

COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

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Meeting Dates 2007

February 23-24
Olympia

April 13-14
Pullman

June 15-16
Othello

August 10-11
Pasco

October 20-21
Walla Walla

November 30-Dec 1
Vancouver

**For more information
visit our website:
www.cha.wa.gov**

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS/FELICES FIESTAS FROM CHA COMMISSIONERS, STAFF, & VOLUNTEERS



Back Row left to right: Rosalba Pitkin, Vancouver; Félix L. Negrón, Olymipa; Víctor Chacón, Walla Walla; Uriel Iñiguez, CHA Director; Ninfa R. Gutierrez, Yakima; Front Row left to right: Alicia Luna, EA Olympia; Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Bellevue; Vice-Chair Gabriel Portugal, Pasco; Yvonne Lopez Morton, Chair Spokane; and Ruben Baca, Bellingham



Pennie Bumrungsiri, 2006 Graduate of Evergreen State College worked as an Intern for the Commission. She will be headed to Germany January 2007.

Rogelio Burgos, 2005 graduate of North Thurston High School volunteered at CHA for over a year and is headed to New York to study fashion design at the prestigious Parsons School of Design.

Mike Britt from Graham, WA is an OJT who has worked for the Commission during 2006.



Message from the Director—Fall Winter 2006

During Fall-Winter quarter, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs was involved in many community projects throughout Washington State. The following are some of the most significant and one that is forthcoming:



- The Commission held a public meeting on October 20th in South Park. Many Hispanic/Latino residents of this community came to hear from state agencies as well as voice their concerns. It also gave government officials an opportunity to listen firsthand to the issues of this community and to identify methods in which to improve services, quality of living, etc. Representatives from Labor and Industries (L&I), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Department of Health (DOH), Seattle Police Department, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Plaza Bank, Sea-Mar, Duwamish River Superfund, Northwest Immigrants Rights Project, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Workfirst, and the Office of the Education Ombudsman provided informational pamphlets and or were available for questions. Issues surrounding worker's compensation, fair wages, health care, education, immigration, and legal rights continue to be pressing issues in this community.
- The Commission has also been working ardently during the past few months with the Yakima area DSHS CSO office. Through Commissioner Ninfa R. Gutierrez efforts and her intense work we hope to expand access to DSHS services, community involvement and awareness, and the TANF program.
- The Commission in concurrence with the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Commission on African American Affairs, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, and the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) co-sponsored a Business Diversity Summit in Seattle on November 9th. Over 350 business owners, many of whom were Hispanic/Latino, came to learn about business opportunities and the process for obtaining government contracts.
- The state's vitality depends upon a well educated citizenry; therefore Education is and will continue to be of utmost importance for the Commission and the communities it serves. The 2006 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores indicate that much work remains to be effected in order to meet this goal. In an effort towards efficacy and progress in this endeavor, the Commission held a public meeting focused on Hispanic/Latino education issues on December 8, 2006 in Bellevue. Terry Bergeson, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Dr. Alfonso Anaya, OSPI's Director of Migrant and Bilingual Education participated in this meeting. They were joined by Representative Phyllis Kenny and Representative Dave Upthegrove. A heartfelt thanks to Roger Barron and Dr. Anaya for their support and contribution to this event and to Victor Chacón for facilitating the meeting.
- Preparations for the 2007 Legislative Session which begins in January are in progress. The Commission is looking forward to assisting, advising, and advocating for the expansion of the legislative and lobbying efforts started this year by the Latino Legislative Day committee. This committee has been meeting regularly and working vigorously to develop a comprehensive agenda for the 2007 Latino Legislative Day scheduled for February 21, 2007.

In closing, the Commission would like to recognize Mexican Consulate Jorge Madrazo for his hard work and dedication to the Mexican communities of Washington State. He will be greatly missed in Consulate functions; however, we are pleased to know that he will be staying in Washington State to continue supporting and sustaining Hispanic/Latino communities.

