



The Cinco de Mayo Committee is interested in searching for avenues to motivate students to become more interested in science and math. The Cinco de Mayo Committee's volunteers work in conjunction with other organizations to raise interest in Mexican culture through our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration and to bring our communities together in a fun, festive and ultimately cultural enrichment event.

The Cinco de Mayo Committee and the Department of Energy are planning to bring highly respected scientists to our community for both their expertise in the science field and exemplary leadership in the Hispanic / Latino community. The program "Take Your Legacy Forward" is a one day event geared to inspire young Hispanics / Latinos to pursue their dreams and expand their horizons in the vital areas of science and technology. These respected scientists will visit our community to share both their expertise in the science field and provide exemplary leadership for our community. There will be two daytime sessions: a morning session for High School students and an afternoon session for Middle School. An evening session for parents is also part of the program. We are planning the one day program for sometime between February 21-24, 2006. Once DOE confirms the availability of the selected scientists a date will be selected. At this time we're asking for three scientists.

Ernesto Cespedes, Electrical Engineer, Idaho National Laboratory  
Nidia Gallego, Materials Scientist, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Andres Martinez, Electrical/Software Engineer, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

You are invited to send Hispanic / Latino High School and Middle School students. Research indicates that there will be an ever increasing need for scientists. This is a great opportunity to reach the Hispanic / Latino population in the Tri-Cities.

This note provides initial information for planning purposes. The logistics for the one-day event is in its planning stage. A more detailed agenda will be available in January of 2006.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Portugal, Tri-Cities Commissioner

**Staff**  
Uriel Iñiguez, Executive Director  
Alicia Luna, Executive Assistant

#### Commissioners

**Yvonne Lopez Morton**,  
Chair, Spokane  
**Gabriel Portugal**,  
Vice-Chair, Tri-Cities  
**Diana Avalos**, Education  
Committee, Vancouver  
**Ruben Baca**, Executive  
Committee, Bellingham

**Faviola Contreras**, Education  
Committee, Wenatchee  
**Lourdes Portillo Salazar**, Education  
Committee, Bellevue  
**Graciela Villanueva Lopez**, Executive  
Committee, Yakima  
**Rebecca Villareal**, Chair Economic  
Development Committee, Seattle  
**Rosa Cabrera**, Renton  
**Félix L. Negrón**, Olympia  
**Homero Tamez**, Pasco

# Happy Holidays!

## WSAME SEATTLE CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: Winter 2006

JANUARY 2006:

• **Creating Ethnic Jewelry with Kids (K-12 teachers):**  
January 21, 8:30 – 11:30

*Design and construct copper repoussé jewelry using animal shapes and other forms inspired by jewelry from China, Mexico, Africa and other world cultures. Combine pendants, beads, oxidization and antiquing techniques to create unusual ethnic bling! Bring samples and know-how back to your classrooms for a global/multicultural enrichment project!*

Advanced Registration Date: December 16, 2005.  
No refunds for cancellations after January 2, 2006.

• **Exploring/Appreciating Global Ethnic Clothes with Kids (K-12 teachers):** January 21, 12 – 3

*Explore diverse clothing worn in cultures around the world. Learn design surface techniques of decoration, clothing shape and jewelry worn by ethnic groups across the globe. Incorporate ideas and sample creations in your classroom learning activities.*

Advanced Registration Date: December 16, 2005.  
No refunds for cancellations after January 2, 2006.

• **Diversity & Conflict Management:** January 27, 9-3

*Conflict is difficult, but when adding differences in cultural values, communication styles and non-verbal behaviors, the problem escalates rapidly. In this interactive workshop you will learn to manage conflict more effectively, identify your conflict management style and practice other styles that increase your ability to manage cultural aspects of conflict with confidence.*

Advanced Registration Date: December 23, 2005.  
No refunds for cancellations after January 6, 2006.

FEBRUARY 2006:

• **Teaching in a Multicultural Setting:** February 24, 9-3

*Are you prepared to teach in a multicultural setting? Are you preparing students to function effectively in a diverse world? This information-packed workshop covers the basic goals and approaches to multicultural education, key concepts and vocabulary, and relevant laws and policies. Participants will learn about culturally-responsive teaching, and the use of authentic voices and multiple perspectives in the curriculum. Included will be a review of exemplary programs, current issues, available resources and practical strategies for crating inclusive classrooms and schools.*

Advanced Registration Date: January 23.  
No refunds for cancellations after February 6.

