

OREGON COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Commissioners from Left to Right: Judy Parker, Gil Carrasco, Steven Bender, John Haroldson, Dagoberto Morales, Marcela Mendoza, José Ibarra, and Andrea Cano

February 2011

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Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) is pleased to share the 2010 Annual Report of the commission's activities and achievements, and a forecast for its work in 2011.

The year of 2010 was one of transitions in Oregon. We were involved with the leadership of our fellow advocacy commissions in the discussion of our priorities and common work in service to the people of Oregon, the selection of a new OACO administrator, and the move of the OACO offices to Portland. We also witnessed a boisterous campaign for the 2010 U.S. Census, and the election of a new governor and a slate of representatives to the Oregon legislature.

In addition, 2010 also commanded our attention as national issues relating to Hispanics/Latinos reverberated to the West Coast. OCHA responded to the causes and effects of Arizona's SB 1070 and the implementation of ICE's Secure Communities policy, born out of frustration with the inability of the U.S. Congress to reform current immigration laws and praxis. We also received myriad reports and studies about the remarkable achievements and regrettable inequities of our community in the areas of health, education, employment, economic development, political leadership, cultural and civic engagement.

We responded to these issues through the strategic networking afforded to our commission with the election of OCHA Chair José Ibarra as president of the United States Council on Latino Affairs. USCLA links the cognate state Hispanic commissions throughout the country.

Furthermore, in Oregon, OCHA's relationships with numerous civil and government sectors continued to build with the presentations and attendance of key elected leadership and state staff at the commission's meetings, the work sessions for pending legislation, and response and action to local community issues.

We also participated in or endorsed a good number of conferences and events organized by Oregon's Hispanic/Latino professional and community organizations that offered strategies for public policy development and solutions to issues of common concern.

Recall that the 2008 OCHA Annual Report addressed the long history of Hispanic/Latino settlement in this state since the 19th century. The 2009 OCHA Annual Report focused on the situation of the second generation, children and youth of Latino immigrants who will contribute to the prosperity and cultural diversity in the years to come, claiming that in "addressing their needs, we are actually investing in the future of all."

Our 2010 Annual Report emphasizes the diversity of the Hispanic/Latino community in Oregon, and presents a new narrative, descriptive of the multivalency in Oregon's fastest growing ethnic group and the commission's fitting responses in its outreach efforts and initiatives for new partnerships.

Hence, OCHA is positioned to enter 2011 emboldened with new energy, wisdom, and its principles of consultation and collaboration to serve as mandated by the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMISSION

MISSION AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

The mission of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs is to work toward economic, social, political and legal equality for Oregon's diverse Hispanic/Latino population.

The members serve as advocates for Hispanic/Latino youth, children, and adults, so that they may enjoy the same opportunities to succeed in school, receive equal health and social services, and be treated fairly and equally through the judicial system.

The Commission is authorized by Oregon Revised Statute 185.310 - 185.330 to:

1. Monitor existing programs and legislation designed to meet the needs of Oregon's Hispanic population.
2. Identify and research problem areas and issues affecting the Hispanic community and recommend actions to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly, including recommendations on legislative programs.
3. Maintain a liaison between the Hispanic community and government entities.
4. Encourage Hispanic representation on state boards and commissions.
5. Hold meetings to conduct its business.

In addition, the commission:

- Researches and collates data on issues pertinent to the Hispanic community
- Focuses on a statewide context – from the rural, urban, suburban, and coastal regions—to identify current programs and determine what gaps exist in social services.
- Refers people to professionals—putting seekers of specific services together with the individual or organization most capable of meeting their needs
- Monitors existing programs that affect the Latino community within state government and the private sector
- Develops and monitors legislation that affects the Hispanic/Latino community in Oregon
- Encourages Oregon residents to resolve their own local issues in a positive, productive manner, with appropriate community stakeholders.
- Seeks and identifies emerging Hispanic leadership throughout the state
- Promotes positive aspects of the Hispanic community.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The commission is comprised of 11 members, nine of which are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate for three-year terms. The President of the Oregon Senate and the Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives each appoints one Legislative member for two-year terms. All Commission members honor the OCHA By-laws and the Oregon Code of Ethics set forth in ORS 244.050.

The Commission's Standing Committees include an Executive Committee, a Program and Development Committee, and Legislative Committee. Other committees are called by the Chair as needed.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission holds regularly scheduled public meetings with stated agendas, with time included for public comment. The Commission also invites key organizational decision-makers, elected and public officials, and stake-holders to give brief presentations and updates that are of interest to the Hispanic/Latino community. In addition, Hispanic/Latinos are encouraged to speak on important and timely issues and offer queries the Commission can then bring before the Governor and state legislators. Meeting sites vary depending on agendas and community outreach efforts, or special invitations by local organizations. The Commission may hold public hearings. See Appendix A – 2010 meetings

COMMISSIONERS

The OCHA Commissioners bring professionalism, experience, and a wide range of skills in serving the people of Oregon. We cite only a sampling of our work which cumulatively for 2010 included over 500 events, plus press and media interviews, countless e-mail and telephone communications, and spontaneous conversations, with people in local communities, the public, private, business, and government sectors. In addition to venues throughout the state of Oregon, the work of the Commission bridged national and international sectors. Tens of thousands of people were touch by the work of OCHA.



Chair José Ibarra, Portland

Mr. Ibarra is an active community organizer and civic leader; he has served on the Commission since 2002 and was re-elected Chair, effective June 2010, and also heads the OCHA Executive Committee. In 2010, he was elected chair of the U.S. Council for Hispanic Affairs, and board member of the Hacienda Community Development Corporation. Mr. Ibarra is gifted in directing the governance of the commission, and bridging the relationships among civil and government sectors. As the primary spokesperson for the commission, Mr. Ibarra is the public presence of the commission in venues throughout the state.

Mr. Ibarra's Commission work included the:

- “State of Latinos in Education Conference”, National Education Association, Washington D.C.
- MECHA Forum on Immigration, Portland State University
- Oregon League of Minority Voters State Convention
- Stand Against Racism Conference sponsored by the YWCA of Greater Portland
- OHSU Latino Resource Fair
- CAUSA Portland Office Open House
- Hispanic National Bar Association Conference
- A Champion in Education (ACE) Awards for teachers in the Eugene and Springfield School Districts
- American Federation of Teachers Convention, Seattle
- Diversity and Equity forum, University of Oregon
- Groundbreaking ceremony for CAPACES Leadership Institute, Woodburn
- Key activities and conversations with the staff of the Consulate of Mexico
- Conversations with the presidents and faculty from Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, Western Oregon University, Portland State University about educational opportunities for Latino students
- Oregon Latino Agenda for Action Inaugural Summit panelist on political engagement
- Guest and interviewee on English and Spanish language newspapers, radio and television programs throughout the state



Vice Chair Andrea Cano, Portland

A social justice advocate and communications specialist, Andrea Cano has served the people in this state as the director of the Oregon Farm Worker Ministry, administrator of a national media project to bring low power-FM radio stations to local communities, and as a consultant to multicultural, ecumenical, and interfaith organizations. Most recently she was the director of the statewide Summit organized by the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action. Her international work has taken her to 30 countries including many in Latin America and the Spanish –speaking Caribbean. Originally from California, she lived in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, and Quito, Ecuador, before settling in Oregon in 1999. Ms. Cano was appointed in November 2009 by Gov. Kulongoski, and elected vice chair in 2010. She serves on the Executive Committee. Focus areas include labor, health, media, quality of life and death.