2007 Latino Legislative Week Activities



Washington State Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Day 2007

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

Capitol Campus
Olympia

For further information visit our
website:

www.wshcc.org

or call

206-441-8894



Washington State
Hispanic/Latino Legislative
Day 2007

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

You are cordially invited to join
us at the Capitol Campus in
Olympia

For further information contact:

Carlos Jimenez
206-683-0296
carlos@hispaniclegislative.org
or visit our website
www.hispaniclegislative.org



LEAP's
7th Annual
Education
Conference
and
Legislative Day

Student Readiness: Preparing
for college or work after High
School

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday
February 22-24, 2007
Olympia Red Lion**

**Keynote Speaker
Dr. Alfonso Anaya**

Register online: www.leap.org or
call 206-878-3710 x5176

Conference Registration Deadline
January 15, 2007



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISION DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

The Commission will hold a
public meeting in conjunction
with the 7th Annual LEAP
Education Conference

**Date of Meeting
Friday, February 23, 2007
Olympia Red Lion**

Please check out website for
further details on times and
conference room numbers.

Website: www.cha.wa.gov
Toll Free Number: 800-443-0294

2007 CHA Legislative Priorities

EDUCATION

Encourage the development of more programs to address the high drop out rate of Hispanic students in our K-12 schools.

Education is essential to the economic health, cultural diversity, civic vitality, and political well-being of Washington State and the nation. Our state education system and all local educational agencies must respond accordingly with resources, programs, and policies that address the factors that impede Hispanic students to reach and gain a meaningful education.

- Implement a grant program for school districts and community organization partnerships that focuses on drop out prevention
- Create career academics in Washington high schools
- Expand Navigation 101 to all schools with low performance
- Create an effective age-appropriate educational pathway or alternative assessment for students who are unable to pass the WASL at the end of their senior year
- Expand state support for parent and community involvement efforts within diverse communities

All Teachers need to be prepared to teach in multicultural classrooms

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

- Require all current and future teachers to receive extensive information/training on how to teach in a multicultural classroom

Address barriers faced by English Language Learners in attaining the Certificate of Academic Achievement. Only 12% of 10th grade English Language Learner (ELL) students meet the WASL standard in mathematics and only 35% of ELL students meet the WASL standard in reading. School districts must work to address the disparities in the WASL results and help to reduce the barriers faced by ELL students.

- Develop two initial exams for new immigrants: one to evaluate English language skills and the second to assess writing and math skills
- Implement programs that coordinate curriculum, assessment, teacher training and family involvement

Encourage post-secondary institutions to expand their admission processes to be more comprehensive. Since 1997, admission of Hispanic students at our state's higher education institutions has not kept up with our population growth. While

the Hispanic population comprises roughly 11% of the population in Washington State, Hispanic enrollment in the University of Washington's graduate and professional programs is less than 3%. Colleges and universities are becoming less and less diverse while our state's general population is becoming more diverse.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support legislation that addresses the ability of minority and women's business enterprises to access available sources.

Funds shall be used to create jobs and added economic opportunities thereby providing additional resources to the community economic revitalization board's program. CHA also encourages the state investment board to invest in start-up and expanding business programs and to create economic development grant programs.

- Expand the Link- Deposit program (through the allocation of additional funds)
- Develop small business assistance centers
- Allocate additional funds to the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (OMWBE) so that they can assist the small business centers

HEALTHCARE

Encourage the state to expand affordable and accessible healthcare coverage for all Washington State residents.

Although Washington State made advances in increasing health care access and coverage in the 90's, that progress has eroded over the last several years. Since 2002, nearly 100,000 additional people became uninsured in Washington State; 2004's estimate is over 600,000. Latinos are severely impacted and many lack insurance coverage and or equal access to health care.

Expand Basic Health Plan

There are almost 100,000 uninsured children in Washington State. Many of these children are currently eligible for Medicaid but are not enrolled. In addition, over 9,000 children are currently on the waiting list for the state Medicaid program for immigrant children. Expansion of this program needs to occur to cover these extremely low-income (<100% FPL) immigrant children who have no other source of coverage.

