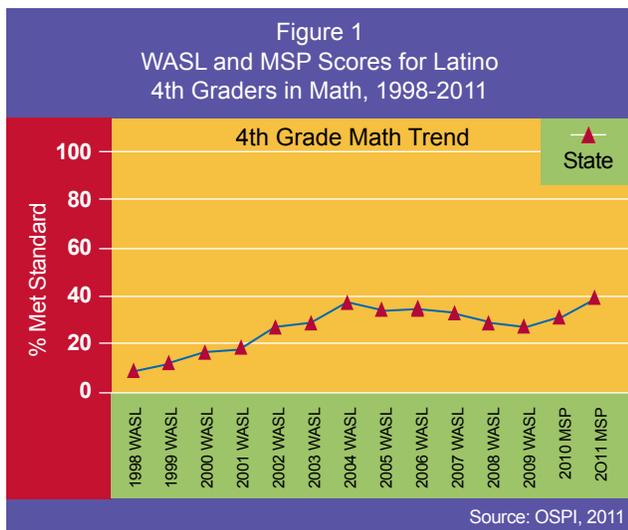
Lower median earnings translate into fewer resources for taxes, home ownership and overall lower household wealth.<sup>3</sup> Clearly, better educational opportunities and achievement will play a critical role in improving economic prospects for the Latino community and for the entire state by ensuring a solid tax base and sustainable workforce. The current levels of educational attainment and school dropout rates will not sustain the jobs that will exist in Washington state and the U.S. in the future.

## Latinos in the K-12 Level

Over the past decade there has been an increased amount of attention by policy makers and educators alike, to create a more seamless and effective “educational pipeline” to ensure the successful educational development and workforce preparation for students. Despite some efforts by the state (through Washington Learns for example), the educational achievement data and college transition rates for Latinos indicate that there is a significant and pressing need to address current achievement levels and create an educational pipeline where all Latinos have a strong opportunity to succeed.

### The Critical Need to Raise Achievement Levels

One alarming trend is that as Latino students make their way through the “educational pipeline” their academic achievement seems to fall off quite rapidly, which significantly impacts their ability to graduate high school and transition to college. For example in 4th Grade Math Scores, 40.9% of Latinos scored at or above grade proficiency. This is significantly lower than the rate for White students, where 65.9% scored at or above proficiency.<sup>4</sup>



While it is alarming that only 40% of students score in the proficiency category in Math, Math score proficiency drops even further to a mere 32.6% of students scoring at or above proficiency as Latinos move into 8th grade, and by 10th grade, that percentage of

students scoring at proficiency or above plunges to only 20.1% of all Latino students.<sup>5</sup> Thus, by the time they reach high school, only 1 in 5 Latino students in this state are meeting proficiency standards. These data help to explain the disproportionate dropout rates among Latinos in the state and illustrate the need to develop early warning systems to determine students not performing at grade level prior to the 10th grade, beyond which making up for these low scores becomes increasingly difficult for students.

This downward trend in student test scores points to the critical importance of early educational interventions in the lower grades (grades 3-5 and middle school) to prevent this drastic drop off in Latino student proficiency in Math and other core academic subjects.

In addition to the low achievement scores for Latinos in Math, there are even more significant problems for Latinos that make up the English Language Learner population, particularly in relation to reading. Only 2% of ELL students scored above proficiency in the state test in 2011.

Table IV  
Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficient Reading By ELL Status (percent)

English Language Learner Status	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
English Language learners	95%	94%	94%	97%	98%
Not English language learners	65%	62%	61%	64%	62%

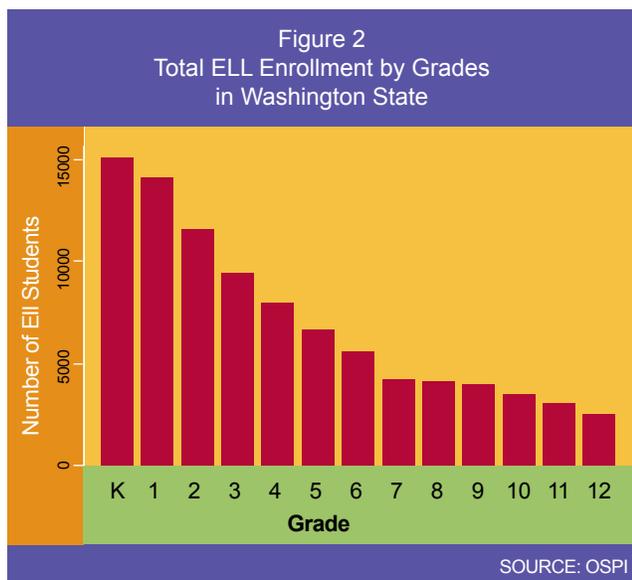
SOURCE: Washington KIDS COUNT 2011

### Latinos and ELL

The number of ELL students in Washington State has grown exponentially, in tandem with the overall growth within the nation. In particular, the growth of ELL students is heavily concentrated within elementary schools.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 2 shows a greater proportion of students in early grades requiring ELL services the majority of whom speak Spanish as their primary language (68%). While the overall population of ELLs within Washington State

schools is 8.3 percent, the uneven distribution of ELL students shows 21 districts with at least a twenty-five percent ELL student population, where over 70 percent of the ELL students speak Spanish. Wahluke, Palisades and Orondo school districts for example, that have a sizable proportion of Latino students, report more than 50 percent of ELL students in their respective districts.<sup>7</sup>



### The Graduation & Dropout Problem

High school dropout data shows overall improvement over the last few years from 8.9% to 6.3% in the latest figures. However, while the overall dropout rate for Latino students in Washington was about 6.3%, several counties in the state including Stevens, Pacific

and Clallam had dropout rates as high as 23%.<sup>8</sup> These numbers clearly point to some of the serious challenges rural communities face in serving the needs of Latino students.

**Table VI**  
On-time Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity  
Public Schools (Percent)

Race	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
American Indian	48%	49%	48%	53%	58%
Asian/Pacific Islander	77%	80%	79%	82%	83%
Black	54%	61%	60%	63%	67%
Hispanic	58%	60%	60%	63%	67%
White	74%	76%	75%	76%	79%
Total	70%	72%	72%	74%	79%

SOURCE: Washington KIDS COUNT, 2011

Over the last 5 years on time graduate rates in the Latino community have improved by about 9%. However, Latino students in this state, using cohort graduation rates, still only graduate at a rate of 60%. Losing 40% of Latino students is simply unacceptable and alarming. In addition, if graduation cohort analysis extended to the middle school level, these percentages would likely increase, largely because Latino students in this state drop out of school as early as 5th or 6th grade to work. While the slow rate of improvement in the past five years is a positive step forward, there exists a critical need for early intervention and early warning systems that begin at the middle school level.

**Table V**  
Annual Dropout Rate by Race/Ethnicity  
Public Schools (Percent)

Race	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
American Indian	11.2%	11.4%	11.5%	10.1%	9.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.3%	3.7%	4.0%	3.3%	3.1%
Black	10.3%	8.4%	9.0%	7.8%	6.8%
Hispanic	8.9%	8.1%	7.9%	7.2%	6.3%
White	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%	4.5%	4.0%
Total	5.7%	5.5%	5.6%	5.1%	4.6%

SOURCE: Washington KIDS COUNT, 2011



## Transition to Postsecondary Education

The limited opportunities to learn for Latinos in Washington State greatly influence the overall transition to higher education. Raising the proportion of Latino students graduating high school and successfully transitioning to college is a pressing imperative for the Latino community and entire state. The future economic health of Washington is closely intertwined with the fate of Latino students today. Latinos make up 25% of kindergartners in Washington, but without viable career options, they will be unable to fill highly skilled professions, which will ultimately impact individual wealth, taxable resources, state revenue, and the ability of this youthful population to support an aging baby boomer population through social security benefits and publicly available health and community services.

The need has never been greater to ensure that Washington State's ability to create innovative jobs for the 21st century is matched by its ability to prepare citizens of our state to fill those jobs. The recommendations on the next page are intended to

provide a strategy which policy makers and educators can pursue to build and which supports an education system that allows all Latinos in our state to reach their true potential.



2012 Latino Community Fund Summit in Lynnwood. CHA Commissioner Manuel Reta, in front center at one of the workshops with a group of students who were there to learn and share their ideas about Latino issues.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Dr. Frances Contreras** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education Studies and Co-Director of the Joint Doctoral Program at the University of California San Diego. Prior to her current appointment, Frances was an Associate Professor at the University of Washington in the College of Education in Leadership and Policy Studies. She researches issues of equity and access for Latina/o and underrepresented students in the education pipeline, including the transition between K-12 and higher education, community college transfer, affirmative action in higher education and the role of the public policy arena in ensuring student access and equity across a P-20 continuum. Dr. Contreras received her Ph.D from Stanford University in Educational Administration & Policy Analysis, Master of Education from Harvard University, and B.A. from University of California, Berkeley. Her most recent book *Achieving Equity for Latino Students: Expanding the Pathway to Higher Education through Public Policy* (Teachers College Press, 2011) focuses on select policy issues that have inhibited Latino student success, and select levers to alter the path of under investment in Latinos, raise student achievement, increase the number of Latino students transitioning to and completing college in the United States. Frances is also co-author of *The Latino Education Crisis* (Harvard University Press, 2009) with P. Gandara and her work has been published in leading education journals including the *Harvard Educational Review*, *Educational Policy*, *Journal of Hispanics in Higher Education*, *Journal of Advanced Academics*, the *Encyclopedia for Diversity in Education* and the *Bilingual Research Journal*. She is also the lead researcher for the Latino Edition of the *College Completion Agenda for The College Board* (September 2011). Dr. Contreras has served on the Boards of the ACLU of Washington, the *Journal of Advanced Academics*, and Latino Education Achievement Project, and was a Gubernatorial Appointee to the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee in Washington. She currently serves on the PUENTE Board and the Board of the Lupe Contreras Memorial Foundation in California.

**Ivan Barron** immigrated from Mexico at the age of nine and know first hand the challenges faced by minority, and low-income students in our education system. He is currently completing a Ph.D in Education Policy from the University of Washington, with research focused on organizational learning and leadership development. He also serves as the Director of the University of Washington La Raza Commission. Prior to returning for his Ph.D Ivan worked as a manager and consultant for a variety of organizations including, The National Association of Hispanic Real Estate professionals, College Summit, IDEO, Harvard Business School and Teach for America. He received his master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University.

## Recommendations

- 1. Focus on Early Educational Interventions to Improve Foundation Skills for Learning.** The data demonstrates that educational achievement declines begin accelerating in the 4th grade. Therefore, a large focus of student preparation must be on parental education, pre-school and the first few years of school to ensure Latino students have a strong foundation in reading and math that will allow them to perform well academically.
- 2. State educators and policy makers need to ensure that a seamless continuum to post secondary education exists for Latino students.**<sup>9</sup> In particular “how to” information about college and financial aid must be continuously provided (in multiple languages) to parents and students beginning in middle school and then strongly emphasized throughout high school to ensure that all students implement a post secondary plan by graduation.
- 3. Audit select districts in Washington state that have 10% or greater ELL students to understand their capacity to serve these students.** It is also important to provide incentives for teachers in those districts to obtain professional development certification to better serve the needs of ELL students and their families.<sup>10</sup>
- 4. Effectively utilize educational tracking systems to reduce high school dropout rates and improve post secondary transition rates for Latino and ELL students.** State wide educational data systems like CEDARS can be used as a platform to develop “early warning systems” to reduce the dropout rate and also for improving post secondary transition rates for Latino and ELL students.
- 5. State agencies and school districts should develop and test new programs to measurably improve active parental participation in their children’s education.** While all educators agree that parent engagement is a critical component to improving educational outcomes, recent research in Washington State<sup>11</sup> highlighted the considerable level of isolation Latino parents experience with schools where they often felt unwelcomed. Washington State should seek out new innovation and technologies that can take school – parent partnerships to new heights. By building a new set of innovative and effective school – family partnerships, young Latino students will have the support and reinforcement needed to succeed.

Together, these five recommendations represent a starting point for significantly improving the educational opportunities and outcomes of Latinos in this state for years to come.

## Notes and References

[Advertisement]

<sup>1</sup> Washington State Office of Financial Management, Population Projections, <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/race/projections.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Washington KIDS COUNT (2011). Washington State KIDS COUNT Data Center Tables. Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. Retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=WA&group=Grantee&loc=49&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>

<sup>3</sup> Baum & Payea, 2010. Education Pays. Publication of the College Board; Contreras, 2011. Achieving Equity for Latino Students. New York: Teachers College Press; Contreras et al., 2011.

<sup>4</sup> The WASL exam was replaced by the Measure of Student Progress (MSP) exam in Washington State in 2010. Thus, they are not directly comparable as the scales and content between the exams differ.

<sup>5</sup> Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). (2012). Washington State Report Card, Statewide Assessment Trends Data. Retrieved from <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/waslTrend.aspx?year=2010-11&gradeLevelId=4&waslCategory=7&chartType=1>

<sup>6</sup> Torres, K. & Contreras, F. (2012). Serving ELL Students in Washington. ELL Brief prepared for Washington State Legislature and Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

<sup>7</sup> Malagon, McCold, & Hernandez, 2011. Educating English Language Learners in Washington State 2009-10, from <http://www.k12.wa.us/MigrantBilingual/LegisReports.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> Washington KIDS COUNT (2011). Washington State KIDS COUNT Data Indicators. Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. Retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=WA&group=Grantee&loc=49&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>

<sup>9</sup> This recommendation was partially adapted from Dr. Frances Contreras contribution in the following report: Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs. (2010). 2009-2010 Latino/Hispanic Assessment Report. Published by the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

<sup>10</sup> This recommendation is partially adapted from the following policy brief. Torres, K. & Contreras, F. (2012). Serving ELL Students in Washington. ELL Brief prepared for Washington State Legislature and Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

<sup>11</sup> Contreras, F., et al. (2008). Understanding Opportunities to Learn for Latino Students in Washington. Olympia, WA: Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

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# State of Latinos in Washington State – An Immigration Rollercoaster



Henry Cruz, J.D.

