



Maryland Latina/o Education Policy Summit

Educacion: Pasaporte Para el Exito

Saturday, April 19, 2008

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Adele H. Stamp Student Union

Benjamin Banneker Room

University of Maryland, College Park, 20742

Co-Sponsors:

Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Latinos for Progress Advisory Group

Maryland State Teacher's Association

Annie E. Casey Foundation

University of Maryland

U.S. Latina/o Studies
Initiative

The Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity

Office of Administrative Affairs

The Office of the Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Supporting Organizations:

Maryland Multicultural Youth Center

Identity, Inc.

Centro Familia

Education Based Latino Outreach, Inc.

CASA de Maryland



Uniting Our Voices to Address the Growing Needs of Latina/os in Pre-K to Postsecondary Education in Maryland

Education continues to be the great equalizer in our nation; this is especially true for the growing Latina/o community of Maryland. Latina/os who have access to a high quality education enjoy higher wages, economic stability, exercise their voting rights, involve themselves in civic activities, have access to quality health care, and benefit from a better quality of life overall. In light of the explosive and sustained demographic growth of the Latina/o population in Maryland in recent years, it is critical that community leaders, government, advocates and other key stakeholders undertake an assessment of the educational needs of this population.

We must ensure that Latina/os can contribute to the economic growth of our State; have an opportunity to be an integral part of our 21st Century knowledge-based economy; and are prepared to access high skilled jobs in the “new economy.” As the fastest-growing and largest minority group in the United States, Latina/os can play a key role in ensuring that the United

States maintains its technological pre-eminence in the world, especially in critical growth fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and in other growth areas in the years to come. To this end, the first Maryland Latina/o Education Summit will be convened to examine the state of Latina/o educational achievement statewide.

This one-day conference will convene leaders, legislators, policy makers, educators, students, parents and community organizations in a discussion of Latina/o educational policy issues in the State of Maryland. The event will provide a forum to exchange information about the status of Latina/o student achievement in all areas of education in the State, highlight best practices, and provide an opportunity to develop innovative strategies to ensure access, equity, and educational opportunity for all Latina/o students enrolled in Pre-K to graduate school across the State. New challenges dictate that we come up with new solutions.

Conference Goals:

- Provide a forum to discuss best practices and innovative strategies in all areas of education and encourage strong advocacy for Latina/o education issues across the State.
- Increase the level of public discourse on Latina/o education access issues including the achievement gap, English Language Learners, tracking of Latina/o students', language access, discrimination and anti-immigrant sentiments.
- Explore and address the under-representation of Latina/o students, faculty, teachers and administrators at all levels of the University of Maryland System, community colleges, and private colleges and universities.

Uniendo Nuestras Voces para Resolver las Crecientes Necesidades Educativas de los Latinos: el Pre-escolar hasta la Educación Superior en Maryland

La educación continúa siendo la mejor herramienta para promover la igualdad en nuestra nación. Esto es especialmente cierto en la creciente comunidad Latina de Maryland. En general, los Latinos que tienen acceso a la educación superior, disfrutan de mejores sueldos, obtienen estabilidad económica, ejercen su derecho al voto, desempeñan actividades cívicas, tienen acceso a servicios de salud óptimos y se benefician de una mejor calidad de vida. En los últimos veinte años ha habido un crecimiento constante de la comunidad Latina de Maryland. De acuerdo al censo del año 2006, los Latinos representan más de un cuarto de millón de residentes (336,390), y esta comunidad continúa creciendo cada día. Ahora más que nunca, es imperativo que los líderes comunitarios, legisladores, activistas y otros miembros de la comunidad evalúen las necesidades educativas de este segmento de la población.

Debemos garantizar que los Latinos contribuyan al crecimiento económico de nuestro estado, se integren a la economía y se preparen para tener acceso a trabajos de alto nivel en la nueva

“economía tecnológica”. Siendo la población Latina la minoría más numerosa de los Estados Unidos, debe jugar un papel sumamente importante para asegurar que esta nación mantenga su ventaja tecnológica en el mundo, especialmente en áreas críticas como la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería, las matemáticas y muchas otras áreas de crecimiento en el futuro. Con este fin, el “primer foro sobre educación Latina en Maryland” se reunirá para examinar el estado de la educación de la población Latina en Maryland.