Health Insurance Coverage for All Children by 2010

The Hispanic community envisions Washington as a State in which every child is healthy and ready to learn because they have adequate health care coverage and access to timely care in a medical home. Currently, 73,000 children in Washington are uninsured; that's enough to fill over 2,500 school classrooms. There are two principal ways to overcome much of this gap given that an estimated 70% of uninsured kids are eligible for existing programs:

- Make sure all children eligible for programs currently available are enrolled. Use outreach and education to make sure parents know about coverage options and how to appropriately access health care for their children;

Expand the eligibility levels for current federally matched programs like the "State Children's Health Insurance Program" and develop a gap insurance program to allow families with higher incomes to buy coverage.

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

Provide funding for a Hispanic/Latino Health Needs Assessment. This will help advance the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities Report. This is the first step towards creating a Universal Hispanic Health Care program. Currently, most needs data is based on migrant health issues rather than the broader Hispanic community.

FARM WORKER ISSUES

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

- Require and fund air monitoring for agricultural pesticides to appropriate state agencies
- Establish timelines and a process for phasing out the extremely dangerous agricultural pesticides and the phasing in of safer methods for growing food
- Mandate and fund a study that will identify explicit policies and or programs that require implementation in order to ensure transition to alternatives. Farm workers must be given a place at the table in this study process
- Direct state agencies to adopt regulations such as "no- spray zones" that will enhance protection of workers and their children pending transition to alternatives

Farm Worker Housing

Increase allocation of Housing Trust Funds for Farm worker Housing. Many farm workers live in substandard housing due to the lack of affordable housing

- Require state and local agencies that manage/supervise "housing conditions" of farm worker housing to form partnerships in order to streamline the enforcement of regulations thereby providing a safety net for farm workers who are

victims of substandard housing

FEDERAL ISSUES

Immigration

The Commission will continue to advise our Congressional delegation on the need of a comprehensive immigration reform.

- A reform that addresses the barriers faced by all immigrants to our country, the recently-arrived, the long-term resident and those to come in the future, the farm worker, and the non-farm worker.
- An immigration reform for the families of immigrants that reside within the United States and those outside the United States; and
- A reform that recognizes respect, the dignity of work and protects the immigrant worker and their families just as all other workers are protected.

Support the DREAM ACT. Hundreds of thousands of children are brought to the United States by parents in the hopes of achieving the American Dream. These children have no alternative/option to remedy or adjust their immigration status and become contributing members of society. For those triumphant immigrant students who graduate from high school and seek higher education to pursue a career, the federal DREAM ACT provides the avenue for achieving this goal as well as adjusting their immigration status. CHA recommends that legislators support this important federal legislation.



Latino Community Resources Group (LCRG)

"The Latino Community Resource Group is a coalition of individuals and organizations that promote the success and empowerment of the Latino community through facilitating outreach, education, and community connections".

Core Committee

- Manuel Heredia, L&I (360) 896-2393
- Amy M. Lee, Ft. Vancouver Regional Library (360) 699-8831
- Karen L. Poulin, WSU Extension Clark County (360) 397-6060 x7724
- Bobbi Cassanova, SHIBA (360) 696-8221
- Jamie Zentner, Sea Mar (360) 566-4403
- Kevin Diaz, NW Justice Project 1-888-201-1020
- Rosalba Pitkin, Clark College ESL/ABE/GED (360) 992-2760

Members

- Sandra Kendrick, Clark County DSHS (360) 397-8000
- Joseph Mendoza, WA DSHS (360) 397-9806
- Saron Nehf, YWCA of Clark County (360) 906-9148
- Melanie Brown, The Alliance -West (360) 693-0777

Coalition for Education Opportunity

The Commission on Hispanic Affairs was part of the "Coalition for Education Opportunity" headed by State Representative Dave Upthegrove. This coalition worked hard during 2006 contacting Legislators, advocating, and meeting to plan and organize. We helped keep education issues front and center on the Legislative agenda and some good progress was made toward improving education opportunities for all students. Our focus was on steps that the Legislature should take given the current graduation requirements.