*CHA has been very active in supporting comprehensive immigration reform. We have worked with local law enforcement in various communities across the state to clarify their relationship with the Border Patrol and decrease racial profiling and discrimination.*

The United States Supreme Court recently issued its ruling in Arizona v. United States (No. 11-182), in which the federal government had raised legal challenges to several parts of Arizona's infamous S.B. 1070 law.<sup>1</sup> Those parts of S.B. 1070:

- (1) require state and local police officers to attempt to determine the immigration status of any person stopped under state or local law if "reasonable suspicion" exists that the person is unlawfully present in the United States, and to determine the immigration status of any person placed under arrest, regardless of whether the person is suspected of being in the country unlawfully;
- (2) authorize state and local police officers to arrest immigrants without a warrant where "probable cause" exists that they committed a public offense making them removable from the United States, essentially deputizing state and local law enforcement as immigration enforcement agents without the federal government's approval;
- (3) make it a crime under Arizona law for immigrants who are not authorized to work in the United States to apply for work, solicit work in a public place, or perform work within the state's borders;
- (4) make it a crime under Arizona law for unauthorized immigrants to violate the provisions of federal law requiring them to apply for "registration" with the federal government and to carry a registration card if one has been issued to them.

The Supreme Court issued a split decision in June 2012, striking down the last three sections as unlawfully intruding into the federal government's immigration enforcement powers. At the same time, it unanimously upheld the centerpiece of the law, which mandates officers to perform immigration status checks on detained individuals. The Court did, however, leave open the door to future challenges on racial profiling and other constitutional grounds after the law goes into effect.

Following the passage of S.B. 1070, numerous other states—including Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina, and Utah—passed legislation with similar provisions designed to allow its officers to enforce immigration laws. Thus far, Washington State has not done so. However, the Court's decision could change the climate for Latinos in Washington where some localities may attempt to pass a similar provision.

In any event, Latinos in Washington State already have experienced the multiple personalities of immigration policy. In early April, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Secure Communities program ("SComm") was activated throughout Washington State. Under SComm, individuals booked into local and state jails will be automatically run through a federal immigration database via routine fingerprint processing, which may result in ICE taking custody of and deporting the individual.<sup>2</sup> Immigration advocates claim that the system is flawed because there is no law or other procedure to address oversight and accountability, and it will serve as a tool for racial profiling and ultimately lead to an erosion of trust between communities and local law enforcement.<sup>3</sup> ICE, on the other hand, claims that SComm will actually reduce opportunities for racial profiling, because all individuals booked into the jails are fingerprinted and checked. Of course, that does not address the manner in which the individual was initially arrested by the local or state agency (which could be as a result of a provision like the one upheld in Arizona v. United States). Cognizant of this obvious fact, ICE has announced that it will work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to implement additional safeguards against abuse of the program, including training for local and state law enforcement agencies.<sup>4</sup>



SComm, which ICE had initially reported was voluntary, had never been implemented before in Washington State, as state and local officials refused to enroll in what they saw as a flawed program. However, ICE reversed course last year and announced that state participation in SComm is mandatory.<sup>5</sup> Even if law enforcement officials in Washington State are opposed to SComm, which many still are, they now believe they have no choice but to comply.<sup>6</sup> Whether any legal challenges to SComm will arise or be successful remains to be seen, or how Arizona v. United States

may have impacted the viability of such claims. For now, immigration advocates fear that, despite ICE's assurances, SComm will encourage racial profiling and pretextual stops that have occurred in other parts of the country. In December 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice accused Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona, in his zealous pursuit of immigration violators, of illegally targeting Latinos for arrest, which had led to "a pervasive culture of discriminatory bias against Latinos" that "reached the highest levels of the agency".<sup>7</sup>



Latinos in Washington State have good reason for such concern. On April 26, 2012, three residents of the Olympic Peninsula, two of which are Latinos, filed a class-action lawsuit challenging the U.S. Border Patrol's practice of stopping vehicles and interrogating occupants without legal justification.<sup>8</sup> The complaint alleges some stops that appeared to be based on nothing but the occupants' race or ethnicity. The plaintiffs are represented by the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and the ACLU of Washington, who claim that "the Border Patrol's actions have created a climate of fear and anxiety for many people living on the Olympic Peninsula" where "people are being stopped based solely on their appearance and ethnicity".<sup>9</sup>

Ironically, another agency of DHS, ICE, is calling for more prosecutorial discretion in immigration enforcement to focus its resources on its highest priorities, which are:

- (1) individuals who pose a danger to national security or a serious risk to public safety, including terrorists, violent criminals, felons, and recidivists, and gang members;
- (2) recent immigration violators, including recent illegal entrants and abusers of the visa process; and
- (3) fugitives, individuals who illegally reenter the country after removal, and individuals who have committed immigration fraud.<sup>10</sup>

On the other hand, for low-priority cases, ICE is either not taking any enforcement action against the individual or is agreeing to "administratively close" the individual's removal case, which results in the case being taken off the Immigration Court's docket for an indefinite period of time until either party wishes to continue with the case. In determining which cases merit such prosecutorial discretion, ICE reviews a number of factors, including the individual's length of presence in the United States, whether the individual has a spouse, children, or parents who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents (i.e. "green card" holders), criminal and immigration history, community ties, and other humanitarian factors.<sup>11</sup> Seattle has reportedly closed approximately 17% of its removal cases (which covers the whole state), which is a higher rate than the national average of approximately 9%.

Nevertheless, Latino immigrant workers are increasingly losing jobs in the state as a result of increased government audits of the immigration status of companies' employees. As a result, employers are laying off more workers who are not able to verify their work authorization. More employers also have begun using E-verify, a voluntary internet-based system connected with DHS that employers can use to confirm employment eligibility. Opponents of E-verify claim that, among other things, making E-verify mandatory would disqualify the wrong people and cost U.S. citizens and other documented workers jobs,<sup>12</sup> would result in discriminatory practices against documented immigrant workers,<sup>13</sup> including Latinos, and would dry up agri-business in Washington State.<sup>14</sup>



Nevertheless, four counties and 11 cities in Washington State have mandated the use of E-verify by employers or contractors.<sup>15</sup> Earlier this year, a bill was introduced

in the WA legislature that would have prohibited state and local governments from requiring employers to use E-verify.<sup>16</sup> However, the bill died in committee, leaving open the possibility of more counties and cities in the state to pass similar laws mandating employers to use E-verify.

Other vulnerable groups among Latinos in Washington State include students and young adults, many of whom were brought to the U.S. as small children by their parents, have completed all or most of their education in the United States, speak only English or English is their primary language, and are practically American citizens but for their immigration status. While Washington State has given them the opportunity to attend college, their undocumented immigration status has rendered such opportunity virtually useless. As many have put it, “what’s the point of going to college if I won’t be allowed to work?” Congress has failed to pass the DREAM Act, which would provide such students the work authorization they need to put their college education to use.

In at least a temporary reversal of fortune, DHS announced in June that it will offer work permits



(renewable every two years) to those who came to the U.S. prior to their 16th birthday, have continuously resided in the U.S. for the last five years, are enrolled in school or a GED program or have a high school diploma or GED (or was honorably discharged from the U.S. Military), and are under 31 (the specific rules and criminal bars are expected to be issued in August).<sup>17</sup> Needless to say, thousands of Latino youth in the state are elated that, at least for now, they will be able to work and reach toward the American dream. Of course, the policy is dependent on who is running the administration; thus, a change in the White House next year could result in its rescission.

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There have been other positive developments for Latino immigrants in the state. Last year, the legislature passed a law that protects consumers from immigration-related fraud. The Immigration Services Fraud Prevention Act, which was requested by the Attorney General's Office, prohibits anyone from engaging in the unauthorized practice of law in an immigration matter, unless that person is a licensed attorney or is otherwise authorized to provide legal services under federal immigration law. Designed to protect consumers from deceptive business practices, the new law prohibits non-lawyers and unauthorized individuals from engaging in several other activities, including preparing or advising customers on immigration forms.<sup>18</sup> The new law will hopefully put an end to or at least severely curtail so-called immigration consultants, or notarios as they are known in Spanish-speaking communities, who prey on the Latino immigrant communities in WA by making empty promises of legal residency or work permits for several thousand dollars at a time. Even prior to the bill's passage, the WA State Office of the Attorney General forced settlements in several consumer protection complaints against notarios that resulted in civil penalties and reimbursements as well

as agreements to restrict their business practices.<sup>19</sup>

Another law passed last year reduces the maximum sentence of a gross misdemeanor to 364 days in jail.<sup>20</sup> The significance of this change is huge to green card holders who are long-term residents of the state. Since 1996, Congress has severely curtailed an Immigration Judge's discretion to grant a waiver to long-term documented immigrants who commit certain crimes, and have expanded the list of offenses deemed to be an "aggravated felony" to include ones that are neither aggravated nor felonies. An "aggravated felony" is an automatic bar to such a waiver, no matter how long the individual has resided in the U.S., the number of family ties s/he has in the U.S., how much the spouse or children would suffer, or the circumstances of the offense. As a result, in Washington State, if a green card holder was convicted of a gross misdemeanor and sentenced to 365 days in jail, even if the full term of the sentence was suspended (meaning the person did not have to serve a second in jail), the resident would still face automatic deportation. The new law, now in effect, will avoid such harsh consequences for many Latinos and their families in the state.

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It becomes obvious that, despite the almost universal agreement that our current immigration laws are broken, the federal and state governments, and federal agencies themselves, continue to disagree on enforcement priorities and immigration policy in general, effectively taking immigrants and their families on a rollercoaster ride (and not a very fun one). For example, S.B. 1070 does not account for any prosecutorial discretion, as it mandates state and local officers to detain and arrest anyone suspected of being unlawfully present in the United States for any reason. The U.S. Border Patrol in Washington State continues to conduct its sweeping operations on the Olympic Peninsula without much, if any, prosecutorial discretion. The result will be needless detention and separation of families, because once the agency reports the individual to ICE, ICE will decline to take any action if the individual does not fall within the



parameters of its enforcement priorities. For Latinos in Washington State, their communities will continue to be disrupted and their families separated until the passage of comprehensive immigration reform, and the implementation of consistent and sound policies, whenever that may be.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Henry Cruz** is a partner at Rios & Cruz, P.S., in Seattle, WA. He has practiced immigration law for over 10 years, with a focus on removal defense. He regularly practices before the Immigration Court, Board of Immigration Appeals, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He was the Project Coordinator at Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice in Seattle, WA and the Coordinating Attorney at the Political Asylum Project of Austin in Texas. From 2010-2011, he served as Chair of the ICE Liaison Committee of the Washington Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (WA AILA), and was awarded WA AILA's 2009 Pro Bono Award for Most Significant Pro Bono Work Having the Greatest Impact. From 2007-2009, he served as a commissioner on the WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and was the Chair of its Justice and Equity Committee. He also served on the Board of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) as Co-VP of Membership and Services and Co-Chair of its Immigration Committee from 2006-2007. He was awarded LBAW's Miembro Excepcional award for 2007, and was named the 2008 Latino Hero of Washington by Regence Blue Shield. He proudly volunteers as a big brother, and was a member of the Latino Mentoring Advisory Council with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound from 2010-2011. He is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law.

## Notes and References

<sup>1</sup> See Q&A Guide to Arizona v. United States, Immigration Policy Center, available at <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/WInograd%20-%20Supreme%20Court%20Q&A%20Guide%20040212.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ice.gov/secure\\_communities/](http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.immigrantjusticenetwork.org/HandoutFinal5.pdf>; "ICE's "Secure Communities": Washington State Communities Can't Afford It," One America, available at <http://weareoneamerica.org/sites/weareoneamerica.org/files/SCComm%20Fact%20Sheet%205%206%2011.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.ice.gov/secure\\_communities/](http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/).

<sup>5</sup> "Feds: Secure Communities Not Optional," by Julián Aguilar, The Texas Tribune, available at <http://www.texastribune.org/immigration-in-texas/immigration/feds-secure-communities-staying-place/>.

<sup>6</sup> "Secure Communities gets an early start in Washington State," by Kate Martin, goskagit.com, [http://www.goskagit.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_6a052d3f-71b2-5c73-964c-9db3ac5c8a78.html](http://www.goskagit.com/news/local_news/article_6a052d3f-71b2-5c73-964c-9db3ac5c8a78.html).

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<sup>8</sup> "Lawsuit Challenges Unconstitutional Stops and Interrogations by Border Patrol Agents on Olympic Peninsula," available at <http://nwirp.org/Documents/PressReleases/borderpatrol.pdf>. A copy of the full complaint can be found at <http://nwirp.org/Documents/PressReleases/forkscomplaint.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Id.

<sup>10</sup> ICE Memorandum from Director John Morton, "Civil Immigration Enforcement: Priorities for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens," at 1-3 (March 2, 2011), available at <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/releases/2011/110302washingtondc.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> ICE Memorandum from Director John Morton, "Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion Consistent with the Civil Immigration Enforcement Priorities of the Agency for Apprehension, Detention,

and Removal of Aliens," at 2 (June 17, 2011), available at [http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure\\_communities/pdf/prosecutorial-discretion-memo.pdf](http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure_communities/pdf/prosecutorial-discretion-memo.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> With 3,482,200 workers in WA State, 0.5 percent translates to 17,411 people losing their jobs. Tyler Moran, Testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security, Hearing on the Social Security Administration's Role in Verifying Employment Eligibility, April 14, 2011, available at <http://bit.ly/BifKN>; Philip E. Wolgin, "Seen and (Mostly) Unseen: The True Costs of E-Verify" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2011).

<sup>13</sup> Westat, "Findings of the E-Verify Program Evaluation" (2009), available at <http://1.usa.gov/bxntK>, at p. xxxv-xxxvi.

<sup>14</sup> TVW, Hearing of Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water and Rural Economic Development (December 2, 2011) available at: <http://bit.ly/WWfGw>.

<sup>15</sup> "Cities use E-Verify while state considers banning it," by Ray Legendre, The Columbian, available at <http://www.columbian.com/news/2012/feb/12/cities-use-e-verify-while-state-considers-banning/>.

<sup>16</sup> Maintaining voluntary use of electronic employment verification systems, HB2568 – 2011-12, available at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2568>.

