



Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala 2012

“Celebrating Youth”



John Kasich, Governor
Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA Executive Director

Ohio | Latino Affairs
Commission

**Great achievements start
with the power of dreams.**

Congratulations to the 2012
Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan
Award Recipients.



HONDA
The Power of Dreams

2013 Accord Coupe

Congratulations to the 2012 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans



THE
MENDOZA
COMPANY



EVENING PROGRAM

PRELUDE

Color Guard & Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem ~ Francesca Denegri

Children's Parade of Nations

WELCOMING REMARKS

~ Mary Santiago, Chair of the Commission ~

~ First Lady Mrs. Karen Kasich ~

Honda of America ~ Sponsor's Welcome

Community Greeting ~ Alex Mendoza

Invocation

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

~ Esperanza Mexican Folkloric Dancers ~

~ Not Just Ballet ~ Children's Performance ~

Keynote Speaker ~ Mr. Glenn Llopis

Special Recognitions

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Nuestra Familia Awards

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans Awards

Latino Military Service Awards

Conclusion & Music

AWARDEES

~ Nuestra Familia [Our Family] Awardees ~

Ronn Richard, The Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland
Sister Maria Stacey, Hispanic Catholic Ministries, Dayton
Stefanie Steward-Young, Fifth Third Bank, Columbus
Yvonka Hall, Neighborhood Leadership Development Program, Cleveland
Daniel Radocaj, El Centro, Lorain
Sen. Charleta Tavares, State Senator, Columbus
Mark Evans, Volunteer, Su Casa, Cincinnati
H.A. Musser, Santa María Community Services, Cincinnati

~ Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans ~

Sesario Duran, Toledo
Al López, Cleveland
Lillian Laboy, Strongsville
Reynaldo Carrion, Lorain
Tim Carrion, Lorain
Julia Arbini-Carbonell, Columbus
Elizabeth Martínez, Columbus
Julio Gonzalez, Dayton
Giovanna Alvarez, Dayton
Juan López Jr. CISSP, Beavercreek
Rosalind C. Florez, Cincinnati
Simón Sotelo, Cincinnati

~ Latino Military Service of Distinction ~

Max Figueroa (Retired), United States Army
Gary Munoz (Retired), United States Army / United States Air Force
Lt. Col. Sean Spradlin, United States Air Force
John Ramos (Retired), United States Navy
With Special Recognitions to Honor Our Fallen Heroes
Army Pfc. Gustavo Rios, Operation Iraqi Freedom & Operation New Dawn
The Lorain Vietnam War Heroes



AT LIMITED BRANDS, WE CHERISH OUR DIVERSITY.

We're committed to developing and retaining a diverse and talented workforce that reflects the communities where we live and work—that means people from different academic backgrounds, ages, cultures, life circumstances, thinking styles and interests. We believe embracing others' thoughts, experiences, hopes and dreams makes our own more complete and connects us to our customers.

We are honored to sponsor the 2012 Governor's Distinguished Hispanic Awards Gala.

Limitedbrands | VICTORIA'S SECRET / BATH & BODY WORKS
PINK / LA SENZA / HENRI BENDEL



Latino Affairs Commission

John Kasich, Governor
Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA, Director

2012-2013
Board of Commissioners

October 12, 2012

Honored Guests,

¡Bienvenidos!

As our Commission celebrates its 35th Anniversary this year, we are proud to welcome all of you to the Governor’s 2012 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards gala. Thank you so much for all your support for this important statewide ceremony!

We extend our warmest congratulations to the each and every one of our awardees! We join you, your families, friends, and communities in salute to all your achievements in service to the state of Ohio. You now become members of an elite group of Distinguished Ohioans. Together with our “Nuestra Familia” awardees, you truly represent the face of progress of Hispanics in our state.

Likewise, your leadership will be honored alongside the dedicated men and women who are receiving our Latino Military Service of Distinction Awards. Also please note that this year we are honored to pay a special tribute and remember Latino soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Thank you for your service!

Finally, as we take time to reflect upon the wonderful role models we recognize tonight, we also celebrate the aspirations and successes of our young Latinos in Ohio, who continue to excel in academics, leadership and entrepreneurial endeavors.

¡Felicitaciones!