The following are goals that the coalition established and the results of these goals.

Goal 1: Create an effective, age-appropriate educational pathway for students who are unable to pass the WASL or alternative assessment by the end of their senior year.

HB 2582 creates a community and technical college-based option for students, including English language learners, who have completed all graduation requirements except for passing the WASL or alternative by the end of their senior year in high school. The students would participate in high school graduation ceremonies with their peers and would be guaranteed continual remedial education in the age-appropriate setting of their local community or technical college—tuition free—until they have the skills to retake and pass the WASL.

Result: This bill did not come up for a vote in the Senate in time for the end of last session. It will be reintroduced (with

a new bill number) and is expected to pass this session.

Goal 2: Expand state support for parent and community involvement efforts within diverse communities.

HB 2581 would have created a grant program to enhance outreach to communities of color and low income communities to increase parent and community involvement in student achievement.

Result: Although this bill did not pass, the Supplemental Operating Budget included \$500,000 for grants to increase parent and community engagement in addressing achievement gap issues. Depending on feedback from the grant program, there could be some effort to build on this in 2007.

Goal 3: Invest heavily in remediation to help students meet graduation standards.

The Coalition began with an ambitious goal of expanding the Governor's supplemental budget proposal for targeted academic support programs for students not meeting the 10th grade WASL to include remediation for students not meeting the 7th grade WASL. This would have required an investment of an estimated additional \$22 million above the Governor's proposed \$38 million.

This would have required an investment of an estimated additional \$22 million above the Governor's proposed \$38 million.

Result: Our efforts helped strengthen the push for greater remediation fund-

ing. The final Supplemental Budget included \$28.5 million for extended learning programs such as summer school, before and after school programs, and tutoring for high school students who have not met the standard on the 10th grade WASL. The budget provides over \$13 million more in other education measures including: math remediation and pilot programs aimed at closing the achievement gap. We must continue to push for targeted remediation to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve.

Goal 4: Recruit and retain more bicultural and bilingual educators.

The Coalition supported additional funding for the Professional Educator Standards Board to provide additional conditional loan scholarships for prospective bilingual teachers through the Alternative Routes to Teaching program, including resources to improve outreach and recruitment in diverse communities.

Result: The Supplemental Budget included \$500,000 for additional scholarships aimed at recruiting teachers in special education, math, science and bilingual education. The PESB may be requesting legislation in 2007 to further their efforts to recruit bilingual/bicultural teachers.

A heart felt thanks to the "Coalition for Education Opportunity" members and State Representative Dave Upthegrove for their hard work and collaboration with CHA. We hope that we can continue to work together in 2007.

Walla Walla County Hispanic Voters Association and Community Advocates

MISSION STATEMENT

Walla Walla County Hispanic Voters Association is an organization committed in providing information to the Hispanic community on issues relating to voting and county interest needs.

Goals

- Expand understanding of Voter Registration Guidelines
- Offer training to members of the Hispanic community
- Promote Voter Registration activities and awareness
- Educate Hispanic community on local interest needs
- Create a Bridge between State agencies, candidates & communities

2006-2007 Activity Calendar include:

Register the Committee; Create Web-Page; Collect Data on Hispanic registered voters; Conduct "Why We Need to Register and Vote" workshop; Conduct phone calls prior to elections; and register new members to vote

For more information you can contact: Jessie Briones, 509-529-3587; Asael Muro, 509-525-6325; Frank Herrera, 509-522-0105; Fernando Enriquez, 509-520-1912, or Melito Ramirez, 509-529-8795



Rep. Phyllis Kenney, Víctor Chacón, Walla Walla Commissioner, Dr. Terry Bergeson, OSPI, Rep. Dave Upthegrove & Uriel Iñiguez