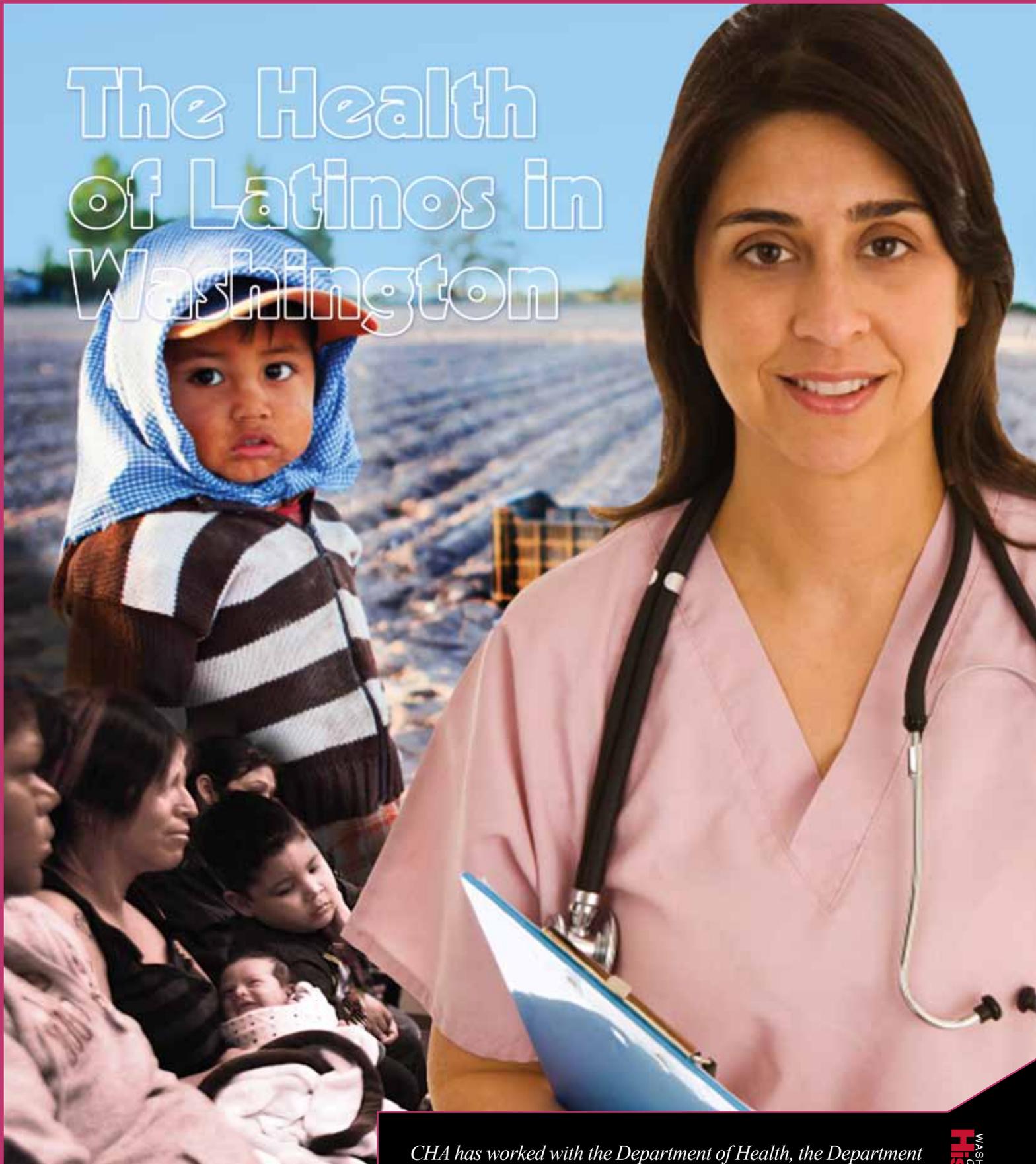
<sup>17</sup> The guidelines may now be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem. eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1avgnextoid=3a4dbc4b04499310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=3a4dbc4b04499310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>.

<sup>18</sup> AG announces new tools to fight immigration fraud, available at <http://www.atg.wa.gov/pressrelease.aspx?&id=29078>.

<sup>19</sup> Attorney General announces three additional immigration services cases, available at <http://www.atg.wa.gov/pressrelease.aspx?&id=28890>.

<sup>20</sup> "Measure reduces misdemeanor sentence by 1 day," by Kristi Pihl, The Seattle Times, available at [http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2014863479\\_apwaxgjaltime1stdwritethru.html](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2014863479_apwaxgjaltime1stdwritethru.html).

# The Health of Latinos in Washington

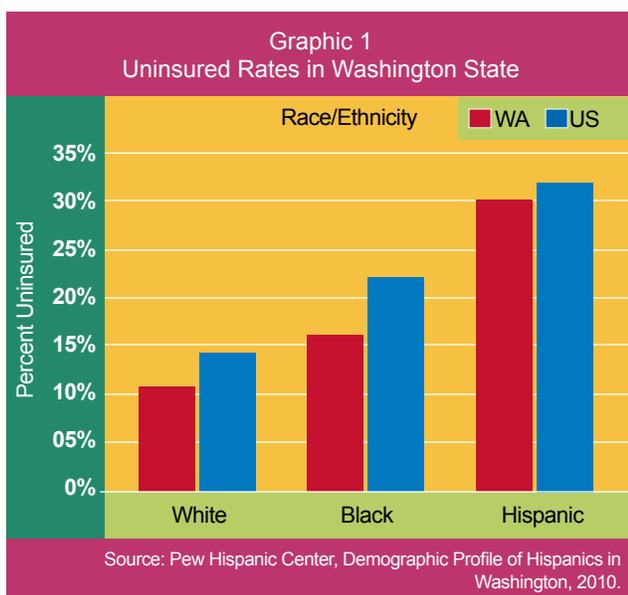


Kristina Hoeschen,  
Sea Mar Community  
Health Centers

*CHA has worked with the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, and the Interagency Council on Health Disparities consistently to bring information to the Latino community. All of these agencies were regular participants on the CHA radio program in 2011-2012, and shared vital health information with the community.*

The United States' Latino population is the fastest growing among all racial and ethnic groups. In Washington State, the Latino population is expected to grow 150%, from 441,509 in 2000 to about 1.1 million in 2030. Growth in racial and ethnic minority populations is moving faster than the health care system can alter practices to meet their needs and deliver high quality, effective services and care. Additionally, the relatively young Latino population can translate to an aging population with a new onset of health issues. Quality care now means fewer health disparities in the future.

According to The Office of Minority Health, Latinos have the highest uninsured rates of any racial or ethnic group in the United States. In Washington State, Latino residents are twice as likely to be uninsured, two and a half times more likely to be publicly insured, and less likely to be insured through the military or an employer/union. Roughly 10% of Washington's non-elderly population is Latino, but 18% of the uninsured are Latino.<sup>2</sup>



Latino health is often shaped by factors such as language and cultural barriers, lack of access to preventative care, and the lack of health insurance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has cited leading causes of illness and death among Latinos that include heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries, stroke, and diabetes. Latinos have lower mortality rates than the overall population, but are at greater risk for a number of chronic illnesses and diseases. Latino populations exhibit many positive health indicators in terms of diet, low levels of smoking and illicit drug

use, and strong family structure. However, the longer each generation resides in the United States, the more these positive indicators tend to deteriorate (National Alliance for Hispanic Health, 2004).

**Top 10 leading causes of death for Latinos of all ages:**

1. Heart disease
2. Malignant neoplasms
3. Accidents and adverse effects
4. Human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV)
5. Homicide and legal intervention
6. Cerebrovascular diseases
7. Diabetes mellitus
8. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
9. Pneumonia and influenza
10. Certain conditions originating in the prenatal period

Source: National Alliance for Hispanic Health, 2004.

Latinos share a range of sociocultural characteristics, as well as national, experiential, and in some instances, genetic make-up that can impact their health status. For example, certain cultural factors such as a traditional diet and lower rates of smoking among women impact favorably on their health status. Other factors like low immunization rates linked to low-economic status and fear of authority among new immigrants have negative consequences. Acculturation among new immigrants and their children seems to weaken the positive health factors and lead to the adoption of negative ones from U.S. culture (such as smoking, alcohol use, and early sexual activity).

Latinos have a higher rate of obesity than non-Latino Caucasians. According to the Office of Minority Health, 73% of Mexican American women are overweight or



obese, compared to only 61.6% of the general female population. In 2009, Latino Americans were 1.2 times as likely to be obese than Non-Latino Whites and in 2007 – 2008, Mexican American children were 1.4 times more likely to be overweight as Non-Latino White Children.

Sea Mar Community Health Centers specializes in service to Latinos and serves western Washington. In 2011, Sea Mar served a total of 46,748 unduplicated Latino patients. The leading illnesses for these patients include diabetes, respiratory infection, pharyngitis, ear infection and hypertension. At Yakima Valley Farmworkers clinics, serving eastern Washington, the leading illnesses for Latino patients are upper respiratory infection, diabetes, hypertension, and general abdominal pain.



Seamar in what location?

Social determinants of health include general socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions; living and working conditions; social and community influences; individual lifestyle factors; education level; and age, gender and hereditary factors. These factors play a critical role in the overall health of our communities, with the notion that a healthy life cannot be achieved without effectively addressing these issues. As health care reform takes full effect, there will be a focus on well-rounded programs that help connect individuals and families with the health and social services they need. This will play a key role in the health of Latinos, especially looking at migrant farmworker populations who often have unsatisfactory living conditions and are exposed to pesticides and other harmful chemicals and poor quality drinking water.

According to Clint Weckerly, Promotores Program Coordinator for Sea Mar Community Health Centers, diabetes, obesity and nutrition are a problem in the

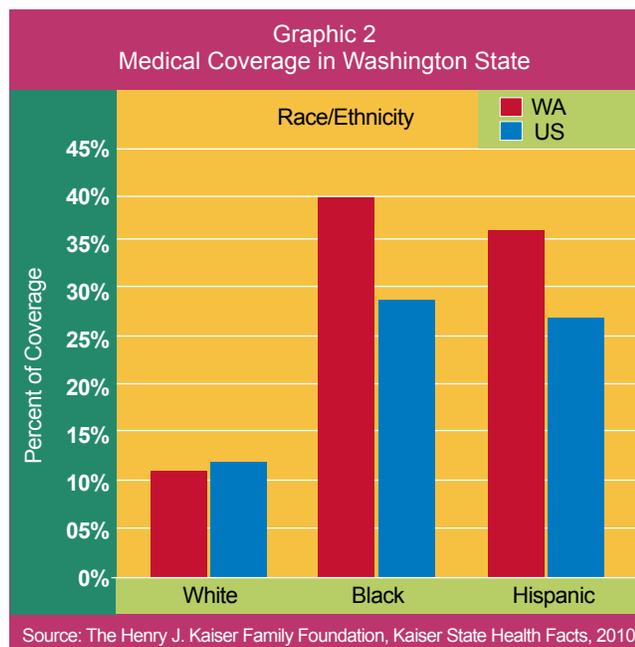
farmworker community. With parents working long hours in the fields, the eldest children are often left to take care of their younger siblings. With limited financial resources, they often resort to cheap fast food or packaged foods that contain high sodium and carbohydrates. In general, living conditions in camps are substandard and drinking water is filled with E-Coli and nitrates from the farm runoff in the area and farmworker families cannot afford bottled water.



State budget cuts have affected organizations' ability to continue outreach activities to educate Latinos about health issues and the changes happening in the Basic Health Plan and healthcare reform in general. The effective Promotores program works to connect farmworkers with the services they need by training members of the migrant farmworker community to act as trusted resources and effective communicators. These volunteers go into churches, community centers, and other locations farmworkers frequent to help them understand the services available to them, the importance of preventative care, and answer questions they may have, thereby reducing language barriers and fears of an unfamiliar and complicated healthcare system.

Medicaid and CHIP coverage provide immigrant families access to preventative and primary care, as well as care for chronic conditions. Without this coverage, obtaining healthcare would prove too financially burdensome for low income migrant families and require them to make difficult choices between paying for food or rent or health care. When families obtain Medicaid and CHIP coverage, they often receive health education and connect to other social services, which contribute to

an overall increased understanding of health and broad improvement to their quality of life.<sup>3</sup> In Washington State, 36% of Latinos are covered by Medicaid.<sup>4</sup>



There are two distinct fears that deter eligible immigrant individuals and families from applying for coverage: receiving health care benefits will result in them being considered a 'public charge' and prevent them from obtaining permanent residence and applying for coverage for eligible family members may expose other family members to the risk of deportation.

Other barriers to enrollment in Medicaid programs include a burdensome and confusing application process and difficulty meeting documentation requirements. Applying for coverage often requires long wait times on the phone or in person and it is difficult for families to take time away from work to complete the process. Immigrant families often face difficulty meeting documentation requirements. Individuals who do not speak English or who have low literacy rates often have difficulty understanding forms



and notices and individuals often encounter problems obtaining translation assistance. As the enrollment process moves increasingly online, enrollment may become difficult for immigrant families because of limited computer access and low levels of computer literacy. Many of these difficulties carry over to the renewal process, often leading to losses in coverage at the point of renewal.

Limited transportation options and language barriers can make it difficult for families to navigate their way to appointments. Once an individual arrives for an appointment, they may continue to face language barriers if there are no staff members available that can provide translation services. Immigrant families may also experience fears and confusion related to navigating an unfamiliar and complicated healthcare system. Many immigrant families require education on how to obtain services under a managed care plan and assistance identifying participating providers. In some cases, individuals assigned to a primary care provider who may not have an existing relationship with the family, may not be accessible to the family, and/or may not have the capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Solution: outreach and application assistance through trusted organizations and individuals with strong ties to the

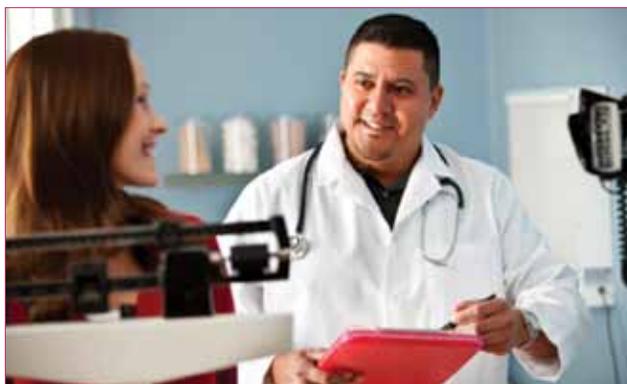
### Strategies and Tools to Help Latino Families Overcome Barriers to Coverage and Care

- Utilizing trusted community organizations and individuals to provide outreach and enrollment assistance.
- Direct one-on-one assistance from individuals with shared background or experience.
- Educating families about coverage options and enrollment process.
- Providing families with a list of required documents and identifying alternative options.
- English and Spanish zero income and cash income form to document income.
- Cards that families can present to request translation assistance.
- Keeping records and receipts of all application and paperwork submissions.
- Maintaining contact over time to assist families with renewal and accessing necessary services.