Ms. Cano's commission work in 2010 included:

- Administrative, organizational, and operational aspects of the commission
- Meetings of the Oregon Advocacy Commission, joint meetings of the State of Oregon Multicultural Health Office and the Oregon Latino Health Network, and with the Legislative Policy Director of the National Hispanic Media Coalition, Washington D.C. regarding the effects of hate speech in the media, and staff of the National Council of La Raza in Washington D.C.
- Informing the English and Spanish language press about OCHA and its commissioners
- Identifying and collating organizational and individual contact info for the basis of a virtual who's who of the Hispanic/Latino community in Oregon with former OCHA vice chair Raymond Caballero.
- Presenter at the Diversity Leaders Conference sponsored by the Non-profit Association of Oregon
- Director of the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action Inaugural Summit
- Guest on "Talking Out Loud" on OPB Radio, about the status of Latinos in Oregon and immigration issues.
- Author of a column at the invitation of The Oregonian titled "In the U.S., Oregon Hispanics are a Growing Part of the Community", published in the Sunday Opinion section in October http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2010/10/in_the_us_and_oregon_hispanics.html



Professor Steven W. Bender, Eugene

Steven Bender is the James and Ilene Hershner Professor of Law and Director of Portland Programs at the University of Oregon School of Law. He is the author of several books encompassing legal, cultural, and historical issues involving Latino/as: *Greasers and Gringos: Latinos, Law, and the American Imagination* (NYU Press 2003); *One Night in America: Robert Kennedy, César Chávez, and the Dream of Dignity* (Paradigm Publishers, 2007) (recipient of the 2008 Oregon Book Award for general nonfiction); *Everyday Law for Latino/as* (lead author) (Paradigm Publishers, 2008); *Comprende?: The Significance of Spanish in English-Only Times* (Florincanto Press, 2008); and *Tierra y Libertad: Land, Liberty, and Latino Housing* (NYU Press 2010). Professor Bender is a member of the American Law Institute, the co-president (2010-2012) of SALT (Society of American Law Teachers), a former co-chair of LatCrit (Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory, Inc.), and an appointed member of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs since September 2009.

Professor Bender's commission work in 2010 included:

- Keynote Speaker, Creating an Oregon Where Everyone Belongs, Oregon Latino Agenda for Action Inaugural Summit, Salem, Oregon
- Presentation, Immigration Law History, MEChA regional conference, Mt.Hood Community College, Gresham, Oregon
- Guest, KBOO Radio Community Grooves Program, Portland, Oregon, on topic of State of Latino Affairs in Oregon
- Guest, Oregon News TV show (University of Oregon student television) on Arizona immigration law
- Guest, Populations cable TV show (Portland Community Media), one hour debate on immigration reform, (<http://www.populationsprogram.com/>)
- Joined other OCHA representatives in meeting with the presidents of OSU and the University of Oregon to discuss the DREAM Act and other issues of concern to the Latino community.
- Worked on proposed driver's license legislation
- Prepared OCHA letters on such topics as opting out of the federal Secure Communities program.
- Arranged the scheduling and AV for all the Portland meetings of the OCHA and the joint commissions in the University of Oregon School of Law's Portland facility.



Professor Gilbert P. Carrasco, Salem

Professor Carrasco is an expert in civil rights law, immigration law and constitutional law. He is the author of three national casebooks on these subjects and numerous law review articles. He has taught as a visiting professor at Lewis & Clark, Oregon, San Diego, Seton Hall and Willamette. He also studied for extended periods at Oxford, Stanford, Hastings and George Washington.

Professor Carrasco teaches Civil Rights, Constitutional Law and Employment Discrimination. In 2008, he joined the board of directors of the Oregon chapter of the American Constitution Society. In July 2009, he was appointed to the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs by Gov. Ted Kulongoski, is a member of the OCHA Executive Committee.

Professor Carrasco's commission work this year included:

- Monitoring the Legislative Session and Agenda
- Volunteering for the paper screening for the new Administrator position.
- Participating in the United States Council on Latino Affairs, Latino Educational Success.
- Attending meetings with the presidents of University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Western Oregon University.
- Focusing on leading the Driver's License legislation within the State of Oregon.
- Meeting on a recurring basis with Attorney General of Oregon to discuss the myriad issues important to OCHA.
- Advising the commission on various legal facets of issues discussed



John Haroldson, Corvallis

The son of a Scandinavian father and a Mexican mother, John Haroldson was raised both in the Pacific Northwest and in Monterrey, Mexico, where he developed a rich bilingual and bicultural perspective. He holds the honor of serving as Oregon's first Mexican-American District Attorney in Benton County, Oregon. Mr. Haroldson has demonstrated a long-term commitment towards ensuring equal opportunity access for underrepresented individuals. He serves on the Advisory Board for the César Chávez Cultural Center at Oregon State University and as a Presenter for the Oregon State

University CAMP and 4H Programs, where he works with monolingual Spanish speaking students and resides in Corvallis with his wife Maria. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from Central Washington University and a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from the University of Oregon. He is a member of the Oregon and Washington State Bar Associations.

Mr. Haroldson's commission work this year included:

- Resourcing the commission with knowledge of criminal justice law and statutes
- Acknowledging Western Oregon University and their highest rate of graduation of Latino students and suggesting the integration between Western Oregon University and the greater Monmouth community to see if such a partnership can be replicated in other university communities.
- Monitoring the disproportionality among victims and underreporting a crime among Latinos, plus concerns about the victimization of Latinos and individuals who are victimized because they are identified as Mexican immigrants.
- Recognized as an Honorary USHLI (United States Hispanic Leadership Institute) Board Member.
- Recognized by Univision as an October 2010 *Orgullo Hispano* and featured in *Orgullo Hispano* segment.
- Worked with Chair Ibarra to host the 2010 USHLI NW Leadership Conference and College Fair. The success of these events resulted in a commitment from USHLI to return to Oregon for the 2011 USHLI NW Leadership Conference and College Fair.
- Served as keynote speaker for OSHEN (Oregon State Hispanic Employees Network), the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Oregon membership luncheon, and for OSU's 4-H Camp program.
- Served as presenter on Hate Speech, Hate Conduct, and Hate Crime at the HNBA (Hispanic National Bar Association) National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota; on Hate Speech, Hate Conduct, and Hate Crime at the 2010 USHLI NW Regional Conference, on Hate Speech, Hate Conduct, and Hate Crime for the Linn-Benton Bar Association, and on Identity Theft at the HNBA (Hispanic National Bar Association) National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Served as trial advocacy faculty for Mexican judges and lawyers as Mexico moves forward with a comprehensive reform of Mexico's criminal justice system.
- Worked with OSP and Governor's office on facilitating better communication on issues of importance to the Latino community.



