



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs Elects New Leadership

Salem, Oregon (June 29, 2011) – Andrea Cano of Portland, Oregon, was elected the new Chair of the 11-member Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs during today’s commission meeting in the State Capitol. Benton County District Attorney John Haroldson will join her as Vice Chair.

“Since we are mandated as the key voice for 450,000 Hispanics in Oregon, one of the first tasks of this new OCHA administration will be to assess the 2011 Legislative Session and the responses of the elected officials to our most salient Latino issues and make our sentiments known to them. We will then gather and consult with the leadership from communities throughout the state to strategize for the 2011-2012 Interim and 2012 Legislative Sessions,” announced Chair Cano.

Cano has served the people in this state as the executive director of the Oregon Farm Worker Ministry, director of the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action Statewide Summit, and as chair and board member of various community, multicultural, ecumenical, and interfaith groups. Her national and regional leadership and acumen have been recognized by numerous organizations, including a documentary about her work with the Chicana Caucus of the National Women’s Political Caucus and an invitation last year by **The Oregonian** to write about Hispanics in the U.S. and Oregon. In addition, her international posts have taken her to 30 countries including many throughout 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. With a Master in Divinity conferred recently by the Pacific School of Religion, Cano will soon begin a chaplaincy residency at Providence Medical Center.

With the distinction as Oregon’s first Mexican-American District Attorney in Benton County, Haroldson 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. He 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.

Nominated by the Oregon governor and approved by the state legislature, current OCHA members include:

- Professor Marcela Mendoza (Eugene), Executive Director of Centro LatinoAmericano and researcher/author
 - Professor Gilbert Carrasco (Salem), law professor and author, expert on constitutional law, immigration law, and civil rights
 - Professor Steven Bender (Eugene), the James and Ilene Hershner Professor of Law and Director of Portland Programs at the University of Oregon School of Law, and author
 - Judith Parker (Portland), an attorney with Hinshaw & Culbertson, specializing in professional liability defense and labor and employment law, and member of the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association.
- Dagoberto Morales-Duran (Medford), a volunteer for community organizations
- Lupita Maurer (Aloha), a national and state political leader, Hispanic activist, software engineer, and mother of two children.
- Sen. Chip Shields, D-Portland District 22, appointed by the President of the Ore. Senate
- Rep. Ben Cannon, D- Portland District 46, appointed by the Speaker of the Ore. House

Established by the Oregon Legislative Assembly in 1983 and authorized by Oregon Revised Statute 185.310 - 185.330, the Commission monitors existing programs and legislation designed to meet the needs of Oregon's Hispanic population, identifies and researches problem areas and issues affecting the Hispanic community and recommends actions to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly, including recommendations on legislative programs, maintains a liaison between the Hispanic community and government entities, encourages Hispanic representation on state boards and commissions, and holds meetings to conduct its business. It is one of four advocacy commissions to serve distinct populations in the State of Oregon. The 2010 OCHA Annual Report can be found at:

http://www.oregon.gov/Hispanic/pdfs/OCHA_2010_Annual_Report.pdf

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