Source: National Alliance for Hispanic Health, 2004.

immigrant community to educate families about coverage options and the enrollment process.

To fully realize the potential of coverage expansions under health reform in 2014, it will be important to assure eligible individuals successfully enroll in coverage. Given their high uninsured rate, reaching, educating and enrolling eligible immigrant families will be key to achieving overall success with the expansion. Doing so will entail effectively addressing the numerous enrollment barriers they face.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Kristina Hoeschen** is the Administrative Services Director for Sea Mar Community Health Centers and is responsible for the 10-person team at the hub of Sea Mar's operations and the organization's grant program. Ms. Hoeschen has served a variety of roles in her non-profit career, working with organizations whose missions ranged from community journalism to the arts to preservation of natural resources. Ms. Hoeschen has more than 10 years museum experience, having served on the team that raised \$100,000,000 for art purchase endowment and facility renovation at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and having been a part of the start-up team that established the new Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, AZ. Ms. Hoeschen holds a bachelor's degree in marketing-business administration from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN and certificate of photography from the University of Washington.

## Notes and References

- <sup>1</sup> Washington State Department of Health, Cultural Competency in Health Services and Care, June 2010.  
<sup>2</sup> Office of Financial Management, 2008 Washington State Population Survey, Health Insurance by Race/Ethnicity: 2008.

- <sup>3</sup> The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Connecting Eligible Immigrant Families to Health Coverage and Care: Key Lessons from Outreach and Enrollment Workers. October 2011.

- <sup>4</sup> Source: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Kaiser State Health Facts, 2010.

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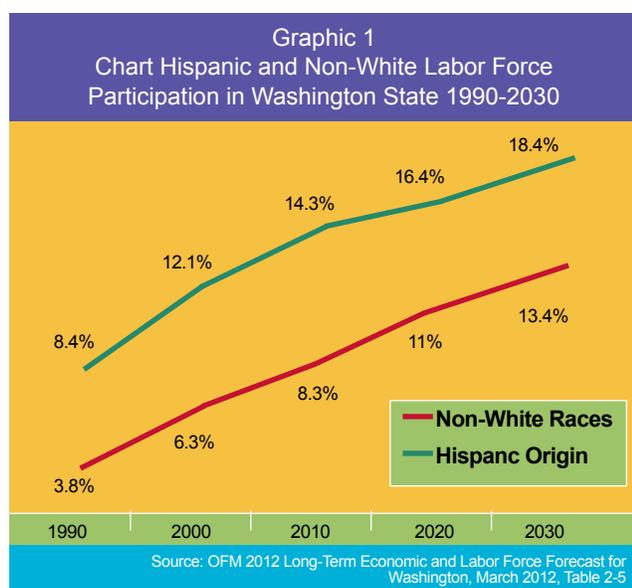
# Labor Force Participation, Earnings and Education'



Jon Agnone, Ph.D

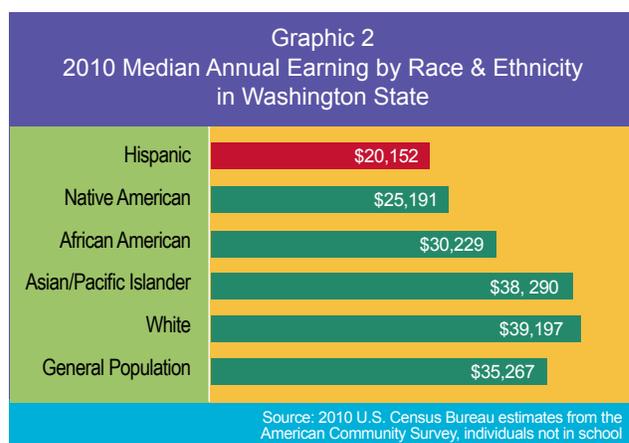
*CHA's focus on education is directly tied to the income gap, as we recognize that closing the educational achievement gap will lead to more and better jobs for the Hispanic population. Realizing that more than one in 10 Washington workers are expected to be of Hispanic origin by 2020, it has become vital to increase our efforts in lowering the high school dropout rates and making sure our Latino students receive higher education. CHA also continues to address the challenges of farm workers relating to living conditions, wages, and safety.*

In 2000, Washington’s Hispanic population stood at about 7 percent and has steadily increased over the last decade.<sup>2</sup> In 2010, Hispanics comprised 11.2 percent of the population.<sup>3</sup> The percent of Hispanics in the state’s labor force is also increasing. In 1990, Hispanics made up less than 4 percent of Washington’s labor force; by 2030 the state’s share of Hispanic workers is projected to be 13.4 percent. Currently, Hispanics comprise 8.3 percent of the labor force—the largest of any race or ethnic minority group. That compares with a total among other ethnic minorities, including African-Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans of just over 14 percent. Hispanics make up 58 percent of all minorities in the workforce.

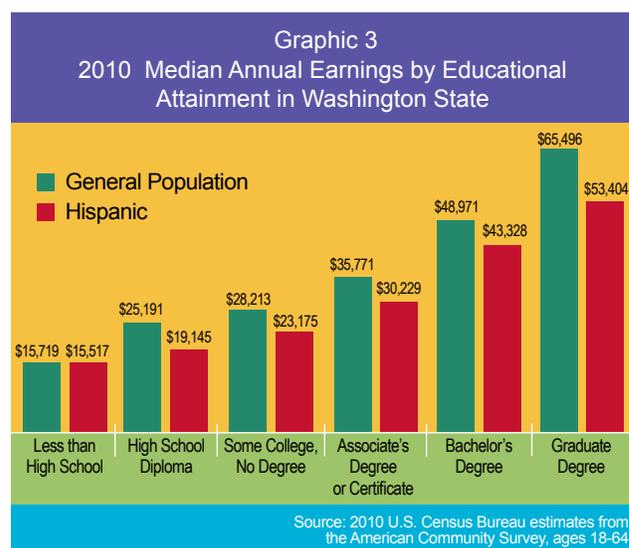


Although Hispanics are the largest group of minorities in the workforce, their median annual wages are the lowest of any racial or ethnic group. At \$20,152, the median annual wage earned by Hispanics is nearly \$15,000 lower than the median earnings by the general population (\$35,267), over \$10,000 lower than that of African Americans, and about half that of whites.

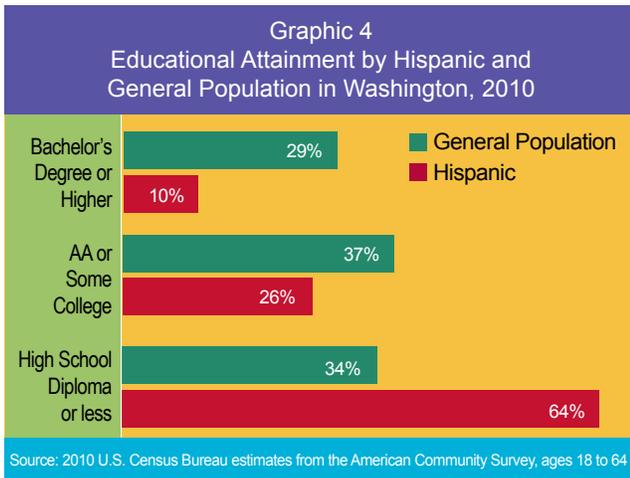
The income gap persists not only in median annual earnings, but in earnings by educational attainment level. In general, the more highly educated a person is, the higher his or her wages and the more likely they are to be employed. For example, Washington residents with an associate’s degree or vocational certificate earned over \$10,000 more annually—nearly 42 percent more—beyond what Washington



residents earned with only a high school diploma. The relationship between education and earnings holds true for Hispanics, yet the earnings of Hispanics are below those of the general population at all education levels.



As shown above, Hispanics with an associate’s degree earned a median annual income of \$30,229 in 2010, compared to \$35,771 among the general population with two-year degrees. In addition, Hispanics who attended some college, but held no degree, earned less than the general population with a high school diploma. Hispanic bachelor’s degree holders earned about \$5,600 less per year in median annual wages compared to other four-year degree holders. The smallest discrepancy was for those with less than a high school diploma, Hispanics earned on average \$200 less than the general population. The biggest difference was at the graduate degree level, where Hispanics earned \$12,000 less per year than all graduate degree holders.



significantly lower percentage of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree as their highest education credential, compared to the general population. Graphic 4 shows that 10 percent of Hispanics have earned a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 29 percent of the general population. Hispanic over-representation in low-end educational attainment contrasts with those earning associate's and bachelor's degrees. For example, more than 60 percent of Washington Hispanics have a high school diploma or less as their highest education credential, while this is true of only 34 percent of the general population. The percentage of the general population that holds an associate's degree or has attended some college is also 11 percent higher than Hispanics with the same educational attainment level.

Not only do Hispanics earn less than the general population at nearly every education level, but a

## Unemployment & Poverty among Hispanics

Washington's unemployment rate, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, was 10.8 percent for 2010, 4.4 percentage points above the 2006 rate of 6.4 percent. Among Hispanics, the unemployment rate was 13.5 percent, or 4 percentage points higher than that of the general population in 2010. In 2006, Hispanic unemployment was 9.3 percent, or 3 percentage points higher than the general population. Although this disparity is significant, the unemployment rate for both Pacific Islanders and Native American are higher at 16 percent and 21.6 percent, respectively. In 2010, the unemployment rate for Hispanics was above the rate for whites (10.2 percent) and Asians (7.6 percent), and below African Americans (18.5 percent), Native Americans (21.6 percent), and Pacific Islanders (16 percent).

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that Washington's poverty rate was 13.4 percent in 2010, up 1.4 percentage points from the 2006 rate. The 29 percent Hispanic poverty rate in 2010 was the highest of any race or ethnic group, and was over twice the rate of the general population. This was an increase of 5.1 percentage points since 2006; other racial or ethnic groups had much smaller increases. The African American poverty rate increased 1.3 percentage points, from 25.2 percent in 2006 to 26.5 percent in 2010, and the Native American/Alaskan Native poverty rate dropped from 29 percent in 2006 to 27.2 percent in 2010.

**Table I**  
Unemployment in Washington by Race/Ethnicity, 2006 and 2010

Year	All	White	African American	Hispanic	Native Am. & Alaskan Native	Asian	Pacific Islander
2006	6.4%	5.8%	12.5%	9.3%	13.4%	5.3%	12.0%
2010	10.8%	10.2%	18.5%	13.5%	21.6%	7.6%	16.0%

Source: 2006 & 2010 U.S. Census Bureau estimates from the American Community Survey, and is not the official unemployment rate for the state

**Table II**  
Poverty in Washington by Race/Ethnicity, 2006 and 2010

Year	All	White	African American	Hispanic	Native Am. & Alaskan Native	Asian	Pacific Islander
2006	11.8%	10.1%	25.2%	23.9%	29.0%	9.6%	15.8%
2010	13.4%	11.6%	26.5%	29.0%	27.2%	10.9%	20.5%

Source: 2006 & 2010 U.S. Census Bureau estimates from the American Community Survey

### Occupational Group Long-Term Employment Projections

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010 American Community Survey, Hispanics accounted for 9 percent of Washington’s workforce age 25 to 64. Looking at the occupational distribution, Hispanics comprised 62.1 percent of the labor force in Life Sciences and Agriculture—with the bulk employed as farmworkers, 17.4 percent of the Service occupations, and 13 percent within Production and Trade. In all but one of the occupation categories, the total median income among all workers exceeds Hispanic median annual income. The lone exception is in Human and Protective Services, where the median annual income for Hispanics (\$48,540) is higher than the general population (\$44,985). However, the percentage of Hispanic workers in this field is relatively small, accounting for 5.2 percent of the workforce in Human and Protective Services as of 2010.

Projected annual net openings forecast for 2015 through 2020 suggest that many Hispanics are employed in growing occupations.<sup>4</sup> Hispanics are largely employed in the two of the three occupational categories with the largest projected annual openings. In particular, Hispanics are employed in large numbers in the Life Sciences and Agriculture occupations (62.1 percent) and are projected to comprise 71.9 percent of the labor force in this occupational area by 2020, based on the number of projected annual net openings. Hispanics comprise 13 percent of the workforce in Production and Trades and are expected to near 15 percent of the labor force in this occupational area in 2020. It’s worth noting that these two occupational categories have some of the lowest median wages. Also, Hispanics working in these occupations typically earn less than workers from other ethnic groups doing the same type of work.

Table III  
Long-term Projected Annual Job Openings and Median Incomes  
by Occupational Group and Hispanic Status, 2015-2020

Occupational Category	Current Labor Force	Projected Openings	Hispanic Percent Current Workforce	Hispanic Percent Projected Openings	Hispanic Median Annual Income	Total Median Annual Income
Business, Management, & Sales	674,668	24,998	4.7%	4.5%	\$35,838	\$49,909
Computer Science	95,398	6,027	4.2%	4.5%	\$64,804	\$75,048
Engineering, Software Eng. & Architecture	72,755	3,360	3.0%	2.8%	\$64,275	\$74,992
Life Sciences & Agriculture	47,878	3,346	62.1%	71.9%	\$16,838	\$19,908
Physical Sciences	8,514	572	2.4%	3.0%	\$47,717	\$62,314
Social Sciences	6,308	429	0.0%	0.0%	—	\$52,631
Technicians (all life, physical & social science)	5,700	556	4.5%	4.5%	\$36,482	\$38,869
Human & Protective Service	97,049	4,556	5.2%	4.8%	\$48,540	\$44,985
Legal	33,802	955	3.5%	3.4%	\$45,694	\$51,389
Administrative, clerical	330,053	15,864	5.6%	5.8%	\$29,209	\$32,338
Educators	142,294	6,679	3.4%	4.3%	\$24,420	\$39,711
Editors, Writers, & Performers	56,327	2,818	5.1%	4.2%	\$30,549	\$31,741
Health Professions	146,133	10,786	5.8%	4.3%	\$30,852	\$42,990
Service occupations	294,106	21,856	17.4%	16.9%	\$16,388	\$16,499
Production & Trades	497,860	22,485	13.0%	14.7%	\$23,432	\$35,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,508,845</b>	<b>125,287</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>\$22,992</b>	<b>\$38,859</b>

U.S. Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey and 2012 LMEA Long-Term Occupation Projections. Labor force is defined as those working, ages 25-64

Hispanics occupy a much smaller proportion of the workforce in high-growth occupations in Business, Management and Sales. Hispanic representation in these fields is not expected to grow appreciably over the next decade. Overall, Hispanic employment is largely concentrated in the three lowest paying occupational categories. This is a contributing factor in Hispanic median annual wages being nearly \$16,000 less than the median annual wages for Washington’s overall workforce.