Professor Marcela Mendoza, Eugene

Dr. Mendoza is the Executive Director of Centro LatinoAmericano, a community-based Latino organization in Eugene. She holds also a courtesy appointment at the University of Oregon. She brings to the Commission her strong commitment to collaborative research and community service partnerships, and the lessons learned during her previous research and advocacy work with Latino immigrants in Memphis, Tennessee. Her daily work at Centro LatinoAmericano is focused on empowering the Latino community in Lane County. Her most recent book co-authored with former OCHA Commissioner Erlinda Gonzales-Berry on *Mexicanos in Oregon* was published and available through Oregon State University Press. Dr. Mendoza's term started in July 2009 and is a member of the OCHA Executive Committee.

Dr. Mendoza's commission work this year included:

- Representing OCHA on the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force from August 2009 to September 2010

- Organizing OCHA's June meeting in the Eugene Public Library, hosted by the Centro Latino Americano
- Meeting with Chief Cairns of the City of Eugene Police Department and Sergeant Doug Mozan, also in the company of Juan Carlos Valle, Centro Latino Americano President of the Board of Directors, about implementation of the Secure Communities initiative in the City of Eugene, and safety/policing issues affecting the Latino population in the city.



Dagoberto Morales-Duran, Medford

Mr. Morales has worked very actively as a volunteer in the Hispanic community for the past 11 years. He believes that he can effectively represent the needs and interests of Hispanics in Southern Oregon. He has lived in Medford for the past 15 years and has seen the growth and diversification of the population in the region.

Mr. Morales' commission work this year included:

- Facilitating communication between community representatives of the Dalles regarding what they believed were criminal charges unjustly issued, the State of Oregon Attorney General's Office, municipal and law enforcement officials in The Dalles, all of which may lead to a 2011 meeting of the commission in The Dalles
- Sought clarification regarding workman's compensation
- Participated in the Latino Education Summit
- A OHTLI former recipient, spoke at the Mexican Consulate OHTLI Awards recognizing the contributions of Mexican immigrants to the U.S. culture and economy.



Judith A. Parker, Portland

An attorney specializing in professional liability defense and labor and employment law, Ms. Parker is a member of the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association. Her professional memberships also include the Oregon State Bar and the Hispanic National Bar Association. Ms. Parker joined Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP in January 2010. Previously she was an associate at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt for three years. Prior to her legal career, Ms. Parker worked for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) as a district adjudication officer. Before that, she was an immigration caseworker and congressional speechwriter for former U.S. Representative Darlene Hooley (D-Oregon, Fifth District).

Ms. Parker's commission work this year included:

- Resourcing the commission with knowledge of immigration law and statutes
- Providing critical legal analysis of the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Oregon State Police and Ice regarding the implementation of the Secure Communities policy throughout the state by 2013
- Representing the commission on the OACO Policy Committee
- Attending the City of Portland session on response to Arizona's SB 1070
- Drafting an OCHA news release
- Participating in events of the Consulate of Mexico, the Hispanic National Bar Association
- Reviewed proposals for new legislation
- Modified and followed up on correspondence with the Multnomah County Commission

FORMER COMMISSIONERS WHO SERVED DURING 2010

Raymond Caballero, Portland

Mr. Caballero was first appointed to OCHA in May 2008, and served as vice chair and head of the Program Committee. Under his tenure, outreach to the Oregon community was enhanced greatly, various government and civic leaders were invited to commission meeting to address OCHA. His gracious service to OCHA was also noted for the intentionality to identify Hispanic/Latino women and men for special recognition by the commission. He resigned in April 2010.

Mr. Caballero's commission work this year included:

- Assisting in the formation of OCHA meeting agendas
- Managing the public relations and contacts with key Oregon State offices and agencies, legislative representatives and leadership from government and civil sectors
- Networking with Latino organizations, community leaders, and individuals throughout the state
- Producing the content and certificates to honor Oregon's Hispanic/Latino recipients of achievement
- Sharing his wisdom and acting with seasoned diplomacy in all venues of activity for OCHA

David Molina, Portland

Mr. Molina was appointed Commissioner on April 10, 2006 and was reappointed a second 3-year term in 2009. Commissioner Molina served as Vice Chair from July 1, 2008 to July 16, 2009. He was a member of the development committee and assisted in the development of the OCHA website and social media of the commission. In 2004, Commissioner Molina received his BA in Political Science and an Army Officer Commission from Oregon State University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, GA. He is a social entrepreneur founder and CEO for Bilingual Hire. He resigned in September 2010.

Mr. Molina's commission work this year focused on:

- Approaching Spanish language media to air public service announcements
- Creating and updating the OCHA FaceBook page
- Serving as liaison with various state agencies and departments
- Representing the OCHA in various meetings with community leaders and activities

OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES



Senator Chip Shields - D-Portland, District 22

Chip has served in the Oregon House and Senate since 2005 where he focuses on living-wage jobs, health care, schools and equality. In the 2009 session, as Co-Chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee of Ways & Means, he protected services for domestic violence survivors, funding for drug and alcohol treatment, and negotiated and passed a bill that invests \$1.5 million in pre-apprenticeship training for women and people of color.



Representative Ben Cannon- D-Portland, District 46

A teacher and community activist, Ben was re-elected to a second term in the Oregon House in November, 2008. He is chair of the Environment and Water Committee. As a volunteer and co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Bus Project, Ben has traveled to districts around the state, educating voters about state government and supporting progressive candidates for the Legislature.

COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Convened a series of meetings and conversations with representatives of the Oregon State Police and the Governor's Office about the implications of the Memorandum of Agreement¹ signed by ICE and the Oregon State Police that rolls out county by county the Secure Communities policy.
- Convened a series of meetings and conversations with representatives of the State Legislature and policy directors regarding the driver license restrictions.
- Joined partners in discreet and public meetings regarding immigration law reform with ICE officials, Ali Norani, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum, a vast coalition of over 1000 labor, business, faith, civil rights and community organizations, among others.
- Catalyzed activities that led to the Portland City Council unanimous vote to oppose the controversial Arizona state law that allows police to check the immigration status of anyone suspected of being in the country illegally. The Portland resolution also allows the city attorney to assist in legal efforts by the mayors of Flagstaff and Tucson to overturn the Arizona law. The resolution also allows city lobbyists to push for stronger Oregon laws against racial profiling.