Esta conferencia de un día reunirá a líderes, legisladores, diseñadores de políticas, educadores, estudiantes, padres de familia y organizaciones comunitarias para discutir la política educacional para los Latinos en el estado de Maryland. Este evento ofrece una plataforma para intercambiar información sobre el nivel de rendimiento de los estudiantes Latinos en el estado, resaltará las mejores prácticas y ofrecerá oportunidades para desarrollar estrategias innovadoras y así lograr el triunfo, la igualdad y oportunidades para todos los Latinos desde el pre-escolar hasta la educación superior en todo el estado. Estos desafíos exigen el desarrollo de soluciones novedosas.

Metas de la Conferencia:

- Ofrecer una plataforma para discutir las mejores prácticas y estrategias innovadoras en el área de la educación y promover un activismo comprometido en la educación de Latinos en todo el estado.
- Aumentar el nivel de discusión pública sobre la educación de Latinos en temas tales como el acceso a una buena educación, la brecha académica, diferencias en logros, enseñanza en inglés, acceso a información en español, discriminación y sentimientos contra los inmigrantes.
- Estudiar e identificar los factores que resultan en una falta de representación de estudiantes Latinos, docentes y administradores a todos los niveles en el sistema de la Universidad de Maryland y otras instituciones de educación superior públicas y privadas.

Program

Saturday, April 19, 2008

8:00-8:45 A.M

**Continental Breakfast
Banneker Room**

Welcome: *Rosa M. García*, Chair
Gilberto de Jesus, Esq., Co-Chair
The Honorable Douglas M. Duncan, Vice President for the Division of Administrative Affairs, University of Maryland
Dr. Ruth E. Zambrana, Director, Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity and Interim Director, U.S. Latina/o Studies Initiative, University of Maryland
Maria Welch, Chair, Governor's Commission of Hispanic Affairs

8:45-9:00 A.M.

Greetings: *Congressman Chris Van Hollen*, (MD-08)

9:00-10:15 A.M.

**Plenary Session
Banneker Room**

Securing a Prosperous Future for Latina/os

Moderator: *Rosa M. García*, Member, Maryland State Board of Education

Panelists: *Thomas E. Perez*, Secretary of Labor, State of Maryland
Ana Sol Gutierrez, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
Jim Lyons, Maryland Secretary of Higher Education, State of Maryland
Dolores Briones, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families

Concurrent Sessions

10:30 – Noon Building a Strong Foundation for Latina/o Children in the Early Years

**Session A: Ensuring Quality and Access to Early Care and Education
Banneker Room A**

Early childhood education is the key factor in a child's future and lays the foundation for academic achievement. Strategies that ensure access to quality early care and education, and preschool models that show powerful outcomes for Latino children 0-5 are discussed.

Moderator: *Pilar Torres*, Executive Director, Centro Familia

Panelists: *Miriam Calderon*, Associate Director, Education and Children's Policy, National Council of La Raza

Program Cont'd

Julie Sugarman, Research Associate, Center for Applied Linguistics
Dr. Judith Cruzado-Guerrero, Assistant Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, Towson University
Clarisa Navarro de Molina, Family Childcare Provider, Child Development Associate (CDA) Trainer/Mentor

Session B: Supporting Meaningful Parent Engagement Prince George's Room

A discussion of the specific characteristics of meaningful parent involvement, strategies and best practices used for engaging Latino parents in the education of their children and developing leadership among Latino parents.

Moderator: *Joseline Pena-Melnyk*, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates

Panelists: *Teresa Wright*, Parent Resource Teacher, Montgomery County Public Schools
Susana Barrios, Parent, Baltimore City Public Schools
Pat Benavides, Parent and Parent Liaison, Northwestern High School, Prince George's County Public Schools
Dr. Irene M. Zoppi, Executive Director, Center for Help/ Centro de Ayuda, Annapolis, Maryland
Silvia Hoke, Counselor, Prince George's County Public Schools
Diana Carrion, Former Bilingual Parent Liaison, Baltimore County Public Schools

Session C: Building a Strong Foundation in Elementary Education – Grades K - 5 Banneker Room B

A discussion of the challenges and best practices for building a strong educational foundation in the elementary grades, especially given the growing number of Latino students and English Language Learners in Maryland public schools.

Moderator: *Michael Bayewitz*, Principal, Broad Acres Elementary School, Montgomery County

Panelists: *Sandra Jimenez*, Principal, Langley-McCormick Elementary School, Prince George's County
Marjorie Myers, Principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School, Arlington, Virginia
Tracy Prater, Vice Principal, Tyler Heights Elementary School, Anne Arundel County
Mark Gaither, Principal, Wolfe Street Academy, Baltimore City

Program Cont'd

12:00–1:30 P.M.