On behalf of our board and staff,

Mary Santiago
Chairwoman

Mary Santiago, Chair
Lorain

Andres Gonzalez, Vice Chair
Cleveland

Michael Florez, Secretary
Cincinnati

Lourdes Barroso de Padilla
Columbus

Isabel Framer
Copley

Emerald Hernandez
Columbus

Richard Romero
Lorain

V. Tony Simms-Howell
Cincinnati

Baldemar Velasquez
Toledo

Max Rodas
Cleveland

Luis “Tony” Ortiz
Dayton

Dan Ramos
State Representative
District 56th ~ Lorain County

Christina Hagan
State Representative
District 50th ~ Stark County

Gayle Manning
Senator
District 13th ~ Huron, Lorain,
Seneca (Part)

Charleta Tavares
Senator
District 15th ~ Franklin (Part)



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JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

October 12, 2012

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs as you celebrate the 2012 Distinguished Hispanic Awards Gala at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus.

This year's gala coincides with the 35th Anniversary of the creation of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA). You are a critical hub connecting Ohio's Hispanic/Latino community, and we thank you for your 35 years of faithful service! You should be proud of the positive impact that the Commission has made in the lives of Hispanics/Latinos living in Ohio.

Ohio is a state rich in cultural diversity and we are proud of that fact. The Hispanic/Latino community is one of the largest growing ethnic communities in our great state and has contributed significantly to Ohio's economic, social, and political climate. Your impact will only continue to grow.

I would like to extend my congratulations to tonight's honorees who will receive the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award, the Nuestra Familia Award, and the Latino Military Service of Distinction Award. Each of you has excelled in your respective roles and some have sacrificed your lives to serve our country. The fact that you are being honored is a testament to the dedication and support Ohio has for the Latino community.

I commend everyone gathered together for tonight's event. Your support of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic & Latino Affairs is important to the Commission's success. Best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Kasich". The signature is stylized and fluid.

John R. Kasich
Governor

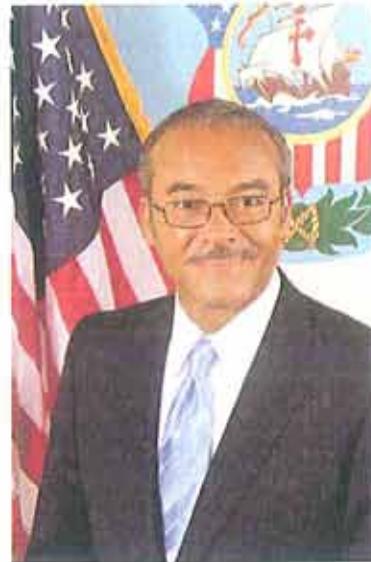


Office of the Mayor
Columbus, Ohio

October 12, 2012

Dear Friends,

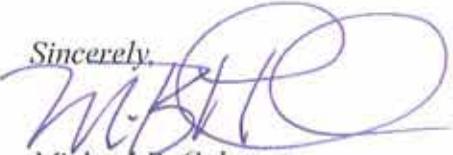
On behalf of the City of Columbus, we are delighted to welcome you to the 2012 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards. We join you in celebrating this day as a special opportunity to reflect upon the remarkable contributions and accomplishments of Hispanic Ohioans, and we invite you to build upon those achievements as we create a better tomorrow.



Today, you will be able to meet a selected group of Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans, who through their dedication and work are empowering Latinos to improve in our communities. You will also meet the "Nuestra Familia" ["Our Family"] awardees, who represent organizations and individuals that pursue with great interest the progress of Hispanics and consistently support the work of organizations to ensure the communities' needs are met. Lastly, you will have the honor of recognizing the Latino Military Service of Distinction Awardees in recognition of the service men and women who every day help to continue building and protecting the democracy we so much appreciate.

We also wish to extend our congratulations to the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission in its 35th Anniversary. You serve as a critical hub for Ohio's Hispanic community and provide valuable services and resources to the local communities across the state, while also granting your support to local and state government so we can better serve our Latino communities.

Sincerely,


Michael B. Coleman
Mayor



October 12, 2012

Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Riffe Center - 18th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Friends:

Please allow me to extend my congratulations as the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs celebrates its 35th Anniversary and hosts the 2012 Governor's Ohio Distinguished Hispanic Awards.

The Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is an important cultural influence in our state. The Public Policy Center, Latino Community Network, and Organizations Development Center each have a positive impact on the quality of life in the community and in our state as a whole. Through your dedicated efforts to advise, connect, and build, you strengthen families, communities and the very fabric of our nation.