Students at Latino Education Summit

ENDORSEMENTS

- House Bill 2352 which requires preparation of racial and ethnic impact statement when legislation or state measure may affect racial composition of criminal offender population and when State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision considers rules pertaining to parole or post-prison supervision. Requires inclusion of statement in voters pamphlet and on ballot.
- Senate Bill 1028 which Directs Department of Corrections to determine residency status of inmates in custody of department for purposes of legislative and congressional redistricting. Directs Legislative Assembly or Secretary of State, as applicable, to adjust United States Census Bureau data to reflect permanent residence status of inmates before beginning redistricting process. Directs Legislative Assembly or Secretary of State, for purposes of redistricting, to consider resident inmate at location of permanent residence and not at location of facility in which inmate is physically located. -
- DREAM ACT - Senator Jeff Merkley is a sponsor of the national DREAM act. Senator Ron Wyden is also supportive.
- United States Hispanic Leadership Conference - Portland, OR , October 2010
- Oregon Latino Agenda for Action Inaugural Summit- Salem OR, October 2010

¹ http://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/secure_communities-moa/r_oregon_12-28-09.pdf

CO-SPONSORSHIPS

- Worker's Right Forum, with PCUN and the State of Oregon BOLI
- Community Forum on immigration policies organized by Homeland Security and CAUSA
- The Equity and Accountability Forum with candidates for governor. Metro president, Multnomah County Commissioner and the Portland City Council, with the African American Alliance, African Women's Coalition, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Asian Education Foundation of Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Asian Reporter Foundation, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Delta Sigma Theta, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Iraqi Society of Oregon, Just Portland, Latino Network, Native American Youth and Family Center, Oregon Commission for Black Affairs, Oregon Commission for Women, Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs, Oregon Women Lawyers, Urban League of Portland, Young Professionals of Urban League

NEWS RELEASES

- *OCHA honors four Oregon Latinos*, February 25, 2010
- *Hispanic Commission Mourns Loss of State Treasurer Ben Westlund*, March 8, 2010
- *Jose Ibarra Elected Chair of the US Council on Latino Affairs*
- *Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs Elects New Slate of Officers*, José Ibarra as chair, Andrea Cano, as vice chair, commends the work of OCHA commissioner Raymond Caballero, April 22, 2010
- *Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs Denounces Arizona Law as "Legalized Discrimination"*
- *OCHA Calls on Congress to Act with Urgency on Immigration Reform*, April 25, 2010
- *The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs Announces the New Commissioner Appointments of Ms. Judith Parker and Mr. John Haroldson*, May 27, 2010
- *The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs Commends the U.S. Department of Justice for Taking Legal Action Against Arizona's SB 1070*, July 8, 2010



*Attorney James Davis, Chair José Ibarra,
Representative David Komp, and David Molina*

HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS BY OCHA

- **Francisca Leyva-Johnson, Lane County.** Recognized former OCHA Chair for her leadership of the commission during difficult times. She sustained OCHA both emotionally and physically and the current commission is a testament to her resolve
- **Diego F. Castellanoz, Nyssa, Malheur County.** Mr. Castellanoz is a former Nyssa mayor and current member of the Nyssa City Council and the Nyssa School Board. He is believed to be the only Latino to have been mayor of an Oregon city. Mr. Castellanoz has been active for years in local and state-wide activities and is a former member of the Commission. He was honored for decades of spirited community work, especially for the area's Latino population.
- **Genoveva (Eva) Castellanoz, Nyssa, Malheur County.** Ms. Castellanoz, wife of Teodoro Castellanoz and mother of nine children, including fellow honoree Diego, was honored for her work as a folk artist and for her pro bono work of healing with indigenous Mexican remedies and practices. For years she has made ceremonial floral crowns that are used in traditional ceremonies for which she received a 1989 National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has been recognized by other arts and historical organizations, and her life has been documented in various publications as well as in a new biography, *Remedios*, authored by Lewis and Clark University academic Joanne B. Mulcahy.
- **Annabelle Jaramillo, Benton County.** Ms. Jaramillo, an incumbent Benton County Commissioner, has served on many local and state-wide public, political and civic boards and commissions. She was honored for her record of sustained community activity.
- **Miguel A. Salinas, West Linn, Clackamas County.** Mr. Salinas is a former school principal, school administrator and educational advocate for Latino students. Now retired, he continues his interest in education. With his wife, Lydia, he has been very active for several years in documenting the history of a group of Latino farm workers who migrated after World War II from South Texas to the Woodburn-St. Paul area. Mr. Salinas has taken oral histories of many of those individuals and formed an organization for the group, "Pioneros de Oregon." He was honored for his sustained community service.
- **Andre Ererra**, the WWII Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Arizona. Mexico also honored him with its highest military award. Mr. Ererra was undocumented at the time of his enlistment and became a hero in France in his leadership in capturing two German units. Because his service is an example of the high achievement and sacrifice, the OCHA honored him post-humously.
- **Western Oregon University and President John P. Minahan** were recipients of OCHA letters of appreciation to for their ongoing commitment to Latino students and their families. Two members of the staff at WOU accepted the letter and discussed their efforts in hiring bilingual/bi-cultural staff and professors. They have doubled the numbers of Latino students at WOU and noted that these students are among their most dedicated learners.
- **University of Oregon for building a Latino Student Resource Team** was recognized by OCHA. Two members of the University accepted the letter and reported on UofO inclusionary work with Latino Students. This involves working with Spanish speaking parents helping them understand the SAT and other tests involved in matriculation to college.

STATUS OF OREGON'S HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITY

Oregon is now among twenty one other states where the Hispanic/Latino community is the largest ethnic group.² These states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

Statistics from the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis (OOEA) indicate that the Hispanic/Latino population in this state is 428,469 as of July 1, 2009, constituting 11.2 percent of the state's total population. The number of Hispanic origin individuals in Oregon was 65,847 in 1980 and 112,707 in 1990 (U.S. Census Bureau). Furthermore the Hispanic origin population of Oregon increased 56 percent from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (U.S. Census).

Although there are Latino residents in all regions of the state, the Hispanic/Latino population is more numerous in the counties that constitute the Portland metropolitan area. Latinos are distributed throughout the Portland MSA with especially high concentrations in North/Northeast Portland, Outer East Portland, Gresham/East Multnomah County, Tigard/Tualatin/Wilsonville, Hillsboro/Western Washington County, and East and Central Beaverton.

For these sub-regional analysis, the **Institute of Metropolitan Studies at Portland State University** use the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of the American Community Survey (ACS), a subset of individual and household survey responses collected by the ACS. Because it shows proportions of large populations, it is more accurate than other estimates.

The **Institute of Metropolitan Studies at PSU** also bases its geographical analysis on Public Use Microsample Areas (PUMA), which are census-designated areas that each contain a population of about 100,000 people and do not overlap. PUMAs give more fine-grained information on population characteristics than city or county level geographies. See Tables 1-3 below.