More information available on the CHA website

# The Washington State THE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Volume I, Issue V

Winter Newsletter 2005



## State of the State: Whitman College Takes Initiative Documenting Needs of Latinos

Director Uriel Iñiguez met with students of Whitman College to praise them for their collaborative work in a new report entitled *The State of the State for Washington Latinos*. Iñiguez met with the twelve advanced undergraduates and Professor Paul Apostolidis as they laid out their full investigative report concerning education, health, and criminal justice, with specific areas of Walla Walla County highlighted as well.

This 360 page report appears to be the first comprehensive document concerning social conditions for Washington State Latinos. Iñiguez said it was great to see the students reach out to their community. The students connected with local and state-wide professionals while compiling information that address major challenges facing the Latino communities in Washington. A public meeting was held at Whitman College on December 5, in Walla Walla, Washington to introduce *The State*. To view a copy you can find [http://www.whitman.edu/politics/state\\_of\\_the\\_state/docs/latino\\_whole.pdf](http://www.whitman.edu/politics/state_of_the_state/docs/latino_whole.pdf)



Director Iñiguez, and Commissioners (from left) Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Rosa Cabrera, Yvonne Lopez Morton, Ruben Baca, Gabriel Portugal, Félix L. Negrón at the Governor's Mansion during a recent Commissioner training.

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## Housing Needs of Farm Workers Debated

Published Friday, December 2nd, 2005, By Melissa Hoyos, Herald staff writer

Benton and Franklin counties need more inexpensive and accessible housing for migrant farmworkers, according to state and regional officials. That's why a group of County Commissioners, Latino leaders and others have decided to meet regularly to discuss ideas for living arrangements for seasonal farmworkers. On Thursday, the group discussed where more permanent housing would be useful and what attracts workers to live in campgrounds even if they are without restrooms or showers. Debra Fisher, who manages migrant worker housing services for the state, led the roundtable session. She and the group identified the months when people might have trouble finding a place to stay, such as during the asparagus, apple and cherry seasons. They also talked about how workers camp in tents or cars to save money. Camping areas include Ringold in Franklin County, 20 miles upstream from Richland on the Columbia River, which doesn't have restrooms or showers.

Stephanie Utter, who represented the Bureau of Reclamation in Ephrata, said 50 to 60 workers camp at Sootney Park in Connell. That park has restrooms but campers must pay \$15 a day to stay there. The group also talked about helping farmers who want to have worker housing that complies with water and sewer requirements. Some suggested counties apply for federal grants to build housing; however, Bobbie Littrell, executive director of Pasco and Franklin County's housing authority, said housing built with federal monies would more than likely require migrant workers to show proof of citizenship or residency.

"Those are real obstacles that have to be addressed," she said. Littrell said that housing authority tries to provide special migrant housing but often must give its units to homeless people. "Our four-plexes are full by the time workers arrive for the harvest season," she said. Littrell added that all the apartments and new homes being built in the area won't help those living on a low-income.

For more information on the next migrant worker meeting, call 1-800-771-1204.

For more information  
visit our website,  
[www.cha.wa.gov](http://www.cha.wa.gov)

Washington State Commission  
on Hispanic Affairs  
P.O. Box 40924  
Olympia, WA 98504-0924  
Phone: (800)443-0294  
(360)725-5661  
Fax: (360)586-9501  
Email: [Hispanic@cha.wa.gov](mailto:Hispanic@cha.wa.gov)

### Director's Notes

*Reflecting on 2005 captures remarkable work which I have the great honor of commending the support of individuals and teams dedicated to Washington State's Hispanic community. Many times, this impact reaches far beyond the borders of this state, and with this I thank all the state agencies, local governments, and members of the private sector for their work addressing issues of local and national concern.*

