



Kansas Hispanic & Latino American Affairs Commission



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September– October 2011

In this Issue

Letter from Executive Director Adrienne Foster	1
Hispanic Heritage Month	2
Famous Latinos in History	3
Meet the Commissioners	4
Scholarships and Grants	6

A Letter from Executive Director Adrienne Foster

National Hispanic Heritage month is a time wherein we Latinos can shine and celebrate achievements of our proud accomplishments in the United States! The words that best describe this month are found in **Governor Sam Brownback's Proclamation** which follows:

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month was initiated in 1968 and provides us with the opportunity to express deep appreciation to Hispanic Americans for the many contributions to our American Society; and

WHEREAS, From the early settlers of the New World to those reaching for the American dream today, Hispanics have shaped and strengthened our country. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we pause to celebrate the immeasurable contributions these individuals have made to our Nation -- from its inception to its latest chapters; and

WHEREAS, Reflecting the remarkable diversity of the American people, Hispanics represent a wide range of nationalities and backgrounds. Like so many Americans, Hispanics have overcome great obstacles to persevere and flourish in every sector of our society. With enduring values of faith and family, hard work and sacrifice, Hispanics have preserved the rich heritage of generations past while contributing mightily to the promise of our Nation for their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics are leaders in all aspects of our national life, from the Supreme Court and halls of Congress to boardrooms and Main Streets. Across America, Hispanics protect neighborhoods as police officers and first responders, guide young people as teachers and mentors, and boost economic growth as business owners and operators.

WHEREAS, We honor Hispanic Americans for their strong tradition of service in the Armed Forces. These proud patriots have fought in every war since our founding, and many have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage. Hispanic service men and women have shown their love for the United States by answering the call to serve, and we owe them and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their patriotism and valor have added to the character of our Nation.

WHEREAS, On this occasion, all Americans regardless of national origin, celebrate the vibrant Hispanic American spirit that influences our Nation's art, music, food and sports; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SAM BROWNBACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2011, as

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Sincerely,

Adrienne Foster

Celebrating Hispanic History

This is an important time of year for all Hispanics and Latinos in the United States. September 15 through October 15 is the period designated to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the United States and to celebrate Hispanic culture. This holiday was established by President Lyndon Johnson and later expanded by President Reagan (1988) to be a 31-day celebration.

September 15th was chosen as the start of this celebration because it is the day several Latin American countries celebrate the anniversary of their independence. Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua all celebrate their independence

day on September 15th. Mexico celebrates their independence day on September 16th, Chile on September 19th and Belize on September 21st. El Día de la Raza (Columbus Day) is observed October 12.

The Hispanic Community has enriched the American culture by providing a diverse cultural background that creates a culturally rich society.

Through this melting pot, great personalities have emerged in communities across the country. To learn more about famous Latinos in History, see page 3.

A Proud Heritage

Latinos have a long history in Kansas. The first migration started in the beginning of the last century. When they began to lose their jobs due to the depressed economy in their countries and the Mexican revolution, the Santa Fe Railway brought many of them to Atchison and Topeka while some others went to Finney County following the sugar beet industry. Other industries that attracted immigrants were the meatpacking plants in Kansas City, the salt mines in Hutchinson and Lyons, and Kanopolis were also big players in the movement of these people. By the 1920's, over thirteen

thousand Hispanic immigrants were living in Kansas and the Hispanic Community was busy welcoming new comers and creating support groups to help each other find success.

During the Great Depression in the 1930's, the population shrank 75% as many migrant workers returned to their countries. Once the depression was over, the war created new work opportunities and immigrants once again returned to the U.S. Many became citizens and fought in World War II.

Immigrants had to overcome several challenges, not only the language, but

also discrimination and lack of career advancement opportunities.

The flood of 1951 devastated the Hispanic community and they had to rebuild their churches, houses, etc.

Today, the Hispanic community is growing strong, now with better education they have been able to overcome challenges and create a better future for new generations.

The Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority in both the state of Kansas and the country.

With information from:
<http://www.kshs.org/>
ktwu.washburn.edu/kansapedia/mexicanimmigrants/12087

Famous Latinos in History



Franklin R. Chang-Díaz
Astronaut
Costa Rican American

Raised in a poor family in Costa Rica, Chang-Díaz became a scientist and was the first Hispanic person to enter the space program, becoming an astronaut in 1981. He was aboard six space missions and has spent nearly 1,300 hours in space.



Nancy Lopez
Professional Golfer
Mexican American

One of the greatest women golfers of all time, Lopez began playing golf at age 8. She won over 48 tournaments during her career and in 1989, she was inducted into the PGA World Golf Hall of Fame.



Gloria Estefan
Singer and Musician
Cuban American

Estefan moved to Miami, Florida in the late 1970s and became a singer with the group Miami Sound Machine. The group quickly became famous and her music remains appreciated by millions of listeners.



Ellen Ochoa
Astronaut
Mexican American

Ochoa is the first Hispanic woman to become an astronaut. A veteran of two space flights, she first flew in space on the shuttle *Discovery* in 1993.



Cesar Chavez
Political Figure

Born in Arizona in 1927, Chavez dedicated his life to improving the treatment, pay, and working conditions for farm workers. In 1962, Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). He utilized non violent methods to call attention to the issues of workers. He died in 1993.



Teresa Cuevas
Musician
Mexican American

Cuevas, a Topeka native, played the violin at a young age. She continued to play in the school orchestra and her love for Mariachi Music helped her create Mariachi Estrella. Today, Mariachi Estrella is a respected institution.



Severo Ochoa
Nobel Prize Winner in Medicine and Physiology
Spanish American
Ochoa won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1959. He received the prize for his discovery of the process that would allow humans to create RNA (vital for cell growth

and development) in a test tube. This process helps scientists understand why some cells stay healthy while tumors grow in others.



Rita Moreno
Actress
Puerto Rican

Moreno is one of only two female performers ever to be given all four of entertainment's biggest awards. She has won a Tony, for theater; a Grammy, for music; an Emmy, for television; and an Oscar for her role in the musical *West Side Story*. She has acted in more than 25 movies.



Antonia C. Novello
Doctor, Former United States Surgeon General
Puerto Rican

In 1990, Novello became the first Hispanic person and woman to be appointed as Surgeon General, the chief doctor of the United States. As surgeon general, Novello campaigned for better care for children. She also paid special attention to the problems of alcoholism, smoking, AIDS, and violence.



Mario Molina
Scientist
Mexican American

Molina's fascination with science started at an early age. After completing his studies in Mexico and Germany, he moved to the United States in 1968 to obtain an advanced degree in physical chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. Molina is known for his study on the effect of man-made compounds on the Earth's upper atmosphere. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.



Victor Ortiz
Professional Boxer
Mexican America

A native of Garden City, Kansas, Victor Ortiz is the current WBC World Welterweight Champion. He is commonly known by the nickname "Vicious" Victor Ortiz. He is rated as one of the "top two" Welterweight boxers in the world.

Meet the Commissioners

KHLAAC is excited to welcome our new commissioners. The commissioners will help in the development of programs and serve as guidance to the Governor's office.



Benjamin Saucedo
Commissioner Wichita, Kansas
Founder of the Great American Forum, which organizes town-hall

style meetings across Kansas to increase activism in local government. For over 16 years Saucedo has been the Associate Pastor at Temple Baptist Church. Saucedo is an active member of the community and he is passionate about government. He has participated and organized several campaigns and activities to foster knowledge in the community about government.



Diana Ramirez
Commissioner Topeka, Kansas
Ramirez graduated with Honors from Friends University in 2003.