Groundbreaking for CAPACES Leadership Institute in Woodburn



Equity and Accountability Candidates Forum

² <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/>

Table 1: Hispanic Population in the Portland-Vancouver MSA (%), 2005-2007

Geographical Area	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
North/Northeast Portland	85.4%	14.6%
Outer East Portland	88.4%	11.6%
Southeast Portland	91.1%	8.9%
West Portland	96.3%	3.7%
Central East Portland	94.5%	5.5%
Gresham/East Multnomah County	84.1%	15.9%
East Clackamas County	95.0%	5.0%
Northwest Clackamas County	91.9%	8.1%
West Clackamas County	93.5%	6.5%
Tigard/Tualatin/Wilsonville	87.9%	12.1%
Hillsboro/Western Washington County	79.9%	20.1%
Aloha/West Beaverton	90.9%	9.1%
East and Central Beaverton	87.9%	12.1%
North Clark County	95.0%	5.0%
East Clark County	96.7%	3.3%
Vancouver	90.8%	9.2%
Total Portland-Vancouver MSA	90.4%	9.7%

Table 2: Persons Speaking Various Languages in the Portland-Vancouver MSA (%), 2005-2007

Geographical Area	English	Spanish	Other Indo-European language	Asian or Pacific Islander	Other
North/Northeast Portland	80.8%	11.7%	4.3%	1.9%	1.3%
Outer East Portland	76.8%	8.8%	7.0%	7.0%	0.4%
Southeast Portland	80.6%	7.1%	5.5%	5.9%	0.9%
West Portland	85.5%	4.5%	5.4%	3.4%	1.1%
Central East Portland	85.3%	4.5%	5.4%	3.6%	1.3%
Gresham/East Multnomah County	80.7%	10.2%	4.0%	4.2%	1.0%
East Clackamas County	90.7%	4.8%	3.1%	1.4%	0.1%
Northwest Clackamas County	86.0%	6.7%	3.7%	3.2%	0.4%
West Clackamas County	86.8%	5.5%	4.2%	3.3%	0.3%
Tigard/Tualatin/Wilsonville	82.9%	8.8%	4.1%	3.3%	1.0%
Hillsboro/Western Washington County	78.5%	14.6%	2.2%	4.4%	0.3%
Aloha/West Beaverton	74.4%	6.5%	7.3%	10.6%	1.3%
East and Central Beaverton	81.1%	8.3%	4.4%	5.7%	0.6%
North Clark County	84.4%	4.4%	6.5%	4.2%	0.5%
East Clark County	89.6%	2.6%	4.8%	2.4%	0.6%
Vancouver	84.3%	6.4%	5.6%	3.4%	0.3%
Total Portland-Vancouver MSA	83.0%	7.3%	4.8%	4.2%	0.7%

Note: The Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is a census-designated area.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2005-2007 PUMS data tabulated by Webb Sprague, Emily Picha, Sheila Martin, *Population Characteristics within the Portland-Vancouver MSA* Institute of Metropolitan Studies, PSU, May 2010.

Table 3: Characteristics of the Hispanic Population in Oregon, 2008

	Entire OR Population	HISPANICS		
		All	Native born	Foreign born
Total	3,790	417	248	169
Gender				
Male	1,885	229	128	101
Female	1,905	188	120	67
Age				
Median (<i>in years</i>)	37	25	13	34
Age Groups				
Younger than 5	248	56	55	1
5-17	627	110	95	15
18-29	621	86	40	46
30-39	513	73	21	52
40-49	523	50	19	31
50-64	756	31	12	19
65 and older	503	12	8	4
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)				
Married	1,555	131	39	91
Never married	882	105	58	48
Divorced/separated/widowed	626	37	20	18
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)				
Total number of women	742	91	42	48
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	56	10	2	7
Unmarried women ² who had a birth in the past 12 months	19	3	1	2
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)				
K-12	608	104	89	***
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)				
Less than high school diploma	297	95	16	79
High school diploma or equivalent	655	46	18	28
Some college	903	44	28	17
Bachelor's degree or more	722	24	15	9
Median Annual Personal Earnings (<i>in dollars</i>)				
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$27,497	\$18,331	\$18,331	\$18,331
Full-time, year-round workers	\$39,208	\$24,645	\$30,552	\$20,368
Persons in Poverty³				
Younger than 18	153	57	50	7
18-64	308	50	16	33
65 and older	42	1	1	1
Health Insurance				
Insured, all ages	3,153	269	193	76
Uninsured, all ages	637	148	55	93
Insured, younger than 18	765	132	124	***
Uninsured, younger than 18	109	33	25	***
Persons in Households by Type of Household⁴				
In family households	3,005	369	223	146
In married-couple households	2,293	243	141	102
In non-family households	703	42	22	20
Citizenship				
Citizen	3,558	276	248	27
Non-citizen	232	141	---	141

Language (ages 5 and older)				
Speaks only English at home	3,047	103	96	7
Does not speak only English at home	495	259	98	161
Speaks English very well	273	115	75	40
Speaks English less than very well	221	144	22	121
Hispanic Origin				
Mexican	---	352	208	144
Central American	---	18	7	11
South American	---	11	4	7
Caribbean	---	12	9	3
Other Hispanic	---	25	21	4
Year of Entry (foreign-born Hispanics only)				
Before 1990	---	---	---	47
1990 to 1999	---	---	---	57
2000 or later	---	---	---	65

Note: Numbers mean thousands, unless otherwise noted

Source: U.S. Census information tabulated by the Pew Hispanic Center (available at <http://pewhispanic.org/states/?stateid=OR>)



Community Forum on Worker's Rights co-sponsored by OCHA, PCUN, and BOLI in Woodburn

Other related statistics about the Hispanic/Latino population in Oregon in 2007-2008:

- **84%** The percentage of Hispanic origin people in Oregon of Mexican descent in 2008, compared to 66% in the U.S. (U. S. Census)
- **23%** Percentage of children in Oregon younger than 5 who are Hispanic in 2009. Hispanics comprised 25 percent of all children younger than 18 (U.S. Census)
- **23.9 years** Median age of Oregon's Hispanic population in 2009. Median age for Oregon's whole population is 38.1 years in the same year (U.S. Census).
- **116** Number of Hispanic males in 2009 per every 100 Hispanic females. It shows an immigrant population more male than female, in contrast to the overall Oregon population, with 98 males per every 100 females (U.S. Census).

Oregon Counties

- **55%** - Percentage of Oregon's Hispanic-origin population in 2009 who live in just three counties: Washington, Multnomah, and Marion. Washington County is home to 19.2 percent of all Hispanics, 18.4 percent of all Hispanics live in Multnomah County, and with 17.2 percent of all Hispanics live in Marion County (U.S. Census).
- **32%** - Percentage of Hispanic-origin people in Morrow County's population – the highest in the state, followed by Malheur County with 28.4 percent, and Hood River County with 27.4 percent. On the other extreme, Baker, Union, Gilliam, Grant, and Wallowa counties each had less than 4 percent Hispanic-origin individuals in their population (U.S. Census)

Hispanic-Owned Businesses

- **11,332** - The number of Hispanic-own businesses in Oregon in 2007, up 78.2 percent from 2002 (U.S. Census,

preliminary estimates from the Survey of Business Owners).

- **\$1.667 billion** - Receipts generated by Oregon's Hispanic-own businesses in 2007, up 17.7 percent from 2002 (U.S. Census, preliminary estimates from the Survey of Business Owners).
- **3.3%** - The percentage of Oregon's businesses that was Hispanic-owned in 2007 (U.S. Census, preliminary estimates from the Survey of Business Owners).

Families and Children

- **78,000** - The number of Hispanic family households in Oregon in 2008. Of these households, 72 percent included children younger than 18. In comparison, 47 percent of all Oregon's family households included children younger than 18 (U.S. Census).