## Recommendations

Hispanics are the largest minority group in Washington and are projected to comprise a growing segment of the labor force in the coming years: More than one in 10 Washington workers are expected to be of Hispanic origin by 2020. This underscores the importance of creating opportunities for Hispanics to obtain an education that goes beyond high school. Currently, nearly two-thirds of Hispanics in Washington have a high school diploma or less as their highest level of educational attainment. Increasing the number of Hispanic workers who obtain industry-recognized certificates, two-year degrees, four-year degrees, professional degrees and apprenticeships will help boost their wages and lower unemployment rates. For Hispanics, like the rest of Washington’s workforce, increased education leads to higher paying occupations and greater opportunities to move up the career ladder. Currently, a higher percentage of Hispanic workers than the general population are in low-paying occupational groups such as Life Sciences and Agriculture, Service occupations, and Production and Trades.

Helping a greater number of Hispanics target high-wage, high-demand careers in growing industries—and providing the tools to obtain a higher education—is vital not only to Hispanics, but to Washington’s economy as a whole.

A recent report projects a growing gap between the supply of educated workers in relation to the demand for these workers by Washington employers.<sup>5</sup> A forecast “skills gap” should also serve as an encouragement to Hispanic workers to continue with their education.<sup>6</sup> For example, to fill the projected job openings in Washington over the next decade will require an additional 9,000 degree-completers, each year, at the mid-level. These one-year certificates and two-year degrees in targeted occupations can lead to a multitude of living-wage jobs in areas as diverse as health, accounting and bookkeeping, manufacturing, protective services and science technology. An additional 10,000 bachelor’s degrees and 9,000 graduate-level degrees will also be required each year to keep pace with the projected number of job vacancies calling for more advanced levels of education and skills.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Jon Agnone**, Ph.D is an Assistant Research Manager with Washington’s Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. He previously worked as a research assistant with the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies and the Human Services Policy Center at the University of Washington, as well as with the Center for Human Resource Research at the Ohio State University.

He received his Ph.D in Sociology from the University of Washington and his B.A. in Sociology and Psychology from the Ohio State University. His doctoral dissertation focused on wealth disparities between whites, African Americans and Hispanics in the United States, while other published research has covered contemporary and historical civil rights, labor, and environmental movements.

## Notes and References

<sup>1</sup> Information for this section comes from the 2012 High Skills, High Wages report, forthcoming this fall ([http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Activities\\_HighSkills.asp](http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Activities_HighSkills.asp)), and the 2011 Workforce Training Results for Hispanic Participants (<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/WTRHispanic2011.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic origin is considered an ethnicity, not a race. Accordingly, Hispanics may be of any race, making race and ethnicity overlapping designations.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010. Population Finder for Washington. Accessed via <http://www.census.gov/popfinder/?fl=53>

<sup>4</sup> 2012 Washington Employment Security Department’s Labor Market and Economic Analysis units Long-term occupation projections are mapped to 2010 American Community Survey data to determine proportion of openings projected to be filled by Hispanic workers.

<sup>5</sup> A Skilled and Educated Workforce, 2011. A Joint report prepared by the Workforce Board, SBCTC & HEC Board. <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SkilledEducatedWorkforce2011.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Workforce Board Mid-Level Skills Gap in High-Demand Fields, <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/HighDemandFields.asp>



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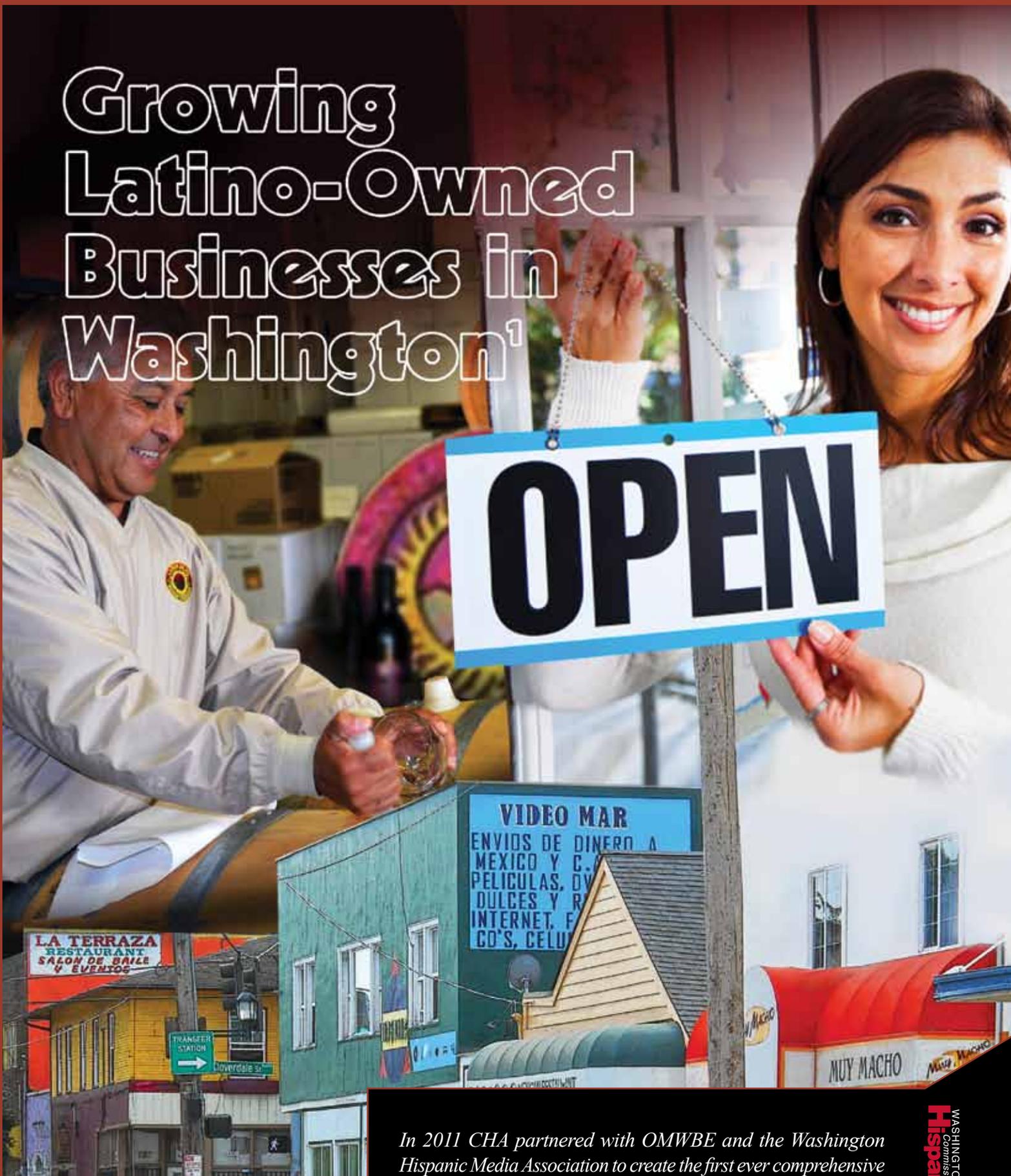


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# Growing Latino-Owned Businesses in Washington'



Carlos Veliz, Teresa Jones,  
Geraldine Rodríguez,  
Ty Cordova

*In 2011 CHA partnered with OMWBE and the Washington Hispanic Media Association to create the first ever comprehensive online Latino business directory for the state of Washington, [www.latinodirectory.org](http://www.latinodirectory.org). CHA works closely with other state agencies and the business community to increase the participation of Latino businesses in local, state, and federal contracts.*

As census data and research studies show, the presence of Latinos in Washington State is real and quantifiable. Latinos are marked by their entrepreneurial spirit, their desire to make something out of themselves and to contribute to the prosperity of their communities. This spirit can be most reflected in their courage to open a business and their perseverance to keep it afloat. This report includes some statistical data showing the growth of Latino-owned businesses and recommendations to continue this momentum.

### National Statistics for Hispanic/Latino Businesses

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2002 and 2007, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States increased by 43.7 percent to 2.3 million, more than twice the national rate of 18.0 percent. About 45.8 percent of all Hispanic-owned businesses were owned by people of Mexican origin.

Hispanic-owned businesses generated \$345.2 billion in sales in 2007, up 55.5 percent compared with 2002. The number of Hispanic-owned businesses with receipts of \$1 million or more increased 51.6 percent – from 29,168 to 44,206 businesses between 2002 and 2007. These new data come from the Survey of Business Owners: Hispanic-Owned Businesses: 2007, which provides detailed information every five years for Hispanic-owned businesses, such as the number of firms, sales and receipts, number of paid employees and annual payroll.

In 2007, businesses owned by people of Mexican origin accounted for 45.8 percent of Hispanic-owned

businesses; Cuban origin accounted for 11.1 percent, Puerto Rican-owned businesses accounted for 6.9 percent, and businesses owned by other people of Hispanic origin accounted for 34.5 percent.

The number of businesses owned by people of Mexican origin increased by 47.7 percent between 2002 and 2007; the number of Puerto Rican-owned businesses increased by 43.0 percent, the number of Cuban-owned businesses increased by 65.5 percent, and the number of other Hispanic-owned businesses increased by 30.6 percent.

	Sales & receipts in 2007 (\$billions)	% change, 2002 - 2007	% of all U.S. sales & receipts
All U.S. firms <sup>1</sup>	30,181	34%	100%
Hispanic	345	56%	1%
Equally Hispanic/non-Hispanic <sup>2</sup>	56	n/a	<1%
Non-Hispanic	10,593	24%	35%
Not classifiable	19,187	39%	64%

<sup>1</sup> Includes firms with paid employees and firms with no paid employees.  
<sup>2</sup> This group was counted as "Non-Hispanic" in 2002.  
 Note: Detail does not add to total because of rounding.

US CENSUS BUREAU, Sept. 21, 2010 www.census.gov/econ/sbo

	Firms in 2007 (number)	% change, 2002 - 2007	% of all U.S. firms
All U.S. firms <sup>1</sup>	27,110,353	18%	100%
Hispanic	2,260,309	44%	8%
Equally Hispanic/non-Hispanic <sup>2</sup>	242,766	n/a	1%
Non-Hispanic	23,803,242	14%	88%
Not classifiable	804,037	63%	3%

<sup>1</sup> Includes firms with paid employees and firms with no paid employees.  
<sup>2</sup> This group was counted as "Non-Hispanic" in 2002.  
 Note: Detail does not add to total because of rounding.

US CENSUS BUREAU, Sept. 21, 2010 www.census.gov/econ/sbo

The number of Hispanic-owned businesses with 100 or more employees increased by 26.4 percent from 1,508 to 1,906. These businesses generated \$74.2 billion in revenues, an increase of 76.6 percent from 2002.

## Tax Revenues and Purchasing Power in Washington State

As the population of Latinos continues to grow in the state of Washington, so do the economic contributions of workers, entrepreneurs, and students.



According to the Immigration Policy Center, Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians account for growing shares of the economy and electorate in Washington. Immigrants (the foreign-born) make up 1 in 8 Washingtonians, and 45.5% of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who account for billions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power. Moreover, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$32.6 billion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$22 billion and employed more than 94,000 people at last count.

### Immigrant Workers and Taxpayers

- Immigrants comprised 15.9% of the state's workforce in 2010 (or 556,133 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Immigrants contributed \$1.5 billion in tax revenue to the Washington state economy in 2007, accounting for 13.2% of all taxes paid in the state, according to a 2009 study by OneAmerica.<sup>2</sup>
- Immigrants accounted for 16% of total economic output in the Seattle metropolitan area as of 2007, according to a study by the Fiscal Policy Institute.<sup>3</sup>
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised roughly 5.1% of the state's workforce (or 190,000 workers) in 2010, according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.<sup>4</sup>

- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Washington, the state would lose \$14.5 billion in economic activity, \$6.4 billion in gross state product, and approximately 71,197 jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the Perryman Group.<sup>5</sup>

### Unauthorized Immigrants Pay Taxes

- Unauthorized immigrants in Washington paid \$327.7 million in state and local taxes in 2010, according to data from the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy<sup>6</sup>, which includes:
  - \$22.7 million in property taxes.
  - \$305 million in sales taxes.

### Immigrants are Integral to Washington's Economy as Students

- Washington's 16,449 foreign students contributed \$412.1 million to the state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2009-2010 academic year, according to the NAFSA: Association of International Educators (NAFSA).<sup>7</sup>

### Hispanic Buying Power

According to the 2009 One America Report, Washington's Hispanic buying power accounted for over \$12 billion or about 4.9 percent of the state's total consumer market (\$246 billion). Nationally, Washington state ranked 13th in size of its Hispanic Consumer market. From 1990-2008, Hispanic buying power in Washington grew 494.5 percent.



## Immigrant Contributions to the State Economy

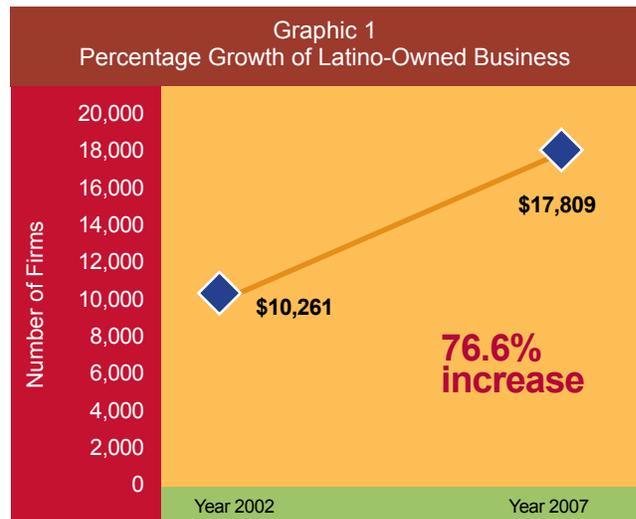
Immigrants make significant contributions to the state’s economy, including through taxes, consumer capital and buying power, and underutilization of public benefits.