Thank you and congratulations again on thirty-five years of connecting cultures and being part of the tapestry of America's great diversity. I wish you all the best in the years to come.

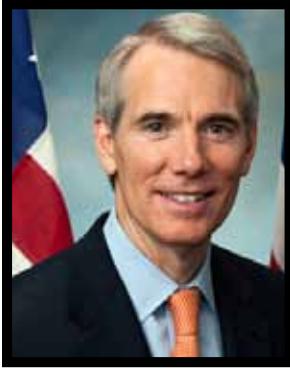
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown".

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

SB:jmp

ROB PORTMAN
OHIO



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

October 12, 2012

Ohio Latino Affairs Commission
77 South High St, 18th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear friends,

Congratulations to the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission as you celebrate the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala 2012 in Columbus, Ohio.

I wish I could be there in person to congratulate the recipients of the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award, the Nuestra Familia Award and the Latino Service of Distinction Award. These honorees have displayed leadership within the Hispanic community as well as service to our country.

Best wishes to all of you for a memorable evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Portman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rob Portman
United States Senator

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510
PHONE: (202) 224-3353

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GLENN LLOPIS

Glenn Llopis is a Cuban-American entrepreneur, author, motivational speaker and business consultant best known for promoting what he calls "the immigrant perspective" and is a popular voice on issues regarding the advancement of Hispanics in the United States. He promotes the idea that if people embrace the immigrant mentality, they will have a distinct advantage in business and in life by being able to see and seize previously unseen opportunities, and opportunities others don't see at all. Llopis' research has identified 6 natural characteristics that define this immigrant mentality.

Llopis graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) with a degree in political science. He was recruited by the Gallo Wine Company in Los Angeles where he served as a sales representative. After two years at Gallo, he worked for the next seven years at Sunkist Growers where he was an executive leading the successful re-launch of the company's beverage division across Retail, Warehouse Club and Foodservice distribution channels. Llopis then served as a senior executive at American Seafoods where he led the Foodservice and Retail business and operational units. In these early years of his career, Llopis developed expertise in the areas of business development, branding, entrepreneurship, marketing, strategic alliances and turn-around operations.

In 1997, Llopis launched his first venture (Luna Rossa Gourmet Foods), which focused on the sales, marketing and distribution of gourmet vegetables, pasta sauce, and salad dressing through Retail, Foodservice, and Warehouse Club distribution channels. The company's brands were: Luna Rossa and Chef's Harvest.

In 2007, Llopis founded Center for Hispanic Leadership (CHL) to help Fortune 500 organizations unlock opportunities for talent development and business development by giving Hispanic leaders and Hispanic customers a voice. In 2009 Llopis published, *Earning Serendipity, 4 Skills for Creating and Sustaining Good Fortune in Your Work*. In August 2012, CHL will introduce Hispanic Training Center – the first and only culturally relevant interactive video-based online training center for and about Hispanics.

Llopis has been featured on national television shows, including Univision's "Al Punto" and "Primer Impacto," Fox News' "America's News HQ," CNN en Espanol's "En Efectivo" and WGN News. He has also been interviewed numerous times on local ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox News morning and primetime shows.

Llopis currently is a contributing writer at Forbes, Huffington Post and Harvard Business Review. He was recently featured on NBC Latino and selected to be a leadership voice (content provider) on Google's first and only YouTube network ("MiTu") targeting Hispanics.

DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Sesario Duran Toledo

Sesario Duran is the seventh of twelve children, and was raised traveling the country in a migrant worker family. His childhood years were spent on the road to Minnesota's sugar beet fields, through North Dakota's onion fields, Oklahoma's cotton fields and Ohio's tomato and cucumber farms.

After several years the family bought seven acres of land in Swanton and started small scale farming. Sesario entered the Swanton school system and graduated in 1958, where he was a standout athlete in football and especially basketball. Sesario went on to serve in the Army. He served his active duty at Ft. Leonardwood in Missouri and then went on to spend seven years in the Army Reserve. Mr. Duran attended school in Chicago at the DeVry Technical Institute, where he received a degree in Radio, TV and Communications; he also received his associate's degree in Social Work from The University of Toledo.

In 1968 he got seriously involved in the Farm Labor Organizing Committee [FLOC] and served in various positions to shape and form the foundation of the organization. Apart from being a talented organizer, he was also an accountant and an effective negotiator. Currently, he manages the CMWJ (Campaign for Migrant Worker Justice) Worker Center and continues to advocate for migrants and immigrants. As Director of the CMWJ Worker Center, he defends immigrants in their workplace rights, deportations and profiling cases. He takes to task unscrupulous employers, local police and others who abuse the migrants and immigrants. He has and continues to defend those who cannot defend themselves and teaches them to advocate for their rights.