Spanish Language

- **293,976** - The number of Oregon residents older than 5 years of age who speak Spanish at home in 2008. This number represents 70 percent of all Hispanic origin population in Oregon; those who *hablan español* constitute 8.3 percent of Oregon residents (U.S. Census).
- **45%** - Percent of Oregon's Hispanic origin residents older than 5 years in 2008 who speak Spanish at home and also speak English "very well" (U.S. Census).

Income and Poverty

- **\$37,300** - The median income of Oregon's Hispanic households in 2008, compared to \$50,169 for the entire population. Hispanic household income was down 3.7 percent from the previous year after adjusting for inflation (U.S. Census).
- **26.1%** - The poverty rate among Hispanics in Oregon in 2008, up from 23.6 percent in 2007 (U.S. Census).

Education

- **57%** - The percentage of Oregon Hispanics 25 and older with high school education in 2008, compared to 88.6 percent for the whole population (U.S. Census).
- **11%** - The percentage of Oregon's Hispanic population 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2008, in comparison to 28.1 percent of the total Oregon population (U.S. Census).
- **23,532** - The number of Oregon Hispanics 25 and older who have at least a bachelor's degree in 2008 (U.S. Census).
- **5%** - Percentage of students in Oregon's four-year colleges in October 2009 who are Hispanic (Oregon University System, Office of Institutional Research).
- **20%** - Percentage of elementary and high school students in Oregon that is Hispanic on October 1, 2009 (Oregon Department of Education).

Birth

- **21%** - Percentage of all births in Oregon to Hispanic mothers in 2007 (Oregon Center for Health Statistics).
- **46%** - Percent of the foreign-born population that is Hispanic in 2008 in Oregon (U.S. Census).

Jobs

- **75%** - Percentage of Oregon Hispanics 16 years and older who are in the civilian labor force in 2008, compared to 65.3 percent all population 16 years and over (U.S. Census).
- **15%** - The percentage of Oregon's civilian employed Hispanics 16 years and older who work in management, professional and related occupations in 2008, in comparison to 34.5 percent in overall population. Some 17 percent of Hispanics worked in production, transportation and

material moving occupations; 13.2 percent worked in construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations; and approximately 27 percent work in service occupations (U.S. Census).

Serving Our Country

- **7,959** - The number of Oregon's Hispanics or Latinos 18 years and older in 2007 who are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).



Chair José Ibarra talks about the Dream Act on KBOO's Tonali Show

OACO JOINT COMMITTEE WORK

OCHA joins Oregon Advocacy Commissions in serving the people of Oregon, and in affirming the OAC's six Strategic Priority Areas:

- 1) Poverty/employment, income disparity, workers at 150% or more of poverty, unemployment,
- 2) Education/Careers, ready to learn initiatives, k-12 education, post-secondary, skills development,
- 3) Civic engagement/isolation, volunteering, voting and a feeling of community,
- 4) Health/health access, teen pregnancy, prenatal care, infant mortality, immunizations, HIV diagnosis, adult non-smokers, preventable death, perceived health status, affordable child care, available child care,
- 5) Justice/safety/policing, overall crime, juvenile arrests, students carrying weapons, adult and juvenile recidivism, and
- 6) Stable families, poverty, health insurance, homelessness, child support, domestic violence, and hunger.

In January 2011 OACO added three Masters Internships with Public Policy students from the PSU Hatfield School of Government to study models to improve disparities in key areas. The Commissions are building partnerships with leading local and statewide groups, including Urban League of Portland, APANO, the Coalition of Communities of Color, CAUSA, Oregon Latino Agenda for Action, and Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance.

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FORECAST FOR 2011

OCHA Governance – The Commission will be naming an Advisory Committee to engage the participation, experience, and wisdom of Hispanic/Latino leadership from throughout the state. The Commission has named a Fundraising Committee with Commissioners Judy Parker, Steve Bender, and Andrea Cano to resource its work and to support specific activities, like the proposed Cesar Chavez mural in Portland. The OACO staff will help with list management, e-mailing, printing, taking and writing checks and financial reporting for the fundraiser. The work of organizing and hosting the fundraiser is the work of the Commissions.

OCHA Legislative Priorities - Driver's License legislation has been re-worked by legislative council and is ready for the next step in the process. Plans are still on-going to introduce this bill.

OCHA Commissioners' Foci for 2011 – Our areas of work are informed by our constituents throughout the state. One key event which gathered 200 Hispanic leaders and their allies in Salem, Oregon – the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action surfaced 12 issues and 6 priorities.

1. Increase Latino presence in all institutional leadership.
2. Create workgroup for critical Latino mental health issues.
3. Conduct media campaign to educate Latinos about serious health issues relevant to our community.
4. Support the Dream Act for undocumented students to attend college.
5. Use political pressure and even litigation to improve education for all Latino students in Oregon.
6. Foster Latino parent involvement in all parts of the education of their children.
7. Promote mentoring programs between seasoned Latinos and our emerging Latino young people.
8. Promote entrepreneurship with technical assistance and non-traditional financing.
9. Find business niches for Latinos to participate in progressive green economy and social justice.
10. Use extensive media to bring international attention to immigration issue as a Human Rights issue.
11. Educate non-Latinos about tremendously negative affect anti-immigrant issues are having upon their entire communities and lives.
12. Put pressure on legislators to give a driver's license to every undocumented tax- paying resident based on the constitutionality of Taxation with Representation. Match ITIN Numbers to each license.

Hence, we will focus our effort to:

1. Continue educating the Hispanic/Latino community about OCHA, and helping the community become more aware of local, state, and federal issues. Monitoring criminal, juvenile, and environmental justice issues.
2. Scrutinizing immigration enforcement practices and violations.
3. Updating the vocabulary and narratives about the Hispanic/Latino community.
4. Affirming effective solutions for enhancing formal and community education on all levels.
5. Establishing a new relationship with new Governor, obtain support from the new administration on OCHA issues and continued support for legislators who support meaningful issues.
6. Additional hearings about Latino children currently on Food Stamps who may have gotten lost in the system.

APPENDIX A

2010 MEETINGS

January 21, 2010 Tribal Treaty Room, State Capitol, Salem

- Speakers: included Thomas Potiowsky Phd (State Economist for the State of Oregon) about the economic and revenue forecast, Daniel Santos (Policy Adviser for the Office of the Governor) on the 2010 Legislative Session, Lois Lindsay Davis (Chief of Staff and Diversity Point-Person at Portland State University), Gustavo Balderas (Assistant Superintendent of the Hillsboro School District) about “Meeting the Equity Challenge”, **Walt Blomberg (Superintendent, Woodburn School District) about Woodburn Schools;** also, Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney, and Oregon House Speaker Dave Hunt.
- Via conference call from Washington D.C.: Charles Kamasaki (Exec. Vice President, Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation, National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and Clarissa Martinez, (Director of Immigration and National Campaigns) on the status of immigration legislation and discussion on other issues important to the Latino community

April 21, 2010 Tribal Treaty Room, State Capitol, Salem

- Speakers: Xavier Botana (PPS), Barbara Dudley (Adjunct Professor, PSU Hatfield School of Government) about Oregon Working Families, Diana Fernandez (PPS-ESL) with an update on Portland Public Schools, Ted Fertik (OR Working Families), Miguel Salinas (Retired Educator), William R. Long, PhD (Oregonians for Alternatives to Death Penalty –ODAP), Clarence Pugh (OADP), , Ron Steiner (OADP)
- Guests: Art Ayre (State of Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services), Cruz Robles Garcia (community member), Carmen Gonzalez, Juan Guzman (Retired Educator), Caren Ann Jackson (OADP), Alex Jara (We The People), Dave Martinez (Retired PSU), Adriana Ortega (State of Oregon BOLI), Ron Petrie (Retired PSU), Carol Suzuki (Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs), Mariano Vega (Retired UPRR), Marie Luz Vega (community member), Gary West (We The People).