Fiscal balance calculations weigh whether the contributions of immigrants offset the costs of the services they use. Fiscal balance equations often do not reflect the contributions of immigrants and only take into account the taxes immigrants pay. Real calculations should take into account services provided to vulnerable immigrants like refugees or asylees – groups that we have made a moral commitment to by offering haven in our country. It should reflect the value of providing services that we as a society find imperative components of our culture such as domestic violence protection. Further, any calculation must consider long term investments. Investing in immigrants when they arrive to a country and have more limited resources, as well as in the next generation – the U.S. born children of immigrants – will pay dividends later. A report by the New York Federal Reserve points out that we all pay the most taxes during our prime working years and use the most services as children and retirees.<sup>7</sup>

## Profile of the Latino-Owned Businesses in Washington State

Latino businesses in Washington tend to run small in both total revenue and in the number of people they employ. Approximately 56% of Latino businesses have fewer than three full time employees and approximately 3% have more than 21 employees.

Businesses with no employees represent 21.4% of Latino-owned businesses. In terms of annual revenues, a little more than 35% of the Latino businesses had revenues in the range of \$150,000 to \$499,999 dollars. Only 12.2% Latino businesses had revenues over the \$1 million mark while more than 19% of Caucasian and 21% of Asian/Pacific Islander owned businesses have firm revenues of over \$1 million.



Between 2002 and 2007 the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Washington has grown to 17,809 firms which represent an increase of 73.6 percent (see Graphic 1). Some of the reasons for this increase can include higher unemployment rates, an increased number of Latino immigrants moving to Washington state, access to business training and government resources and the feasibility of obtaining a business license. As well, sales receipts for these businesses totaled \$2.7 billion up 77.6 percent from 2002.



## Significant Challenges

During the first quarter of 2009, 23.3% Latino business owners ranked weak sales as the number one most significant challenge in running their business. 20.4% found taxes and 11.7% found inflation to be other major issues. However, in prior studies conducted by the Business & Economic Development Center, 25.2% of Latino business owners ranked big business competition as the number one challenge they faced in 2007.

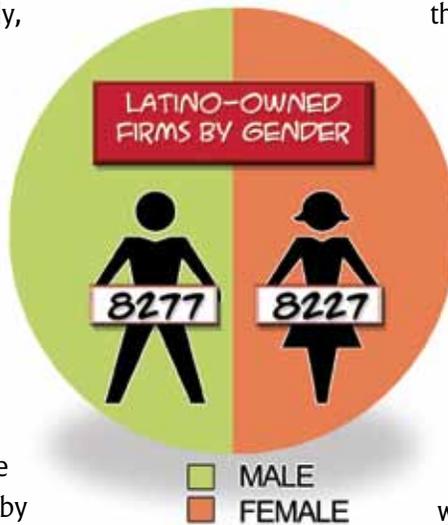
Following are two tables that detail significant challenges for the business owner during 2009 and 2007.

Race	Asian/Pacific Islander	African American	Latino	Caucasian	WA Average
Weak Sales	12.1%	11.4%	8.7%	9.4%	10.4%
Taxes	9.7%	10.5%	11.7%	16.4%	12.2%
Employee Quality of Costs	15.3%	7.9%	13.6%	13.3%	12.6%
Insurance	8.1%	5.3%	5.8%	7.0%	6.6%
Big Business Competition	15.3%	24.6%	25.2%	9.4%	18.1%
Inflation	10.5%	8.8%	11.7%	14.8%	11.5%
Credit Availability or Interest Rates	6.5%	15.8%	5.8%	6.3%	8.5%
Regulations/Red Tape	9.7%	7.0%	7.8%	14.8%	10.0%
Other	5.6%	4.4%	2.9%	4.7%	4.5%
All of the Above	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%
None of the Above	6.5%	4.4%	5.8%	3.9%	5.1%

Race	Asian/Pacific Islander	African American	Latino	Caucasian	WA Average
Weak Sales	33.7%	28.3%	23.3%	28.4%	36.2%
Taxes	18.4%	11.1%	20.4%	16.6%	15.2%
Employee Quality of Costs	6.1%	4.0%	8.7%	6.3%	8.6%
Insurance	6.1%	2.0%	5.8%	4.7%	6.7%
Big Business Competition	13.3%	12.1%	7.8%	11.1%	3.8%
Inflation	7.1%	11.1%	11.7%	10.0%	5.7%
Credit Availability or Interest Rates	5.1%	9.1%	6.8%	7.0%	5.7%
Regulations/Red Tape	3.1%	12.1%	5.8%	7.0%	7.6%
Other	2.0%	4.0%	2.9%	3.0%	1.9%
The Economy in General	3.1%	2.0%	1.9%	2.3%	4.8%
All of the Above	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
None of the Above	2.0%	3.0%	4.9%	3.3%	3.8%

### Industries Represented

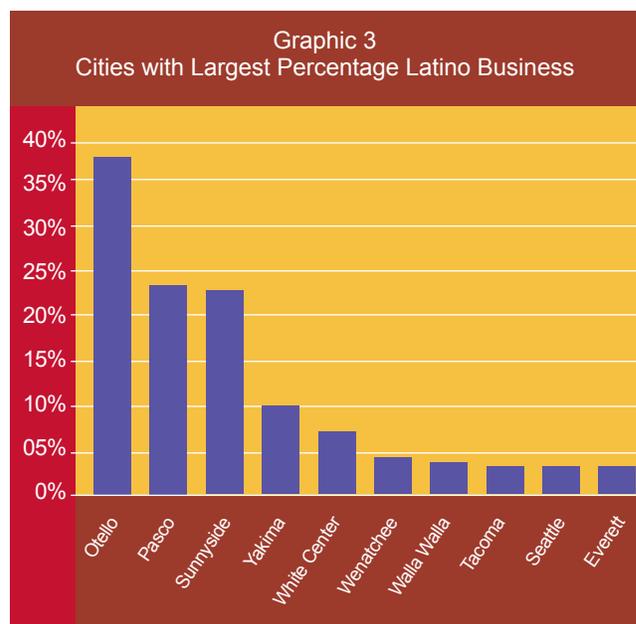
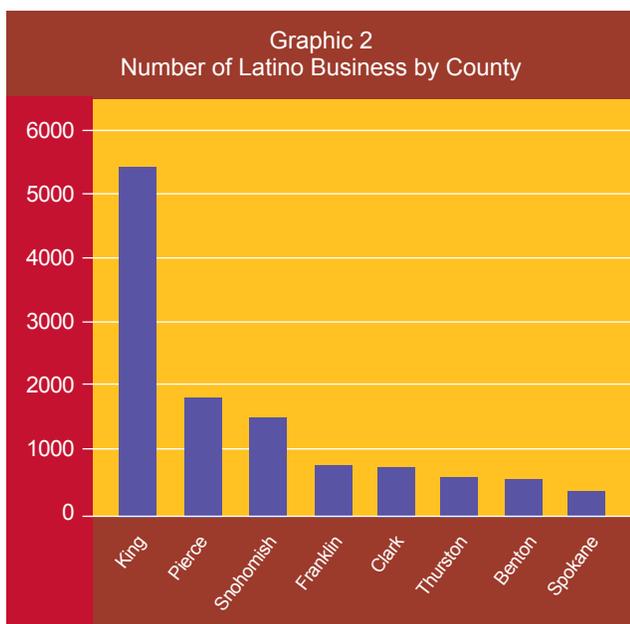
According to the 2007 SBO study, we find that the majority of Latino-owned businesses are in the services industry. For Washington State, the highest concentration of Latino firms exists in healthcare and social assistance, professional services, administrative and waste management. These industries provide lower sales receipts compared to those from construction and wholesale trade industries. Another trend observed by



the study is the growth in Latino-woman-owned businesses in Washington which represents almost 50% of the total Latino-owned business population. As of 2007, female owned firms totaled 8227 firms and male owned firms totaled 8277 firms, a significance example of the entrepreneurial spirit of our mujeres. These figures represent the number of firms with or without employees which can include people who only hold a business license.

### Location

The majority of the Latino-owned businesses are located in Western Washington, in the counties of King (5547 companies), Pierce (1886) and Snohomish (1571). In Eastern Washington in counties such as Benton, Franklin, Spokane and Walla Walla each registered 603, 846, 428 and 245 Latino-owned companies respectively. However, as a percentage of the total businesses by city, as you can see in the second graph below, the Eastern Washington cities of Othello, Pasco, Sunnyside, and Yakima generally have higher percentages of Latino businesses than the Western Washington cities. Therefore, while western Washington has a higher population density, the number of Latino businesses on the eastern side of the mountains is still significant in terms of percentage. Franklin County is 51.2% Hispanic, a majority minority county. Adams County is the other majority minority county in the state—it is almost 60% Hispanic.



## Washington State Small Business Services and Resources

For individuals looking to start or expand a business in the state of Washington, or for anyone needing information specific to this state or region, there are a wide range of government and private resources available.

While many nationally focused resources offer helpful solutions, some issues are better addressed at the state or local level, such as where to find answers to questions regarding: licensing, zoning, sales tax, incorporation, economic development issues, among others. Hispanic business owners are becoming increasingly aware of available resources and are seeking solutions in these places:

1. State government agencies, such as the commerce department, economic development office, secretary of state's office or other business-related state agencies.
2. State and local offices of federal agency programs, such as the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) office.
3. Small business assistance programs offered through local universities and community colleges that are backed by state and federal

resources. These include Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and SCORE offices.

4. Private, non-profit and special-interest industry and business organizations that provide a range of services, networking opportunities and even funding options for small businesses.

Finding the right resources can be a challenge, as solutions can be found in many different places. Some of the ways in which state agencies currently provide assistance to small businesses are through translation of websites and documents, statewide workshops and trainings, and participation in the CHA radio program broadcast. The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) has several resources, such as videos in multiple languages which explain their certification process, seminars, and the Linked Deposit program. The Washington State Department of Licensing and the Department of Labor and Industries both provide assistance for business licensing. The Department of Revenue holds regular workshops statewide. The Governor's Office of Regulatory assistance also provides useful resources.



### Meet Aida Chimal, owner of CompuClass in King County

Ms. Aida Chimal had a mission in life to be a successful entrepreneur and provide her clients with the tools to also be successful through the use of technology. Her motto is "Technology for a Better Life." For that reason, she decided to open her business in 2009 in the state of Washington given the several organizations and programs available to help businesses start and grow. Her business is focused on helping the Latino adult learner acquire technical skills that would position him/her as better employee, business owner and/or community member. When asked what resources she would like to see available for small businesses she recommended access to business training, legal clinics for taxes and entity registrations.



### Meet Juan Cruz Gonzalez, owner of A&L Truck Supply in the Yakima Valley.

Three years ago Mr. Juan Cruz Gonzalez opened his business, A&L Truck Supply, in the Yakima Valley. He saw opportunity for his line of business as the market for truck supplies continued to grow. He also realized that fewer state regulations for truck owners and operators could contribute to the sustainability of his business segment. Mr. Gonzalez has been able to hire employees and become an active member of his community in these three short years. He adds: "My store focuses on selling accessories for trucks and since many truck drivers are on the road for days or weeks at a time, I want to help them turn their truck into a home away from home." Mr. Gonzalez, who is originally from Mexico, has lived the majority of his life in California where he also owns two truck supply stores. For now, he is happy to call Yakima his home. Mr. Juan Cruz Gonzalez is also a graduate of the UW Business & Economic Development Center – Business Certificate Program.



## Recommendations:

Throughout the last few years, Latino business owners have identified a core group of key challenges they face: the challenge of being out-competed by larger firms, an over-concentration in industries with limited growth potential, and the increasing cost of doing business. Some recommendations to help Latino business become sustainable and grow include:

- Improve the management skills of existing businesses by providing scholarship support to attend graduate and executive-level educational programs at state colleges and universities.
- Improve access to credit by growing the LINKED Deposit program and growing the lending capacity of Community Development Financial Institutions.
- Improve the math and science education for Latinos in K-12 to insure that more graduate high school and go onto college in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.
- Control the cost of doing business in the state of Washington such as accessible B&O fees, adequate state tax fees and penalties and accessible insurance premiums.
- Encourage and support state agencies such as the ones mentioned above to increase their outreach to the Latino community and create new ways to educate Latino business owners on all the resources available to them.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Carlos Veliz** was born in San Diego, California. In the 1960's he traveled with his family throughout the United States as migrant workers. In 1999, Carlos founded PCSI Design, one of the most successful aerospace and mechanical engineering companies in the Pacific Northwest.

**Teresa Jones** was born in Nogales, Mexico, but grew up in Tucson, Az. She is a Multi Media Sales Executive, and sees herself as a Relationship Builder and Hispanic Market Consultant. She is employed by KUNS-TV, the Univision affiliate in Seattle, WA (a Fisher Communications property). Teresa Jones has almost 30 years of experience working in television.

**Geraldine Rodríguez** is an immigrant from Arequipa, Perú. She is the Assistant Director at the University of Washington Business & Economic Development Center. Geraldine received her BA in Business Administration from Seattle University in 1998 and her MBA from the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington in 2008.

**Ty Cordova** is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Marketing. He handles Public Affairs for State Farm Insurance in DuPont, WA. Ty serves on the WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs; is President-Emeritus of the Pierce County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and is on the Board of Directors of EDI (Executive Development Institute) and the Clover Park Technical College Foundation.

## Notes and References

<sup>1</sup> This report draws extensively on the Washington Minority Small Business Survey that is conducted by the University of Washington's Business and Economic Development Center. William D. Bradford, Ph.D., Endowed Professor of Business and Economic Development and a Finance Professor at the Foster School of Business, University of Washington is the principal researcher for this report. Data for this research was collected in April and May 2009, April 2008 and October 2007. In addition, data from the 2007 United States Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners (SBO) were included in this report.

<sup>2</sup> Pramila Jayapal and Sarah Curry, Building Washington's Future: Immigrant Workers' Contributions to Our State Economy (Seattle, WA: OneAmerica, April 2009), p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> David Dyssegaard Kallick, Immigrants in the Economy: Contribution of Immigrant Workers to the Country's 25 Largest Metropolitan Areas (New York, NY: Fiscal Policy Institute, December 2009), p. 11

<sup>4</sup> Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010 (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, February 1, 2011), p. 24

<sup>5</sup> The Perryman Group, An Essential Resource: An Analysis of the Economic Impact of Undocumented Workers on Business Activity in the US with Estimated Effects by State and by Industry (Waco, TX: April 2008), p. 69

<sup>6</sup> The Immigration Policy Center, Unauthorized Immigrants Pay Taxes, Too (Washington, DC: April 2011).

