

# Commission on Hispanic Affairs

VOLUME I ISSUE X



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- V-me in WA State
- Hispanics
- New Mexican Consulate Director
- New CHA Officers

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## Message from the Director

I am pleased to announce CHA's new leadership for 2008-2009. Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Program Coordinator with the City of Bellevue Probation Division is our new Chair and Félix L. Negrón, DSHS IT Manager is our new Vice Chair. Members of the new Executive Committee are Victor Chacón, Ty Córdova and Rosalba Pitkin. Congratulations to all! I also want to take the opportunity to thank our former Chair, Yvonne Lopez Morton, and Vice Chair, Gabriel Portugal, for their contributions in 2005-2007. During their tenure, the Commission engaged in various new issues that consequently groomed and prepared us to become a more effective liaison. They were also instrumental in the creation of our Strategic Plan, development of our database,

and the revamp of our website. Their dedication and passion to the well being of the Latino community was exemplary and rendered a positive image for incoming Commissioners. Yvonne and Gabriel certainly helped broaden the Commission's visibility in the community and provided CHA the necessary skills to create positive change for those we serve.

My work continues with the state licensure agencies and other entities in the pursuit of a functional training workshop for small Latino business owners. This workshop will transcend from information sharing to completion and submittal of the required forms. In addition, we are working on a state agency small business training module similar to a flowchart that will simplify the licensure process. In the interim, state agencies will use

cultural events as venues for their workshops. Labor & Industries, OMWBE, and the Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance recently provided workshops at Fiestas Patrias 2007 with average success thus substantiating the need for effective hands-on workshops.

I have also collaborated with the Department of Financial Institutions to produce public service announcements concerning sub prime mortgage rates and foreclosure fraud to our Hispanic communities. Furthermore, I am participating in a weekly financial literacy program with Radio Sol, Seattle.

This summer I had the opportunity to attend a couple of out of state meetings: League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Conference and the Leadership Institute's (USHLI) 17th Annual Dinner. Directors



## Message from the Director *continued*

of other state Hispanic Commissions and I had the opportunity to communicate our mission and function, funding, and the need to collaborate with community organizations and thus enhance and leverage our work. USHLI provided a venue for us to discuss Latino voter outreach and the opportunity to pool resources/processes on such a crucial issue. CHA and NALEO also held a meeting in Ellensburg to address Latino voter outreach. Further meetings with LULAC, UW, and other community organizations have transpired since then.

Concurrently, the Latino Legislative Day Planning Committee has elected new board members and is vigorously planning and organizing the 2008 Latino Legislative Day; Capitol Campus on Wednesday, January 16, 2008.

We held a public meeting in Walla Walla and a solicited community meeting in Royal City. Residents, city officials and faith based personnel gathered to

discuss and consider methods in which they could improve communication, interaction, and camaraderie amongst all residents of their community. Thank you to Walla Walla Community College and the Royal City School District for providing the venue for our meetings.

**Immigration** is still a topic of dissension and alarm. The level of immigration enforcement is becoming more aggressive, creating an environment of fear and intimidation in many Hispanic communities throughout Washington. A prevailing concern is the tactic used by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the course of their raids; in particular, the involvement of local law enforcement executing ICE functions. Consequently, we have conveyed our concerns to Governor Gregoire, WA State Patrol, the Mayor of Shelton, and the Mason County Sheriff Department. We will endeavor to assure our Police, Sheriff's deputies, and State Patrol officers focus on pub-

lic safety rather than on enforcement of immigration laws; those under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government.

**Upcoming Events:** Our next public meeting will be held at the Denny Blaine Board Room, 810-A East Custer, Sunnyside, WA on Friday, October 19, 2007 at 6PM. The premise for this meeting is "Gangs." The final 2007 CHA public meeting will be in Vancouver on November 30, location and time to be determined in the near future.

In closing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our New Mexican Consul Patricia Garduño Morales. We look forward to working with you and your staff.

*"NALEO and USHLI provided a venue for us to discuss Latino voter outreach and the opportunity to pool resources/processes on such a crucial issue."*

### REMAINING MEETINGS

October 19-20  
Sunnyside, WA

November 30th-  
December 1st  
Vancouver, WA

## Message from the Chair

Greetings/ Saludos!

First and foremost, I would like to thank my colleagues for electing me Chair of the Commission. I, like my fellow commissioners, am as committed and passionate about the work that we do. I genuinely enjoy working with and for the community and I specifically value the opportunity of being able to participate in the change process, whether it be enhancements in local communities through established channels of communication with local government or working with Legislators and the Governor to institute new policies/laws that are equal and just for all.

Just in case you didn't know, we are a group of hard working people who are privileged to work under the leadership of Uriel Iñiguez, CHA Executive Director. It is clear that our duty is to be a "working" commission. Consequently, we are held accountable for community involvement, partnering with community organizations, and relationship building with community leaders and city officials. Attending public meetings and establishing relationships with community leaders

and city officials is crucial in our mission to address issues affecting our Hispanic communities; issues such as, equitable Justice, Immigration, Farm Worker issues, Pesticides, Healthcare, and Education. Education undeniably is our priority mandate; it includes Parent Outreach, WASL, and Early Learning. Our Strategic Plan outlines several goals and commitments that we aspire to fulfill; yes, all this in addition to our regular day jobs . . . evidence of the hard work each and every one of the Commissioners, your representatives are eager to execute. They truly are the hardest working group of people I have ever worked with.