June 3, 2010 Eugene Public Library, Eugene

The Commission was welcomed by Juan Carlos Valle, President of the Board, Centro Latino Americano, a community agency in Eugene. Juan Carlos then introduced Kitty Piercy, Mayor of Eugene. Mayor Piercy spoke of her pride at being able to host OCHA and indicated she would do whatever was necessary to assist the commission in any manner she could. Andrea Ortiz, Eugene City Counselor also welcomed OCHA.

- Speakers: Juan Carlos Valle about Centro Latino Americano’s mission and activities with a reference to the center’s website: www.centrolatinoamericano.org; Linda Hamilton, United Coalition of Color what was formed to address social injustices in the minority community, Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Oregon Toxics Alliance, website: www.oregontoxics.org
- Via teleconference from Washington DC: Maria Cardona of the Dewey Square Group and Clarissa Martinez de Castro, Director, Immigration and National Campaigns, National Council of La Raza
- Via teleconference from Portland, OR: Raymond Caballero, former vice president of OCHA regarding immigration reform and the Arizona situation.
- Guests: Artemio Paz, member of the Oregon School Board of Education

August 26, 2010 University of Oregon, Portland

- Speakers: Consuelo Saragoza (Co-Chair of the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action), Cameron Smith (Governor’s Office), David Smith (Univision) Ursula Rojas Weiser (Consulado de Mexico, and David Yandell (Oregon State Police)

- Guests: Oswalda Bernal (Univision), Mary Alecia Briggs (Sen. Chip Shields office), Angel Dorantes (University of Oregon), Tony DeFalco, Ricardo Gloria (Oregon National Guard), Emilio Hernando (University of Oregon), Natalie Patrick-Knox (CAUSA), David McDonald (Western Oregon University), Suzan Miller (Univision), Alberto Moreno (Dept. of Human Services), Kent Neely (Western Oregon University), Adriana Ortega (Bureau of Labor and Industries), Chris Splitt (Rep. Ben Cannon's office)

September 20, 2010 Teleconference Meeting

- Approved the OCHA resolution opposing the death penalty in Oregon
- Motion to approve resolution to honor Silvestre Hererra and his contribution to Oregon and the Latino community –
- Driver License – Shields/Molina
- The Legislative Committee has been meeting over past several months. CAUSA has taken the lead on many of the areas and partnership is growing among community organizations “One United Voice – Una Voz Unida” is the theme. Latino leadership from throughout the state catalyze and coordinate statewide efforts promoting the social and economic well-being, political capacity, and civic leadership of the Latino community in Oregon.

October 27, 2010 University of Oregon, Portland

- Approved changes to the OCHA bylaws and reviewed the terms of appointments of current commissioners and the desire to seek candidates to fill vacancies.
- Received a report from OACO Administrator Lucy Baker about the joint OACO legislator letter to the current Governor and after the election to the Governor-Elect. The OACO Policy Committee meeting in November to draft and review personnel policies and Commission policies. The launch of Commission listservs and training by the State Librarian for Commissioners on Data bases.
- There was also discussion of the financial report for OCHA, donations and fundraising possibilities, and the placement in Spring 2011 of interns from such institutions as PSU Hatfield School of Government and the Graduate School of Education. Commissioners suggested that Laurel Singer at the College of Urban Affairs at PSU should be contacted.
- The Governor's Office Report was given by Danny Santos, Senior Policy Advisor for the Governor's Office, which focused primarily on budget issues and mentioned that a transition team member from the new administration would be contacting OCHA. The Legislative Liaison report an update on proposed legislation was given by Maria Alecia on behalf of Sen. Chip Shields who was ill.

APPENDIX B

SAMPLING OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES BY OCHA COMMISSIONERS



This important volume sheds new light on the stories and lives of *mexicanos* in Oregon: why migrants come to Oregon fields, construction sites, and warehouses, what their experiences are when they settle here, and how they adapt to life in the United States.

Drawing from the disciplines of history, anthropology, sociology, gender and cultural studies, building on the work of earlier scholars, and providing new and original research, Gonzalez-Berry and Mendoza present a comprehensive view of the experiences of the Mexican-origin population in Oregon.

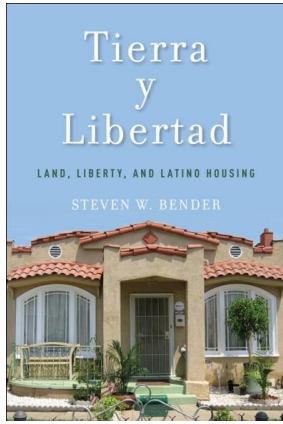
The number of Latinos residing in Oregon has increased dramatically in the last two decades, leading to increased diversity across the state, particularly visible in the public school system, in the agricultural fields, and in the service occupations. This, however, is not a new phenomenon. There has been a settled Mexican-origin population in Oregon since the mid-nineteenth century.

Mexicanos in Oregon explores this history of migration and settlement of *mexicanos*, highlighting their sustained practices of community building, their struggles for integration, and their contributions to the economic and cultural life of the state. Using archival records, primary and secondary scholarly works, demographic statistics, and personal testimonies, Gonzales-Berry and Mendoza create a picture of the economic, political, social, and cultural conditions that have shaped the lives of *mexicanos*. The blend of scholarly research and individual stories reflect the very human dimension and complex forces that make up the whole story of Mexican migration and settlement in Oregon.

Mexicanos in Oregon is a major contribution to the general understanding and appreciation of the stories and lives of Mexican-origin immigrants. It is a vital resource for immigration scholars, historians, students, and for all Oregonians.

Co-author Erlinda Gonzales-Berry served as professor and Chair in the Department of Ethnic Studies at Oregon State University. She is currently Executive Director of Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County. She earned a PhD in Romance Languages from University of New Mexico. She co-authored *The Contested Homeland: A Chicano History of New Mexico* and edited *Pasó por Aquí: The Literary Heritage of New Mexico*. She is a former member of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Co-author Marcela Mendoza was born in Argentina. She has been an instructor at Oregon State University and is currently Interim Executive Director, Centro LatinoAmericano. She earned a PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from University of Iowa. Her articles and chapters on immigration have been published widely, including in the *Oregon Review of International Law*, *The Journal of the Association of Mexican American Educators*, *The Journal of Economic Issues*, and *The Latino Research Review*. Dr. Mendoza is a current member of Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs.