<sup>7</sup> NAFSA: Association of International Educators, The Economic Benefits of International Education to the United States for the 2009-2010 Academic Year: A Statistical Analysis (Washington, DC: NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 2010). Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2008.

# Hispanics in the News



Edited and Compiled  
by Albert Torres

*Due to the population increase over the last few years, Hispanics are receiving much more attention in the media. In reaching out to Hispanic media organizations, through the CHA Spanish radio program Conozca su Gobierno, various news articles and radio interviews, and CHA print publications, we strive to convey positive messages about the Hispanic community.*

While there were many articles related to Hispanics in the 2012 year, there were three that stood out and provide significant information on the new trends and importance of the Hispanic community. They deal with the following topics:

- The important role Hispanics will play in the 2012 presidential race featured by TIME Magazine.
- Univision, the nation's largest Spanish-language media company in the United States, quietly acknowledging that in order to maintain and expand viewership, they also need to provide content to second- and third-generation Latinos who speak English as their first language by the Associated Press.
- After four decades that brought 12 million current immigrants more than half of whom came undocumented the net migration flow from Mexico to the United States has stopped and may have reversed.

## **TIME Magazine highlights Latino role in 2012 presidential race**

*By Fernando Aceves, Tú Decides newspaper correspondent*

For the first time in the magazine's history, TIME has a Spanish headline on its front cover. The line "Yo Decido" (I Decide) highlights the importance that Latino voters will play in this year's presidential elections.

The article points to how crucial the Latino voter bloc will be in certain swing states, such as Arizona, and how winning their vote will play an important role in any candidate's White House aspirations.

For example, in Arizona, Hispanic voters could give the candidate of either party enough of a margin to win the state in November. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, Arizona has 766,000 eligible Latino voters, close to 20 percent of all eligible voters in that state.

The Pew Hispanic Center also says that there are now more than 21 million Hispanics eligible to vote in the country, and that Latinos have played a growing and important role in the nation's past few presidential elections.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in the 2008 presidential election, Latinos represented 13% of all voters in Colorado, 14% in Nevada, 15% in Florida, and 38% in New Mexico. Those four states will likely be swing states again in 2012.

In 2004, former president George W. Bush won more than 40 percent of the Latino vote. Four years later,

67% of Hispanic voters went for Barack Obama. Experts agree that anybody getting that kind of support from Latinos this year, whether Democrat or Republican, has the better chance of winning the presidency.

The TIME Magazine article, named "Why Latino Voters Will Swing the 2012 Election," states that among the 15 states considered to be "swing states" (Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin), Hispanic voters could be the margin of victory in 12 of them. The reason? The number of eligible Latino voters in those states has grown by more than 700,000 in the last four years.<sup>1</sup>



## Univision and Disney Look at English News Channel

By Laura Wides-Munoz, AP Hispanic Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP): Univision and Disney are in talks to create a 24-hour news channel for Latinos in English, two sources close to the negotiations said Monday.

Both sources declined to go on the record because they were not authorized to speak.

The goal would be to begin broadcasting before the November presidential election. That would give the network plenty of time to provide political coverage geared toward Hispanics, who are considered influential swing voters in states like Florida, New Mexico and Colorado.

Univision is the nation's largest Spanish-language media company, and it has long prided itself on its Spanish-language content. In recent years, officials have quietly acknowledged that in order to maintain and expand viewership, they also need to provide content to second- and third-generation Latinos who speak English as their first language.

Univision officials and ABC News spokesman Jeff Schneider declined to comment.

The move comes in response to the 2010 census, which showed U.S.-born Latinos made up nearly 60 percent of the growth in the nation's Hispanic population over the last decade.

The proposed deal also reflects the stepped up efforts of mainstream media companies to target Latinos. Fox News added its Fox News Latino website in 2010 and Huffington Post now has an online HuffPost LatinoVoices site. Meanwhile, NBC Universal has increased the cross-pollination between its NBC News division and that of its Spanish language network, Telemundo.

Top Telemundo news anchor Jose Diaz-Balart has anchored NBC News and MSNBC programs. NBC also recently unveiled its NBC Latino tumblr website in English. Univision News also has a *tumblr* English site, and a small but growing social media presence.

Jorge Plasencia, vice chair of the National Council of La Raza and CEO of the Hispanic marketing firm Republica, which includes Univision among its clients, said he believes that a news channel in English would fulfill a niche.



“There’s nearly 50 million Latinos in the U.S. They do want to know what’s going on in Mexico, Puerto Rico and all over Latin America. The major networks don’t cover that news,” he said. “It’s hard for those networks to go into those issues in depth because they’re trying reach all of America”.

Univision and other Spanish-language networks have provided significant coverage of Latin America for their viewers. Plasencia believes second- and third-generation Latinos are still interested in that coverage, but they want it in English.

For Latinos who live in cities like Los Angeles, New York and Miami that have large Hispanic populations, local broadcasts often have Latino anchors and cover stories that are particularly relevant to the Hispanic community. But the national broadcasts are lagging in that type of coverage, he added.

“That’s why I think this and HuffPost LatinoVoices exist, because there’s an appetite,” Plasencia said.

Last month, SiriusXM’s Cristina Radio channel launched a new all-English political show, hosted by top Democratic and Republican Latina analysts, as well as a bilingual foreign affairs program out of Washington. Other online news sites are continuing to pop up.

Voxxi, a new Hispanic online news magazine, was throwing its launch party Tuesday at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Plasencia noted that the controversy over Arizona's Maricopa County Sheriff. Joe Arpaio's aggressive efforts to seek out illegal immigrants, has received significant coverage on Spanish-language networks but not so much in English.

"This network will take our issues and make them mainstream because many other people besides Latinos may be watching," he said.

Roberto Suro, a professor of journalism and public policy at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, says finding the right audience may be tricky.

"There are several assumptions here. Is there room for another all-news channel? And within the Hispanic market, is there enough demand for an all-news channel?" Suro said.

Already CNN, Fox and MSNB compete in English. CNN en Espanol provides 24 hour coverage in Spanish.

The new channel would reflect the growing trend toward more niche audiences, but he added that the English-speaking Latino market is much more diverse than the Spanish-language market.

"There's a longstanding effort to try and create content for English speaking Latinos," Suro said. "This is a very broad population segment, and the question is, 'what is the identity? Is it heavily Hispanic, all about news about Latinos? Or is it who delivers the news? It's an elusive brand.'"

## Net Migration from Mexico Falls to Zero—and Perhaps Less

*By the Pew Hispanic Center*

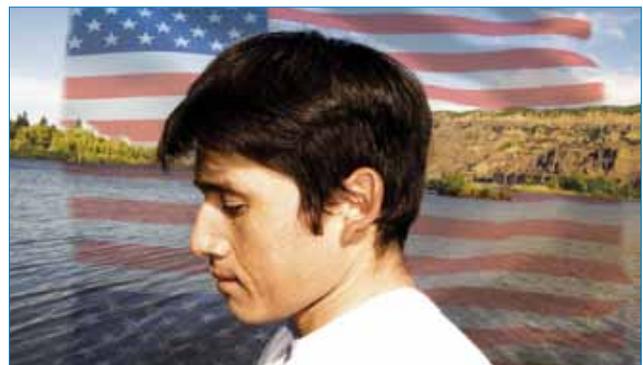
The largest wave of immigration in history from a single country to the United States has come to a standstill. After four decades that brought 12 million current immigrants—more than half of whom came illegally—the net migration flow from Mexico to the United States has stopped—and may have reversed, according to a new analysis by the Pew Hispanic Center of multiple government data sets from both countries.

The standstill appears to be the result of many factors, including the weakened U.S. job and housing construction markets, heightened border enforcement, a rise in deportations, the growing dangers associated with illegal border crossings, the long-term decline in Mexico's birth rates and changing economic conditions in Mexico.

"We don't know whether the wave will resume, but we do know that the current standstill is more than just a temporary pause," said Paul Taylor, director of the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. "Net migration from Mexico has been at zero—and perhaps less—since 2007."

"Heightened enforcement of immigration laws has made it more difficult, expensive and dangerous for Mexicans to try to enter the U.S. illegally," said Jeffrey Passel, senior demographer at the Pew Hispanic Center. "In addition, the sluggish U.S. economy has weakened the jobs magnet, and changing demographics in Mexico have reduced the pool of potential migrants."

The report is based on the Center's analysis of data from five different Mexican government sources and four U.S. government sources. The Mexican data come from the Mexican Decennial Censuses (Censos de Población y Vivienda), the Mexican Population Counts (Conteos de Población y Vivienda), the National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica or ENADID), the National Survey of Occupation and Employment (Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo or ENOE), and the Survey on Migration at the Northern Border of Mexico (Encuesta sobre Migración en la Frontera Norte de México or EMIF-Norte). The U.S. data come from the 2010 Census, the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



## Among the report's key findings:

In the five-year period from 2005 to 2010, about 1.4 million Mexicans immigrated to the United States and about 1.4 million Mexican immigrants and their U.S.-born children moved from the United States to Mexico.

- In the five-year period a decade earlier (1995 to 2000), about 3 million Mexicans had immigrated to the U.S. and fewer than 700,000 Mexicans and their U.S. born-children had moved from the U.S. to Mexico.
- This sharp downward trend in net migration has led to the first significant decrease in at least two decades in the number of unauthorized Mexican immigrants living in the U.S. – to 6.1 million in 2011, down from a peak of nearly 7 million in 2007. Over the same period the number of authorized Mexican immigrants rose modestly, from 5.6 million in 2007 to 5.8 million in 2011.
- Mexicans now comprise about 58% of the unauthorized immigrants living in the United States. They also account for 30% of all U.S. immigrants. The next largest country of origin for U.S. immigrants, China, accounts for just 5% of the nation's stock of nearly 40 million immigrants.
- Apprehensions of Mexicans trying to cross the border illegally have plummeted by more than 70% in recent years, from more than 1 million in 2005 to 286,000 in 2011 – a likely indication that fewer unauthorized immigrants are trying to cross. This decline has occurred at a time when funding in the U.S. for border enforcement – including more agents and more fencing – has risen sharply.
- As apprehensions at the border have declined, deportations of unauthorized Mexican immigrants – some of them picked up at work or after being arrested for other criminal violations – have risen to record levels. In 2010, nearly 400,000 unauthorized immigrants – 73% of them Mexicans – were deported by U.S. authorities.
- Although most unauthorized Mexican immigrants sent home by U.S. authorities say they plan to try to return, a growing share say they will not try to come back to the U.S. According to a survey by Mexican authorities of repatriated immigrants, 20% of labor migrants in 2010 said they would not return, compared with just 7% in 2005.
- Looking back over the entire span of U.S. history, no country has ever sent as many immigrants to this country as Mexico has in the past four decades. However, when measured not in absolute numbers but as a share of the immigrant population at the time, immigration waves from Germany and Ireland in the late 19th century equaled or exceeded the modern wave from Mexico.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Albert Torres** is the CEO and publisher of Tú Decides ([www.TuDecidesMedia.com](http://www.TuDecidesMedia.com)) a statewide bilingual weekly newspaper that is published in English and Spanish. He also founded Expo NW, a company that organizes large conventions/expositions targeting the Latino community such as the very successful Latino Business, Consumer and Career Expos ([www.ExpoLatinoBusiness.com](http://www.ExpoLatinoBusiness.com)) in eastern and western Washington. These expos provide additional opportunities for Latino businesses and mainstream businesses to participate together in business trade shows that typically don't reach out to the Latino community. He also conducts diversity training for State Farm, Wal-Mart, Best Buy and several chambers of commerce.

Mr. Torres was featured recently in the July 2008 issue of the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business as one of the Young Entrepreneurs of the year. Mr. Torres serves/served on the following boards: Sounders FC Hispanic Advisory Board, Washington State University Tri-Cities, Northwest University, Columbia Basin College, Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE), Urban Enterprise Center, The Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and the computer science advisory board for Columbia Basin College. He serves as the vice-chair of the Tri-Cities Education Advisory Council (TEAC). He is also a strong supporter and advocate for the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce.

## Notes and References

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the TIME Magazine article visit their website at [www.time.com/time/magazine](http://www.time.com/time/magazine).

The report, "Net Migration from Mexico Falls to Zero—and Perhaps Less," authored by Jeffrey Passel, Senior Demographer, Pew Hispanic Center, D'Vera Cohn, Senior Writer, Pew Hispanic Center, and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera, Research Associate, Pew Hispanic Center, is available at the Pew Hispanic Center's website, [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org).

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Rosa Cabrera '05-'06  
Félix Negrón '06-'08

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Tim Lopez '06-'07  
Ninfa Gutierrez '06 – '08  
Gilberto Mireles '08 – '11  
Ernest Radillo '10 – '11  
Juan Garcia '10 – '11  
Manuel Villafan '09 – '11  
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Rosalba Pitkin '06 – present  
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Ty Cordova 2007 – present  
Lillian Ortiz-Self '07 – present  
Jose Manuel Reta '11 – present  
Cynthia De Victoria '11 – present  
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Sharonne Navas '11 – present  
Jennifer Ramirez Robson '12 – present  
Gloria Ochoa '12 - present

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WASHINGTON STATE  
Commission on  
**Hispanic Affairs**

Commission Outline, 1969



DANIEL J. EVANS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
OLYMPIA

Mr. Ernest Lucero  
209 West Olympic Place #10  
Seattle, Washington

September 4, 1969

Dear Mr. Lucero:

As a result of discussions which I have had with leaders in the Mexican-American community, I am creating a Governor's Advisory Committee on Mexican-American affairs. I invite you to serve as a member of this Advisory Committee. For your information, I am enclosing a list of the entire membership of the committee.

I view the function of this committee as being an informal sounding board through which I, my staff and the executive leadership of state departments can obtain a better understanding of the problems and needs of the Mexican-American cultural community within our state. Staff support for the committee will be provided by the State Office of Economic Opportunity. I anticipate that the committee will hold quarterly meetings which will provide an opportunity to discuss subjects such as employment, housing, health, education and other similar problems of joint concern to the committee and state government.