Roger Barron, OSPI and Dr. Alfonso Anaya, OSPI Director of Migrant and Bilingual Education

CHA Education Meeting at Bellevue City Hall

The Commission on Hispanic Affairs held an Education Meeting at City Hall in Bellevue, Washington on Friday, December 8, 2006. Representatives from several colleges and universities joined us to discuss the Latino Education Plan and the Washington Learns Report. Invited guests were: Dr. Terry Bergeson and Dr. Alfonso Anaya, OSPI; Education Committee Legislators, and the Education Policy Advisors from the Governor's office.

The following recommendations were identified at this notable event:

- Address long term versus short term deficiency needs
- Additional diverse bilingual staff
- Provide funding sources for sustainability
- Insure Compliance with legal mandates i.e. RCW's
- Reduce local level discretion
- Provide Career path development for largest minority student population
- Perform academic assessments in students primary language (focus on math)
- Provide immediate personalized learning (that engages family and recognizes values and culture) to address current needs of those students who are at risk of not receiving their diploma in 2008
- specific cultural competency that goes beyond food, heroes, etc.
- Promote parent involvement and provide training so that parents have the tools to support their kids
- Create Link beginning with Kindergarten, High School and through higher education
- Gather data and provide "student success" reports



Education Meeting Attendees

- Provide Instructional support for distance/on-line native language learning

A special thanks to Dr. Bergeson for participating in our meeting and for answering the questions presented by CHA Education Committee Chair Víctor Chacón, CHA Commissioners, and attendees. In addition, a heartfelt thanks to Rep. Phyllis Kenney and Rep. Upthegrove for their valuable input and for being part of the Legislator panel.

Last but not least a warm thanks to Roger Barron and Dr. Alfonso Anaya, OSPI for their contribution, participation, and for their enduring work on behalf of all our Hispanic/Latino students.

We look forward to working with Dr. Terry Bergeson in 2007 and in forming relationships that will be fruitful in our current and future education endeavors.

Education Bills That Did Not Pass

There were significant Education bills that the Commission believes would have aided in closing the achievement gap for Hispanic/Latinos. Unfortunately, many of them did not pass during the 2006 Legislative session. Nonetheless, the Commission will continue to work toward improving the education system. Some of the bills that did not pass are:

- HB 1191– This bill would have allowed those who hold non-immigrant visas to pay resident tuition at institutions of higher learning
- HB1727– This bill would have revised dropout reporting requirements to better capture the rates of youth dropping out
- HB2293– This bill would have removed the requirement of including the highest WASL scores for any given subject area on high school transcripts
- HB2423– This bill would have encouraged middle, junior, and high schools to implement a comprehensive guidance, counseling and planning program
- HB 2429– This bill would have provided for a comprehensive analysis of Washington’s assessment system. One has not been conducted since 2001 with the passage of “No Child Left Behind Act”
- HB2430– This bill would have provided diagnostic assessments for students in a variety of grades

Education and Health Bills That Gained Support in Legislature in 2006

- SHB 2733 Authorized an alternative method of assessment and an appeal process for the Certificate of Academic Achievement
- HB 2964 Created a department of early learning, recognizing the importance of a child’s early development on future emotional, social, and educational growth
- SB 6194 Requires the Department of Health to establish an ongoing multi-cultural health awareness and education program. Education programs for health care professionals are required to integrate instruction in multicultural health into the basic education preparation curriculum no later than July 1, 2008

SB6194 is of particular importance. The Commission strongly believes that in the field of education, educators must acquire experience and knowledge in working with diverse populations. This will inevitably reduce the inherent and often subtle biases that work their way into systems. We also believe that educators must be exposed to the diverse communities that they will serve. This bill is a step in the right direction for those being educated in the health care profession.

Check out our website: www.hispanic.wa.gov for additional information on pesticide, wage violation, and other health related bills that did not pass in 2006.