All of us at the Commission hope that you will join us in support of the continued "lucha"

- To reduce or rather "prevent" high school dropouts
- To improve WASL scores among Hispanics
- To insure that our children receive a quality education and the necessary assistance to successfully pass the WASL
- To encourage our children to pursue higher

education through greater accessibility to colleges and universities

- For equal access to Housing and Healthcare for all our children and families
- So that some day it becomes a "norm" rather than a "lucha" and
- So that in the very near future, the Immigration issue finds some resolve and thus end the destruction of families and the trauma that our children are experiencing by the forced separation/deportation brought about by the recent raids.

The Commission welcomes and encourages you to work "juntos" for a better tomorrow for our families, our children, and our communities. I look forward to serving you in my new role as Chair of the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Serving proudly,

Lourdes Portillo Salazar

*"Just in case you didn't know, we are a group of hard working people who are privileged to work under the leadership of Uriel Iñiguez, CHA Executive Director."*



## V-me Spanish-language public television in Washington State

V-me launched as a digital channel by PBS' Seattle affiliate KCTS-TV on September 17th.

It also launched on 18 public TV stations with large Hispanic markets in March of this year. It is being billed as an alternative to the telenovela-heavy programming of other Spanish-language stations such as Univision and Telemundo.

V-me (pronounced "veh meh" means "See Me") is a 24-hour mix of kids, lifestyle, current affairs and special event programs.

It can be found on digital channel 9.2; Comcast cable channel 119; Dish Network 9414; and Dish Latino 846.

It's programming schedule includes current affairs programs such as:

- "La Plaza: Conversaciones con Maria Hinojosa"
- "Viva Voz", a one-hour "Charlie Rose" like interview program
- "Creencias", a faith and values program
- Shows about natural history and science and technology
- Yoga, etc.

"V-me (pronounced "veh meh" means "See Me") is a 24-hour mix of kids, lifestyle, current affairs and special event programs."



Gustavo Barros/ Sea Latino

Bill Mohler, KCTS President, Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney and Agustin Ayala.



Gustavo Barros/ Sea Latino

Anne Oxrieder, Claudia Nuñez & Antonio Gómez, Seattle V-me Coordinator



Gustavo Barros/ Sea Latino

Julie Davidson Gómez, Lourdes Sampera, Carmen DiRienzo, President V-me National, Wanda Benvenuti, & Rey Serna.

## Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 thru October 15)

### Hispanics (NEA)

Hispanics trace their origin or descent to Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and other countries in Central and South America. Representing 20 nationalities, Hispanics comprised 13.27 percent of the U.S. population in 2005, compared to 9 percent in 1990. The U.S. Census projects that the Hispanic population will double by the year 2050, the result of both high birth rates and immigration.

Hispanics were among the early explorers and settlers of the New World. Their presence can be traced as far back as the early 1500s. In 1609, 11 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Mestizo (Indian and Spanish) ancestors settled in what

is now Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Several historical events also shaped Hispanic presence in America: the Louisiana Purchase, the admission of Florida and Texas into the Union, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which ended the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Revolution, labor shortages during World Wars I and II, the Cuban Revolution, and political instability in Central and South America in the recent past.

Hispanics are changing the composition of cities and states from coast to coast and influencing all segments of American life. At the same time, too many Hispanic students face significant challenges in our public schools.

Many factors contribute to the educational achievement of Hispanic students; however, there are three dominant issues that significantly impact Hispanic student achievement: poverty, immigration status, and English language proficiency. These issues are closely correlated and may sometimes appear insurmountable, **but they are not**. Many schools throughout the country are implementing strategies to successfully help Hispanic students overcome these challenges.

This year as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month let's not forget to thank those teachers that have made a difference in a Hispanic student's life.

*"Hispanics are changing the composition of cities and states from coast to coast and influencing all segments of American life."*



Gustavo/Sea Latino

Uriel Iñiguez and Patricia Garduño Morales, new Mexican Consulate Director

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Governor Christine Gregoire has named three Hispanics to the Board of Trustees of Eastern and Evergreen State College.

**Robert Matthew Segura**, Lacey, WA – Student Representative, The Evergreen State College Board of Trustees.

**Isaura J. Gallegos**, Wenatchee, WA – Student Representative, Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees

**Bertha Ortega**, Zillah, WA – Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees



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### MISSION STATEMENT

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



## CHA's Newly Elected Chair & Vice Chair



**Lourdes Portillo Salazar** was born in Chicago, Illinois. She was raised and lived in Mexico City until her late teens; at

which time the family returned to the US.

She represents King county.

Commissioner Portillo Salazar works for the city of Bellevue as a Program Coordinator in the Probation Division. She helped develop the initial Spanish language defendant intake program, thus making it possible for Spanish-speaking inmates to understand the complexities of probation and court requirements and to successfully complete the probation program.

Lourdes resides in Renton.



**Commissioner Negrón** is a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico. He was appointed to the Commission

August 2006 by Governor Greigore.

He represents Grays Harbor, Thurston, Lewis, and Pacific counties.

Commissioner Negrón has over 30 years of experience in information systems and technology. He works for the State of Washington as an Information Systems Technology Specialist.

He writes for the Daily Olympian as a member of their Diversity Board. He resides in Olympia with his wife and daughter.

## CHA Staff & Commissioners

### STAFF

Uriel Iñiguez, Executive Director  
Alicia Luna, Executive Assistant

### COMMISSIONERS

Lourdes Portillo-Salazar, Chair

Félix L. Negrón, Vice-Chair

Henry M. Cruz, Seattle

Jorge R. Chacón, Wenatchee

Victor Chacón, Walla Walla

Ty Córdova, Tacoma

Ninfa Gutiérrez, Yakima

Rosalba Pitkin, Vancouver

Gabriel Portugal, Pasco