*Since appointed last June as Executive Director of the Commission, I have had the opportunity to welcome a few more members to our team. I would like to thank them for setting a continuum of strong work ethic and contributing on a multitude of levels with their time and voice. My thanks to Alicia Luna, our Executive Assistant, who joined the Commission in July. Alicia is an amazing individual who has really mapped the footwork for a lot of the successful work coming out of this agency. Our eleven Commissioners have worked considerably hard on issues concerning diversity training, healthcare accessibility, economic development, scholarship opportunities, and much more. It has been a pleasure to welcome Commissioner Rosa Cabrera and Félix L. Negrón this year. We have also been very fortunate to have had two outstanding volunteers working with us. Rogelio Burgos graduated from Thurston High School last June and began volunteering for the Commission in July. We thank Rogelio for his dedication in updating the website every week and for his great organizational skills especially in big projects like our Education Forum, Diversity Health Summit, TANF, and the Latino Youth Summit in which he demonstrated strong leadership skills with the students. Pennie Bunningsiri came to us as an intern from Evergreen State College where she is in her final year. We thank Pennie for her work with creating our Newsletters and her research on bilingual education and immigration issues. She has also been very instrumental in the planning phase of our joint Legislative Reception in which we are the lead in 2006.*

*Our goal at the Commission is to facilitate and assist our communities so that all involved are working collaboratively towards a unified agenda. This year we have moved forward strategically, uniting in this common goal of addressing issues severely hampering our community. Much of this work stems from voices of the community and I thank everyone for their support and involvement.*

*Upon being appointed as Director, Governor Gregoire gave me the priorities of addressing the Latino dropout rate and the adverse affects of the drought. Fortunately the affects of the drought were not as adverse as had been anticipated, thereby allowing me to fully concentrate on the dropout rate issue. To recap on our 2005 involvement; we have explored advancement of services for the Hispanic community through the attention of OSPI, Washington State Migrant Council, DSHS, Consulate of Mexico, Farmworker Task Force, and continually with the Office of the Governor, as well as various committees. We co-sponsored the Educational Forum with WPTA. Committee meetings were arranged in Sunnyside, Wenatchee, Aberdeen, Burlington, Ellensburg, Tacoma and Olympia. We engaged in meetings with OSPI, Terry Bergeson, DSHS, and The Department of Financial Institutions partnered with us in creating a "money transfer" radio spot in Spanish. We will continue to be aired every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on Radio KDNA - 91.9 FM.*

*I was fortunate to attend a Director's meeting in Kansas City, the first national Hispanic Commission Director's meeting of its kind ever. About 15 states were represented, covering issues such as immigration, education, and health care. The #1 issue of concern was education. This national meeting will have a follow-up Director's meeting next year in Salt Lake City, Utah. By request of the Mexican Consulate, I also traveled to Mexico to discuss the needs of Mexican nationals. I thank the Consulate of Mexico for the opportunity to make the direct connection, and I look forward to continue collaborating and working with him.*

*Next year we look forward to continue building relationships with agencies and to explore the opportunities of improving the lives of Hispanics in Washington State. It has been a privilege to have the chance to reflect on the Commission's 2005 activities and it is with great pride that I applaud the great advancements happening in our communities.*

Uriel Iniguez

From Commissioner Félix L. Negrón:

I was reading an article on the Internet and the following anonymous quote caught my attention. "Hem your blessings with thankfulness so they don't unravel." Please take time during your celebrations and busy activities to tell those around you thank you. Tell them how much you appreciate them. From my family to yours, to all my friends and colleagues, Happy Holidays and "Thank You!!!"

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

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

### WSU's High School Equivalency Program Still Accepting Applications

Mr. Ron Rosebrook would like to inform the Latino community about WSU's intensive residential GED preparation courses for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and their children. WSU's High School Equivalency Program (HEP) has begun selecting students for the session that begins January 8th. They have made some changes that will allow as many as 40 students into the program. The total number of applicants accepted has increased 25% from recent years. The program is looking for an equal number of men and women to fill their residence hall as well as an equal number of English and Spanish students. Applications are still being accepted.

WSU pays the cost of tuition, room and board on the WSU/Pullman campus, and testing. Students receive a weekly stipend of \$20/week while they are studying at WSU; therefore, the only cost to the student is transportation to the Pullman campus and back. Students usually come from throughout the Western US, but some have come from as far away as Florida. Course length varies between 5 and 9 weeks depending on the time of year and the students' ability levels.