Making Changes Families Can Count On:

Governor Gregoire invests for World-Class Math and Science Education in Washington; Invests to Increase Access to Higher Education and Opportunities for Skill Development; Invests to Increase Rural Access to Qualified Medical Professionals; and Invests to Stabilize Spending and Save for Tomorrow

Governor Gregoire’s Math and Science Initiative will:

- Reduce class size to give students more individualized attention
- Recruit 750 additional math and science teachers
- Establish a bonus structure for nationally certified teacher
- Expand hands-on science instruction
- Integrate math, science, technology, and engineering
- Help students that are struggling with the WASL
- Increase access to math and science scholarships

Governor Gregoire will keep Washington open for business by:

- Supporting rural education networks such as WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) and RIDE (Regional Initiative in Dental Education)
- Freezing tuition at community and technical colleges for the next two years
- Providing thousands of new high-demand enrollment spaces in colleges and universities and Regional Opportunity Grants for job training
- Helping to turn research into products
- Supporting small business development

Governor Gregoire will meet needs in rural Washington communities by:

- Expanding the WWAMI rural education network to address the shortage of physicians
- Establishing the Regional Initiative in Dental Education (RIDE) at WSU Spokane’s Riverpoint
- Expanding the WSU Spokane Intercollegiate College of Nursing to include a Ph. D. program
- Freezing tuition at community and technical colleges
- Providing thousands of new high demand enrollment spaces in colleges and universities and Regional Opportunity Grants for job training

The Rainy Day Fund will help to stabilize spending and get Washington State off the rollercoaster cycle of budgeting. It will start off with 26.2 million and grow with future automatic deposits of 1% of the state’s general revenue each year; about \$150 million annually.

For additional information on these and other initiatives visit the Governor’s website: www.gov.wa.gov

2006 Diversity Business Summit

The Commission on Hispanic Affairs co-sponsored the 2006 Diversity Business Summit in conjunction with the Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, Commission on African American Affairs, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.

This year's summit objective was to promote the State's Supplier Diversity Initiative for increased diversity in contracting. It was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle on Thursday, November 9, 2006.

The State of Washington has experienced a sharp decline in the number of diverse businesses contracting with the state and other public agencies. Additionally, small businesses continue to experience difficulty in accessing the technical services and resources necessary for them to achieve economic independence.

The focus, therefore, was to:

- Inform diverse small businesses about the tools and technical resources available to enable them to successfully compete for state contracting and procurement opportunities
- Facilitate more vigorous outreach by state agencies and educational institutions to diverse small businesses



- Increase certification with The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises

Governor Gregoire delivered a keynote address and businesses that participated in this event were given an opportunity to browse through the WEBS Registration. By registering on WEBS, businesses can interact with other business owners and meet public contracting and procurement officers.

State agency representatives discussed their strategies for increasing participation in public contracting with businesses throughout Washington. In addition, firms had the opportunity to educate agency staff and the Governor's policy advisors about the barriers they face in trying to do business with the State and what should be done to eliminate these barriers.

We were pleased to see Hispanic/Latino business owners like Garza Enterprise taking advantage of this informative event.

A special thanks to Boeing, Washington Mutual, the Port of Seattle, Washington State Department of Transportation, State of Washington Department of Community Trade and Economic Development and the State of Washington General Administration for their generous financial contributions.

Left: CHA Director Uriel Iñiguez introducing panel

Right: Diversity Business Summit Attendees



Staff

Uriel Iñiguez
Executive Director

Alicia Luna
Executive Assistant



Commissioners

Yvonne Lopez Morton, Chair, Spokane

Gabriel Portugal, Vice-Chair, Pasco

Ruben Baca, Mt. Vernon

Víctor Chacón, Walla Walla

Ninfa R. Gutiérrez, Yakima

Félix L. Negrón, Olympia

Rosalba D. Pitkin, Vancouver

Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Bellevue

Rebecca Villareal, Bainbridge Island

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.