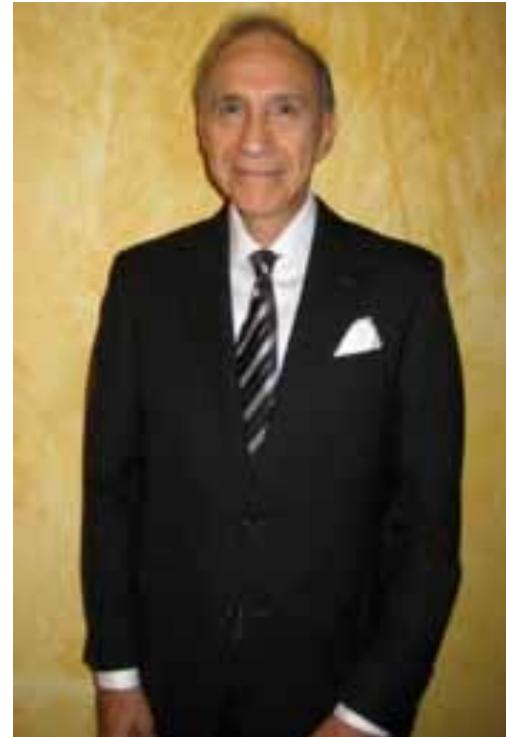
DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Abelino (Al) Lopez Cleveland

Abelino Lopez, most proud of his wife and children, has many other accomplishments that add to his list of successes. Moving from Tyler, Texas, and graduating from Lorain Admiral King High School in 1962, Lopez joined the Air Force and completed a four-year tour of duty. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at Kent State University. He has also completed the Education Policy Fellowship Program at the Institute for Educational Learning.

During his 32 years as a full professor at Cuyahoga Community College, Lopez founded and co-chaired the Hispanic Steering Council whose mission is to identify, prioritize and facilitate the implementation of Hispanic initiatives that would benefit both the Cuyahoga Community College and the Hispanic community. In addition to being "Tri-C's Ambassador to the Cleveland Hispanic Community," he is the President Emeritus of Esperanza Inc. and has served as a board member for The Hispanic Roundtable of Cleveland, The Hispanic Alliance, The Spanish American Committee, Northeast Chapter of Image, Cleveland Roundtable Education Committee and many others.



Lopez has been awarded numerous honors for his work in the college and in the Hispanic community. He has received The Ralph M. Besse Award for Teaching Excellence and The Cuyahoga Community College Appreciation Award for his work on the Hispanic Steering Council. Other awards include The Cleveland State University "Padrino" Award and The Spanish American Committee Award. Lopez is currently a consultant specializing in organizational behavior, non-profit organizations, higher education, career development and Hispanic/Latino programming.

DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



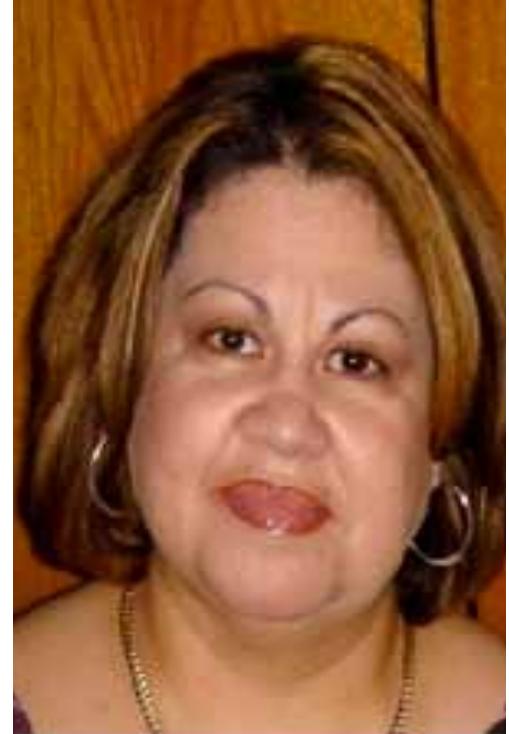
Lillian Laboy Strongville

Lillian Laboy is a lifelong resident of Cleveland, Ohio. She is one of the founding pastors of Elim Church, a Latino Evangelical Church in the City of Cleveland with more than twenty years of existence, where she serves as a senior pastor. She obtained a BSW through Capital University and graduated from the Spanish American Bible Institute of New York Assemblies of God.