Luncheon Plenary Prince George's Room

Greetings: **Martin O'Malley*, Governor, State of Maryland
Elijah Cummings, (MD-07) Congressman
Marina Aparicio, Student, Watkins Mill High School, Gaithersburg, MD

Keynote Address

Transforming Power and Perceptions in Schools: Creating More Culturally Responsive and Inclusive School Communities

Edmundo Norte, Director of Education Services
Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA), San Jose, California

Concurrent Sessions

1:45 – 3:15 P.M. Preparing Latina/o Youth for College, a 21st Century Workforce and Lifelong Learning

Session A: Improving Latina/o Student Achievement in Middle School - Grades 6-8 Banneker Room A

A discussion of the challenges and best practices in serving Latina/o middle school students including after-school programs and deterrents to entry into the juvenile justice system.

Moderator: *Andres Alonso*, Superintendent, Baltimore City Public Schools

Panelists: *Gabriel Albornoz*, Director, Montgomery County Recreation Department
Angela Johnese, Juvenile Justice Director, Advocates for Children and Youth, Baltimore City
Lupi Quinteros and Eunice Humphrey, Maryland Multicultural Youth Center, William Wirt Middle School, Riverdale, Maryland
Charlotte Boucher, Principal, Eastern Middle School, Montgomery County

Session B: Ensuring Graduation and a High Quality Education in High School, Grades 9-12 Prince George's Room

A discussion of the strategies for ensuring 100% high school graduation rate for Latino students, access to a high quality and equitable high school curriculum, preparation for post-secondary education and college and career counseling services that prepare and encourage Latino students to pursue postsecondary education.

*To Be Confirmed

Program Cont'd

Moderator: *Moreno Carrasco*, Principal, Richard Montgomery High School, Montgomery County

Panelists: *Candace Kattar*, Executive Director, Identity, Inc.
Sergio Reyes, Former Student, Gaithersburg High School
Kevin Lowndes, Principal, Wheaton High School, Montgomery County
Cela Gomez-Showell, ESOL Resource Teacher, Duval High School, Prince George's County
Dr. Marcianna Rodriguez, Teacher, Annapolis High School, Anne Arundel County

**Session C: Ensuring Latina/o Representation and Success in Community Colleges, Universities and Beyond
Banneker Room B**

A discussion of the success and representation of Latinos in Maryland's postsecondary education system and address barriers to and strategies for postsecondary educational opportunities for Latinos, including in-state tuition for immigrant students, expanding Latino studies curriculum, and providing support throughout the postsecondary educational pipeline.

Moderator: *Victor Ramirez*, Delegate, House of Delegates

Panelists: *Helen Castellanos-Brewer*, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Montgomery College
Dan Mosser, Vice President for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Prince George's Community College
Dr. Victoria Maria MacDonald, Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park
Luis Quinones, Maryland Multicultural Youth Center and *Jettie Norfleet*, Latin American Youth Center
Manuel Ruiz, Vice President of Community Service, Latino Student Union, University of Maryland

3:30 – 4:15 P.M.

**Closing Session
Next Steps
Banneker Room**

Speakers: *Rosa M. Garcia*, Chair
Gilberto de Jesus, Co-Chair

Simultaneous Spanish interpretation services will be available.

Program Cont'd

Policy Summit Planning Committee Members

Rosa Garcia, Chair, Member, Maryland State Board of Education

Gilberto de Jesus, Esq., Co-Chair, Former Vice President, Baltimore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Lillian Cruz, Office of the Congressman Chris Van Hollen(MD-08)

Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director, Maryland Multicultural Youth Center

Ricardo A. Flores, Esq., Director of Advocacy, Maryland Multicultural Youth Center

Ana Sol Gutierrez, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly

Hector Manzano, President, Education-Based Latino Outreach

Wanda Martinez, Esq.

Pilar Torres, Executive Director, Centro Familia

Maria Welch, Chair, Governor's Commission of Hispanic Affairs

Ruth E. Zambrana, Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Maryland College Park

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, Assistant to the Vice President of Administrative Affairs, University of Maryland, Beverlee Barthel for providing photography services, CrISP Scholars, Ana Perez, Maria I. Velasquez and Tamyka Morant for expert note-taking, Xiomara Iglesias, Graciela Bruno, Nieves Valdes-Costa, Mark Maier, Suli Schehr and Ana Stover for interpretation services and Daniel Rodriguez and Dilbar Severin for their efforts and patience in developing the conference brochure.