Ramirez is an entrepreneur and has owned her own staffing agency (Express Personnel Services) since 2008. She is an active member of the community, and a member of the Minority & Women Business Develop-

ment Council since 2009. She is also member of the Topeka Independent Business Association (TIBA), SHRM—Society for Human Resources Manager, Sales & Marketing Executives of Topeka, MANA de Topeka, to name a few.



Liz Sosa
Commissioner Gardner City, Kansas
Sosa has been an Adjunct Instructor at Garden City Community College since 2003. She gradu-

ated with a Bachelor degree from Fort Hays State University in 2003. In January 2011 she started her own business, Epitome Enterprises, which helps small business development strategies including business plan development and evaluation. Sosa participated in the 2011 Leadership Kansas program. She is a member of the Western Kansas Community Foundation, and she also belongs to the Kansas Sampler Foundation "Power Up" Young professionals Advisory Committee, among others.



Robert DeLeon
Commissioner Garden City, Kansas
DeLeon has been the Community Center Director for the last

12 years. He reorganized the Salvation Army Youth Activity Center where more than 50 at risk

youth go to after school programs. DeLeon founded, planned, organized, and launched The Salvation Army Friday Night Teen Program in 1996 that provides leadership training for hundreds of youth each year. While at Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc., Robert was a State Field manager and Hispanic Mentoring Initiative Director and managed all aspects of new program development. He graduated from Ft. Hays State University, with a BS in Elementary Education. He participates in several organizations such as Garfield Elementary School Site Council, Multi-disciplinary team and the Garden City Christian School Board of Directors.



Thomas Craig Carignan
Commissioner Overland Park, Kansas
Carignan is currently the Vice President of Payment

and Technology Solutions at UMB Bank. Thomas has an MBA in management from Rockhurst University. He is actively involved in the Hispanic community and is serving as Treasurer of the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Carignan is also the past Executive Vice President for the KC Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs. He is native of Hutchinson and resides in Overland Park with his wife and daughter.

HISPANIC BUSINESS FORUM

SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 • 8 – 11:30 a.m.

MAGOURK CONFERENCE CENTER
4100 W. COMANCHE • DODGE CITY, KAN.

You are invited to join Governor Sam Brownback, Secretary of Commerce Pat George, the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission (KHLAAC) and the Southwest Kansas Chambers of Commerce for an open discussion with the Hispanic business community regarding economic development in southwest Kansas.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8 a.m.Registration	10 a.m.Remarks from Governor Brownback and Hispanic community leaders followed by Q&A
8:30 a.m.Marketing and branding your business	11:30 a.m.Optional luncheon with the Governor. Cost to attend is \$15 and pre-registration is required. (scholarship is available)
9 a.m.Utilizing information technology to further your business	
9:30 a.m.Banking and finance	

To register for the forum and/or the luncheon, please contact the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce at info@dodgechamber.com or (620) 227-3119 **by September 19.**

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to volunteer as an Advisor on one of the following Committees:

- Marketing
- Education
- Legal
- Health
- Community Outreach
- Business
- Arts
- Youth Outreach

Please email khlaac@ks.gov or call 785.296.3465.

If you are trying to attract diverse talent, create a positive impact in the community, and create brand awareness, sponsoring the KHLAAC Newsletter can be an efficient and cost effective way to communicate with the Hispanic and Latino– American community. For more information email khlaac@ks.gov or call 785.296.3465.

To contact KHLAAC visit
www.khlaac.ks.gov

Scholarship and Grants

Lisa, who will be a senior this year, has a dream of becoming a nurse. She has chosen the school she wants to attend but her parents can't help her with her tuition costs. She decides to stay home with them and attend a local college to save money. She needs to find options to make her dream of a higher education come true.

There are several options for those who want to attend college and need financial aid.

Financial aid is always available for those who qualify.

Lisa will need to define what type of financial aid is best for her. Her first step will be to contact her school's financial aid office to see what scholarships and other types of financial aid is available. She is not sure what to choose; a scholarship or a grant.