I have set Tuesday, September 30 at 2 o'clock in my office in Olympia for the first meeting of the committee. At that time, I suggest that the committee select a chairman and proceed to discuss an agenda which will be prepared by the GEO staff. If you have any suggestions for agenda items, please forward them to Anibel Mejia, Office of Economic Opportunity, Hotel Olympian, Olympia 98501.

To compensate you for your costs in attending meetings, you will be reimbursed in an amount not to exceed \$15 per day for each day in attendance. In addition, reimbursement for your actual out-of-town travel costs to and from your home and the place of the committee meetings will be provided.

DJE:ry  
Ernest Lucero  
Signature of Member

Sincerely,  
Daniel J. Evans  
Daniel J. Evans  
Governor

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Father Victor Briones ✓<br>Post Office Box 529<br>Pasco, Washington 99301<br>Business: 547-8841<br>Home: 547-8487 | Eugenio Robles ✓<br>1727 West 21st Avenue<br>Konnawick, Washington<br>Business: 547-8487<br>Home: 586-9979                  |
| Ricardo R. Garcia ✓<br>316 Harding Avenue<br>Maple, Washington<br>Business: 855-2678<br>Home: 879-4843            | Higuell Sembrano ✓<br>3204 East K Street<br>Tacoma, Washington 98404<br>Business: Dr. 2-4271<br>Home: Dr. 2-5076            |
| Edelmiro Garza ✓<br>906 West Second<br>Grandview, Washington 98130<br>882-6441                                    | Antonia Shular (MEX) ✓<br>2265 Northeast 53rd #13<br>Seattle, Washington 98105<br>Business: 943-6530                        |
| Juan Guol ✓<br>792 South Third<br>Othello, Washington<br>Business: 488-9611<br>Home: 488-2780                     | Adan Tijerina ✓<br>145 East 4th Street<br>Mount Rainier, Washington<br>Business: Em. 4-4270<br>Home: 755-4684               |
| Charles A. Jimenez ✓<br>624 North Adams<br>Pasco, Washington 99301<br>Business: 547-8487<br>Home: 946-7283        | Alberto Valle ✓<br>3308 37th Avenue South<br>Seattle, Washington 98144<br>Business: Ja. 3-5560 ext. 337<br>Home: Pa. 2-6717 |
| Ernest Lucero ✓<br>209 West Olympic Place #10<br>Seattle, Washington<br>Business: 786-2060<br>Home: At. 4-6579    | Tomás Villanueva ✓<br>Post Office Box 456<br>Tappan, Washington<br>865-2670   |
| Joe Hattos ✓<br>708 Hochschule Avenue<br>Sunnyside, Washington 98144<br>Business: 837-4090<br>Home: 837-6080      | Guadalupe Zuniga (MEX) ✓<br>423 Newell Street<br>Halla Halla, Washington<br>Business: (509) Ja. 9-4992<br>Home: Ja. 9-5258  |
| Tomás Revelas ✓<br>Box 493<br>Hoson Lake, Washington 98037<br>Business: Ro. 5-7821                                | United Farm Workers Corp.<br>20715 Larchway West<br>Alderbrook Moor, WA<br>99948 P. O. Box 655<br>Tappan 98148              |



Letter to  
Employment Security  
1972



WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION  
ON  
MEXICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

320 C. TOPPENISH AVENUE  
TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON 98948  
RICARDO R. GARCIA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, TEL. (509) 887-6631

DAVID J. EVANS  
SECRETARY

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  - DOMÉS A. VILLANOVA, TOTTENHAM
  - HEATH TAYLOR, BRIDGEVIEW

February 6, 1972

- Labor and Employment Security Committee
- Representative Hubbard, Chairman
  - Representative Hatfield
  - Representative Curtis
  - Representative Flanagan
  - Representative Morrison
  - Representative Nothhouse
  - Representative Wanmaker
  - Representative Charette
  - Representative Grant
  - Representative Johnson
  - Representative McDermott
  - Representative Randall
  - Representative Savage

on behalf of the Washington State Commission on Mexican American Affairs and in support of Senate Bill 230, which is now in your Committee, the following information.

Gentlemen:

My name is Ricardo R. Garcia and I would like to present, concerned with the welfare of the Mexican American farmworker in our State; it has recognized the fact that the majority of Mexican Americans in our State are engaged in agricultural field work, and that they are subjected, because of their social status, to the problems of employment, housing, health, and education. Therefore, the Commission has made a commitment to use their influence as a State agency and seek ways to alleviate and improve the social well being of our agricultural field worker in our State of Washington.

The Commission on Mexican American Affairs is deeply concerned with the welfare of the Mexican American farmworker in our State; it has recognized the fact that the majority of Mexican Americans in our State are engaged in agricultural field work, and that they are subjected, because of their social status, to the problems of employment, housing, health, and education. Therefore, the Commission has made a commitment to use their influence as a State agency and seek ways to alleviate and improve the social well being of our agricultural field worker in our State of Washington.

Senate Bill 230 represents a legal way of controlling in those areas that are engaged in the agricultural industry. I am referring to the increasing numbers of illegal alien workers in the State and are competing with our resident farm workers in the harvesting of crops. This is a serious problem, and let me point out some implications that are having an adverse effect on the lawful resident workers:

- 1.) The illegal alien worker, because he is here illegally, does not have any legal rights; he lives in the shadow of being caught and deported and chooses to remain silent and uninvolved - he dares not complain about living or working conditions. Thus he becomes a detriment and an obstacle to those efforts of the resident farmworker to seek a better way of life.

- 2.) The illegal alien worker will work for lower wages - for any wage earned in the United States is higher than the wage earned in his native country. Thus he becomes the victim of illegal organized chains of recruitment; Farm labor contractors, hired farm labor crew leaders and other unscrupulous scoundrels are now operating a profitable enterprise - the importation of cheap labor. It is a small wonder that the American agricultural field worker remains the most under-paid worker in our society.
- 3.) The influx of illegal alien workers increases the problem of health care; he will seldom see a doctor or seek medical attention because of the fear of being "found out" and deported; increases the problems of housing (he makes up much housing needed by the resident farmworker; and he also contributes to the perpetuation of bad housing conditions, for he cannot explain about such conditions).

Now let us look at some of the causes of this serious problem:

- 1.) We have a border patrol that is under-staffed and cannot begin to attack the problem because the number of illegal alien workers is over-whelming. For example: There is only one officer assigned to the Yakima Valley - he is Larry Nelson. And yet, according to the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and local newspapers, over eight hundred illegal alien workers are deported each year from the Valley. The deportees are so deported usually at the end of a particular harvest. I have personally seen Mr. Nelson with as many as fifteen illegal workers all crowded into his passenger car escorting them to jail.
- 2.) There is a complete absence of national legislation which places the responsibility for hiring illegals to the employer. Thus, we must begin to focus the blame for this serious problem, which is affecting our economy (much of the money earned by the illegal worker is not spent in our country) to the man who smuggles the illegal worker into our country and to the man or industry that actually hires them.

Senate Bill 230 when it becomes law, will establish a base whereby we will have initiated a type of control over the problem of illegal workers. Thus Washington State will become a leader of States in demonstrating a concern for its resident farm laborers.

Attached please find a copy of the Congressional Report 92nd Congress, dated November 4, 1971, which also touches on the aforementioned problem of illegal aliens, and copies of news items which testify to same.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo R. Garcia

RRG:rr



Activities

1997, 1998

CHA  
40 years

1218 Eastside St. 1st floor • Olympic, Washington 98504-0924 • (360) 753-3159 • FAX (360) 753-0199 • hispanic@halcyon.com  
December 2, 1997



COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Mr. Moises Camaraco, Regional Director  
U. S. Census Bureau  
101 Stewart Street, Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98101-1088

Dear Mr. Camaraco:

Thank you for talking with me on the phone. First, I want to again, welcome you to the Great State of Washington and congratulate you on your appointment as the Regional Director of the U. S. Census Bureau for this region. Secondly, I want to reiterate our interest in ensuring that all Latinos in the state and particularly farmworkers are counted in the upcoming Census 2000. Our discussion may be premature, but there is too much at stake for Latinos in our state. In the last Census, there was a significant undercount of Latinos in our state. We can't afford this to happen again. This time, we want to take a proactive approach and begin the discussion early on. Thank you for your willingness to begin the dialogue with the Latino Community.

We understand the importance of Census 2000 in the allocation of federal tax dollars to local supported federal programs, for congressional reapportionment and for redistricting of local and state governments. Furthermore, the State of Washington Governor's OFM will use the U.S. Census 2000 to produce annual state programs and estimates that will be used in formulating public policy, funding state programs and producing population forecasts. We are very much interested in learning more about your plans for the Census 2000 in Washington State and exchanging information.

I am enclosing the latest state information on Hispanic Population Trends in Washington State which provides a perspective on the distribution of the Hispanic population in the state. I am also enclosing the information you requested. As you discussed, we are very much interested in learning more about local job opportunities, advertising campaigns, outreach efforts to farmworkers and rural communities, and enumeration operational schedules. We look forward to a continued dialogue as efforts progress for the Census 2000.

Sincerely,  
Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Roberto Ozuna  
Roberto Ozuna  
Commissioner

cc: Manuel Romero  
Executive Director

Seattle Times

Migrant workers in Washington

AUGUST 2, 1998



Adriana Gonzalez, 10, holds a blanket around herself and huddles by a fire fueled with sticks and garbage to ward off the down chill in Wenatchee. She spent the night in the back of a car with her grandmother in an illegal migrant farm-worker camp.

JOHN HARRISON - THE SEATTLE TIMES

## Become an advocate for Washington's Hispanic Communities!

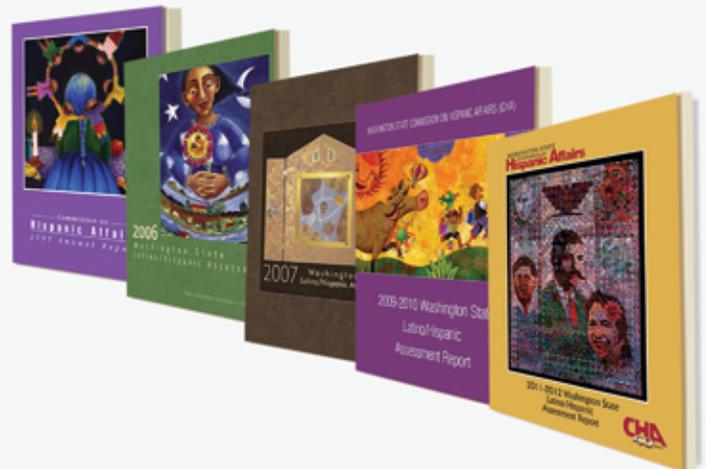
Your tax deductible contribution will support our advocacy work in the following areas:

### • Washington State Latino/Hispanic Assessment Report

**Description:** Bi-annual publication of the State of Washington Commissions on Hispanic Affairs

**Audience:** Office of the Governor, state legislators, local, state and federal officials, business, government agencies, nonprofits, community leaders, community members.

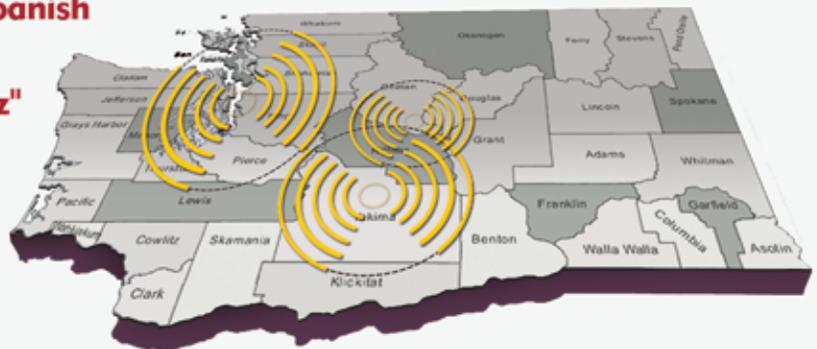
**Print-run:** 2,000 copies English and Spanish.



### • The Commission on Hispanic Affairs Spanish Language Outreach Radio Program, "Conozca su Gobierno con Uriel Iñiguez"

**Description:** Two weekly, one hour radio talking shows entirely in Spanish with open lines for callers.

**Content:** discussions about important issues legislative bills, taxes, loans, car purchasing, driver's licenses, homeownership, and others subjects relevant for primarily Spanish-speaking Washington residents.



#### PARTNER RADIO STATIONS

KTBK 1210 AM Seattle is a 27,500-watt station that covers most of northwest Washington. 83% of all listeners are Hispanic.

KWLN 92.1 and 103.3 FM is a Spanish language station with a regional Mexican format which delivers family-friendly programming.

KNTS 1680 Radio Laz Seattle is a leading US radio broadcaster targeting diverse audiences. Coverage includes parts of Canada, Yakima Valley, Wenatchee, Tri-Cities, and parts of Oregon.

Radio KDNA 91.9 FM is a non-commercial station that provides educational programming for the Spanish-speaking population of Washington.

### • Leading Change Through Advocacy

This is a project which began in 2010 after we received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of the project is to draw together parents, community members, and leaders to learn about Washington's educational system and how to better advocate for Hispanic children in public schools. The Commission, partnering with several Hispanic-serving agencies and organizations, is providing a series of trainings for Commissioners, parents, and the community. The focus is to increase the level of understanding regarding the opportunities and the achievement gap that exists, and together craft doable action plans. With your help, we can continue to sustain this project by creating more trainings, and expand them to more sites across the state.

If you wish to send a check, please make it payable to:  
Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
P.O. Box 40924  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0924

WASHINGTON STATE  
Commission on  
**Hispanic Affairs**

For more details please contact:  
Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
360-725-5661  
hispanic@cha.wa.gov  
www.cha.wa.gov

*All children in Washington State have the right to a public education, grades kindergarten to 12, up through age 21.*

**Your child may qualify for additional support through the Migrant or Bilingual Education Programs if:**

- ✓ **A language other than English is spoken at home.**
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*Make sure your child gets the best education possible!*

- ✓ *Complete all the forms you are given when you enroll your child in school. The school will use your responses to determine if your child qualifies for additional services. Remember, you have the right to request an interpreter if you need one.*
- ✓ *Attend school meetings and respond to requests for your opinion. Your ideas will improve services for your child and your family.*



**[www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)  
360-725-6000**



**WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS (CHA)**

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