"Steven Bender's *Tierra y Libertad* is interesting, his research is great, and the information is long overdue." Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers

One of the quintessential goals of the American Dream is to own land and a home, a place to raise one's family and prove one's prosperity. Particularly for immigrant families, home ownership is a way to assimilate into American culture and community.

However, Latinos, who make up the country's largest minority population, have largely been unable to gain this level of inclusion. Instead, they are forced to cling to the fringes of property rights and ownership through overcrowded rentals, transitory living arrangements, and, at best, home acquisitions through subprime lenders.

In ***Tierra y Libertad***, Steven W. Bender traces the history of Latinos' struggle for adequate housing opportunities, from the nineteenth century to today's anti-immigrant policies and national mortgage crisis. Spanning southwest to northeast, rural to urban, Bender analyzes the legal hurdles that prevent better housing opportunities and offers ways to approach sweeping legal reform. *Tierra y Libertad* combines historical, cultural, legal, and personal perspectives to document the Latino community's ongoing struggle to make America home.



In the U.S. and Oregon, Hispanics are a growing part of the community

Published: Saturday, October 16, 2010, 1:06 PM



The Oregonian Guest Columnist: Andrea Cano

The first time I experienced the rolling country roads and the misty, pine-scented mountain highways of Oregon, was in the early 1970s en route with my husband and year-old son to a small, untamed corner up the mountain from Orient, Wash., to help friends clear land and build a house. Driving up U.S. 395, and years later down Interstate 5, we were hard-pressed to see folks like us.

We called ourselves Chicanos then, until the U.S. Census homogenized us into an ethnic box we checked as Hispanic. At least, we're now being counted. Soon national news magazines began heralding the '80s as the "Decade of the Hispanics" forecasting power and influence that would emanate from our 20 million strong.

We were a proud and very diverse group -- generations of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, refugees from the Central American conflicts (El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala) and the "dirty wars" in South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil), plus a stream of newcomers from the Andean region (Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia) and the Spanish speaking Caribbean.

Consequently, Hispanic leadership that initially emerged from national organizations such as the National Council of La Raza and the League of United Latin American Citizens found their numbers and started professional organizations of Hispanic educators, lawyers, journalists, and elected and appointed state and local officials. As virtually every profession and trade, from professors to farm workers, organized their constituents, political parties courted anyone of voting age.

The immediate future seemed bright.

However, by the next decade, according to an article by The Oregonian's George Rede, "Many activists expected that economic, social and political gains would follow. Oregon's neighbor, California, with nearly 8 million Hispanics, was expected to be in the vanguard as the nation's leading economic and social engine. But as 1990 began, the scorecard suggests that the results fell short of the promise, nationally and in Oregon particularly."

The reasons varied then, but the question is how are we doing in 2010?

Well, we call ourselves Latinos now. Jimmy Smits made it into the West Wing. Eva Longoria Parker lives on Wisteria Lane. Christina Aguilera can be as blond as she wants. Los Lobos catapulted from East Los Angeles musicians to international recording artists. Dora the Explorer set the bar for bilingualism and multicultural values. Emilio "Luis" Delgado, who taught millions of children their ABC's on Sesame Street, remains the longest performing Latino actor on television. And we have one very wise Latina on the Supreme Court -- the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor.

In Oregon, Latino arts and culture have flourished in places such as the Miracle Theatre Group/Teatro Milagro and the annual Latino Film Festival, and even the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland seeks to attract Latino patrons. Eva Castellanoz, a tradition folk artist and recipient of the National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment of the Arts, is still sharing her craft and imparting healing wisdom in Nyssa. The results of our scorecard may be different now, because the game is changing.

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), enacted into law in 1988 during the Reagan administration, was celebrated this year from Lincoln City to Bend, Beaverton to Medford, including one notable event in Salem keynoted by Juan Andrade Jr., president of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, before 200 of the state's top Latino business, professional and government leaders.

This year, the national observance was also recognized by the U.S. Senate in a resolution co-sponsored by Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, honoring "the integral role of Latinos and their manifold heritage in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States."

The resolution acknowledged the national Latino population at almost 47.8 million, more than double the number 20 years ago, making it the largest ethnic community within the United States. One in five students in U.S. public schools is Hispanic, and the same ratio holds true in Oregon.

When it comes to money, the purchasing power of Hispanics is nearly \$1 trillion, and more than 2.3 million Hispanic-owned firms contribute to the economic sector, especially in retail and wholesale trade, food services and construction.

In 2007, the Census Bureau estimated there were 11,332 Hispanic-owned businesses in Oregon, up 78.2 percent from 2002, many of them stimulating microenterprises. Visit any Mexican store now, and you'll see the *paginas amarillas* (Yellow Pages) and similar directories of Latino businesses catering to the Latino community. (They are also listed in the White Pages.)

As for our leadership, when Rede wrote his story in 1990, the few Oregon Hispanics in public roles he interviewed included Gale Castillo, then head of the state's Job Training Partnership Administration, now executive director of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; and Danny Santos, then program manager of the Governor's Commission on Agricultural Labor, now senior policy adviser in the Office of the Governor.

Coincidentally, they are among the state's Latino leaders who have been invited to address this weekend's inaugural statewide summit of the **Oregon Latino Agenda for Action**, titled "One United Voice -- Una Voz Unida." The event, scheduled today and Monday, at the Salem Conference Center, is a forum for women and men from the four corners of the state committed to promoting the social and economic well-being, political capacity and civic leadership of our community.

We realize with all of our diversity, our profound challenges, and cultural assets, that we are at the tipping point of harnessing our numbers with new, collaborative methods to develop effective strategies for change. We are running for city councils and county commissions, and essential mechanisms such as voter-owned elections will open doors for our candidates. With a few more election cycles and young Latinos reaching voting age, our seats in the Legislature seem within reach.

As of last year, the estimated Oregon Hispanic population was 428,469, representing 11.2 percent of the state's population. In 1980, the population was 65,847; in 1990, 112,707, in 2000, 275,314. Washington, Multnomah and Marion counties are home to 55 percent of Oregon's Hispanics. Morrow County with 32 percent has the highest concentration of Hispanics, followed by Malheur with 28.4 percent and Hood River with 27.4.

We can track part of these increases with the growth of Oregon's agribusiness. Oregon is one of six states employing the most farm labor, from fields to orchards, nurseries to feedlots, dairies to packing houses. Oregon's farmers markets, CSAs, organic stores, restaurants, hotels, vineyards, microbreweries, have also profited greatly from the Latino labor force, a mostly undocumented and vulnerable group of workers.

Yes, I see them now -- people who look like me -- bringing in the abundant autumn harvest, studying for college midterms as they act on their dreams, mailing in ballots, serving on state boards and commissions, heading sustainable corporations, drafting the state budget, setting public policy, influencing not only what happens in Oregon but also in Washington, D.C.

The good news as we move into the next two decades is that we will have the numbers not only as Latinos but as U.S. citizens and residents to realize our potential as fully engaged citizens and voters, business owners, public officials and civic leaders.

-- **Andrea Cano** *is vice chairwoman of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action Summit director.*

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