Scholarships are funds awarded to a student to complete his/her education. Scholarships are awarded based on:

- Major- area of study
- Athletic ability
- Grades
- Race
- Community service

Scholarship Resources:

Hispanic Scholarship Fund Website:

www.hsf.net

Hispanic College Fund Website:

www.hispanicfund.org

LULAC National Educational Service Centers

www.lnesc.org

NCLR Website:

<http://lideres.nclr.org>

CHCI

Website:

www.chci.org

Another resource

www.scholarships.com

Federal Grants

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) is financial aid offered by the

federal government. The grants are offered to undergraduate students with financial need (with the lowest Expected Family Contribution scores). To be considered for this grant you need to complete the FAFSA form. You can visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more details. Once the Department of Education processes the form, you will be notified of the types of financial aid for which you qualify.

For more information and resources available in the community, visit: www.khlaac.ks.gov

Lisa has submitted her applications, essays and all documentation. She hopes to be able to get the resources she needs so she can make a difference in the community. If your organization has a resources for students, please e-mail the information to khlaac@ks.gov or fax it to 785.296.1795.

With information from: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Scholarships

KHLAAC Events

Event: Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation Signing

Date: August 30

Location: State Capitol

Description: Governor Brownback will sign a Proclamation for the Hispanic Heritage Month.

Event: Hispanic Business Forum

Date: September 29

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Magourk Conference Center, 4100 Commanche, Dodge City, KS

Reservations: For the forum and/or the luncheon, call (620) 227-3119 by September 19.

Community Champions

Do you know of an individual who has made a difference in the community? If you do, and you want to share with the community all the great things this person does, send an email to khlaac@ks.gov.

The story needs to be 300 words. Please include a picture.

Criteria:

- Works with the Hispanic Community.
- Is passionate about what he/she does and inspires others.

Calendar of Events

The KHLAAC Newsletter is sent by email monthly and printed twice a year. The newsletter is mailed to active non-profits, State offices, schools and partner organizations. Subscribe to the KHLAAC monthly publication by sending an email to khlaac@ks.gov or by visiting www.khlaac.ks.gov

For employment opportunities visit www.khlaac.ks.gov

Event: 94th Annual Celebration of Mexican Heritage

Date: September 9-10

Place: Santa Fe Park 3000 S. Santa Fe Chante, KS 66720,

Cost: FREE. Booths with food and other items for sale.

Contact: 877-431-3350 or 620-431-3350. This is a networking meeting.

Event: Vegetarian Mexican - Class

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 13

Location: Community Mercantile Co-Op, 901 Iowa St, Lawrence KS

Time: 7 - 9 pm

Cost: \$20 per person

Contact: 785-843-8544

Event: Nuestra Herencia Americana

Date: Sept. 14

Location: Kansas City, MO Central Public Library

Time: 6pm

Cost: FREE

Contact: 816-483-8300

Event: Hispanic Heritage Month Speaker: Michael Reyes

Date: Wed, Sept. 14

Location: CAC Theater, WSU 1845 Fairmont St, Wichita, KS 67260

Time: 6 - 7:30 pm

Cost: FREE

Contact: Natalie Toney at: 316-978-3034

Event: Hispanic Heritage Month - Fiesta

Date: Friday, Sept. 16,

Location: Rhatigan Student Center Patio at WSU - 1845 Fairmont St, Wichita, KS 67260

Time: 11 am - 1 pm

Cost: FREE

Contact: Natalie Toney at: 316-978-3034

Event: Festival of Cultures

Date: Sunday, Sept. 25

Location: South Park, 11th & Massachusetts St, Lawrence KS

Time: 12 - 5 pm

Cost: FREE

Contact: Deb Taylor at 785-766-0720

[Wichita State University has a few items in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Most are FREE](#)

Event: PBS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15, 2011. Check local listings.

Do you have events for the community? Call 785.296.3465 or email khlaac@ks.gov.