A practice test for this session will be given January 30th or 31<sup>st</sup>. Students who score high enough will be able to take the official tests later in the week. Those passing the official test at that time will graduate around February 8th. The other students will continue studying until they take the official tests sometime between the 2nd and 7th of March. Those who pass the official tests will graduate on the 8th or 9th of March.

The next sessions begin:

January 8, 2006  
March 19, 2006

For more information, please contact Ron Rosebrook Monday through Friday between noon and 8 pm at 509-335-5121 or e-mail him at: [rosebruk@wsu.edu](mailto:rosebruk@wsu.edu).

Website: <http://www.educ.wsu.edu/hep/> has more detailed information about the program in both English and Spanish.

### Heart to Heart With HIV/AIDS

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart is a private non-profit organization that provides positive, non-judgmental support and assistance to persons living with HIV/AIDS, their partners, families, and friends who reside in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties in Washington State. On behalf of the Promotores de Salud, their main outreach program, they would like to offer their services to anyone who would be interested in having this group facilitate a presentation. Their expertise and training is specifically in the area of HIV/AIDS education and prevention. They are a particularly valuable group of individuals who are available to share their wide range of knowledge in Spanish. They provide all materials for the presentation and due to funding from Blue Mountain there is no charge to your organization/group. They request at least a two week notice prior to any proposed presentation. Please feel free to contact Erin Hatheway to arrange a presentation and/or to request more information. Blue Mountain Heart to Heart's line is 509.529.4744, and the direct Spanish line (to speak with her during office hours) is 509.529.2174. She is in the office Monday through Wednesday from 2:30-5:00pm. Erin Hatheway's e-mail: [outreach@webmail.bmi.net](mailto:outreach@webmail.bmi.net)

New Research (12.6.05)

#### Survey of Mexican Migrants, Part Three : The Economic Transition to America

This study analyzes the employment experience of migrants before they left Mexico, their transition into the U.S. labor market, and their economic status in their new jobs. It uses the Pew Hispanic Center's Survey of Mexican Migrants which interviewed 4,836 migrants most of them believed to be undocumented. The interview process was done as they were applying for identity cards that are issued by Mexican consulates. The vast majority were gainfully employed before they left for the U.S. Failure to find work at home does not seem to be the primary reason for the estimated 6.3 million undocumented migrants from Mexico that have come to the U.S.

<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=58>

Press Release

#### Pew Hispanic Center Report: Unemployment Plays Small Role in Spurring Mexican Migration to U.S.

<http://pewhispanic.org/newsroom/releases/release.php?ReleaseID=37>

#### Biologic Monitoring to Characterize Organophosphorus Pesticide Exposure Among Children and Workers: An Analysis of Recent Studies in Washington State

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES 113 (11): 1651-1657 NOV 2005

We examined findings from five organophosphorus pesticide biomonitoring studies conducted in Washington State between 1994 and 1999. We compared urinary dimethylthiophosphate (DMTP) concentrations for all study groups and composite dimethyl alkylphosphate (DMAAP) concentrations for selected groups. Children of pesticide applicators had substantially higher metabolite levels than did Seattle children and farmworker children. Metabolite levels of children living in agricultural communities were elevated during periods of crop spraying. Median DMTP concentrations for Seattle children and farmworker children did not differ significantly; however, the DMAAP concentrations were higher for Seattle children than for farmworker children. DMTP concentrations of U.S. children 6-11 years of age (1999-2000 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey population) were higher than those of Seattle children and farmworker children at the 75th, 90th, and 95th percentiles. DMTP concentrations for workers actively engaged in apple thinning were 50 times higher than DMTP concentrations for farmworkers sampled outside of peak exposure periods. We conclude that workers who have direct contact with pesticides should continue to be the focus of public health interventions and that elevated child exposures in agricultural communities may occur during active crop-spraying periods and from living with a pesticide applicator. Timing of sample collection is critical for the proper interpretation of pesticide biomarkers excreted relatively soon after exposure. We surmise that differences in dietary exposure can explain the similar exposures observed among farmworker children, children living in the Seattle metropolitan area, and children sampled nationally.