She completed a fifteen year long career in the social service arena, paying particular attention to the area of mental health. Her daily exposure to the complex problems and challenges faced by the Latino community helped to increase her passion to serve the inner city Hispanic community in Cleveland via her Pastoral ministry. Pastor Laboy is presently involved with the Fatherhood Initiative Program, serving as the Coordinator of the Latino Fatherhood Program for Cuyahoga County. She is also a Co-Chair for Convención representing the Faith-Based Area Team.

Among other recent projects, Lillian has been working on the “Mujer Victoriosa” [Victorious Woman], a women ministry that allows women to gather and learn techniques for self-improvement through Biblical teachings and more. She is also involved with the ministry “Mujeres en Ministerio Haciendo la Diferencia,” [Women in Ministry Making a Difference] a gathering of lady pastors for the sole purpose of support and motivation. Pastor Laboy is engaged in efforts to build a support system for inner city Evangelical Latino Pastors that would ultimately lead to the increasing civic engagement and participation.

Most recently, she has accepted a Faculty member position at the Central Theological University, and she is also working on a writing a book titled “La Fiesta Sigue” [The Party Continues] detailing her own personal experience of endurance through the loss of her 23 year old son.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Reynaldo Carrion Lorain

A native of San Piedras, Puerto Rico, Reynaldo Carrion moved to Lorain, Ohio in 1978. He is currently the Economic & Community Development Department Acting Director for the City of Lorain; in this capacity, he is responsible for performing day to day operations in accordance with Federal Block Grant guidelines, while managing a staff of 20 employees. From 2001-2011 worked as the Economic & Community Development Department Construction Administrator, and was responsible for managing multiple aspects of construction projects. Carrion has been involved in many notable projects, such as the Republic Steel Expansion, Pipe Yard Baseball Stadium, Camaco Lorain Manufacturing, Colorado Industrial park, Downtown Lorain Christmas Council and many more.

Rey is an avid supporter of baseball and is the founder and Director of the Andrew "Rube" Foster Game in Lorain, Ohio. He has coached youth in JV Baseball at Lorain Southview and Lorain High School, and is President of the Lorain is PRO Baseball Booster Club. An advocate for the importance of educational opportunities, Mr. Carrion was involved from 2009-2011 with the Lorain High School Levy Committee. He is also founder and Director of City Employee Night, Veterans Night, Roberto Clemente Night, and Breast Cancer Awareness Night, at the Pipe Yard Stadium.

Mr. Carrion is always ready to support initiatives that empower Hispanics, and is frequently found volunteering for various organizations in the community, making him a great example of how Latinos are improving and building better communities in our state.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Tim Carrion Lorain

Tim Carrion, a proud husband and father of three children, is a native of New York and arrived in Lorain at the age of 8. After attending Lorain Community College his freshman and sophomore year, becoming involved in student government groups and completing a two year program in pre-professional psychology, he joined the US Army National Guard. Carrion had the opportunity to facilitate an Alternative Learning Environment to students at Chamberlain High School in Twinsburg, Ohio and also worked as the strength and conditioning coach to the wrestling team.

In 1998, upon realizing a void in professional services provided to Latinos due to language and cultural barriers, Tim started a business that focused on providing professional services to Spanish Speaking Latinos in Lorain. After several years in the business, Tim began volunteering and helped to mentor high school students in a prevention program through the Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program. In this role, he realized how important it is for Latinos to be at the table to help create policies that are in line with the needs of the community.

Carrion became the President of the Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services [LCADA] Board before moving on to assist as a Trustee of the Mercy Hospital Foundation Board and the Board of El Centro de Servicios Sociales. Tim's desire to make his community as great as it can be and to empower others to make a difference forced him to transition out of his daily business responsibilities and work in the community full-time. He has the opportunity to fulfill his responsibilities as an Adjunct Professor at Lorain County Community College and as an advisor to Los Unidos, an on campus Latino leadership organization and as an advisor to the Lorain County Youth Fun. Carrion is an active member of numerous other organizations and recently, is excited to work with his closest colleagues and coordinate the Sabor Latino Festival. In the future, Carrion hopes to coordinate a class of young Latino leaders to impress upon them the importance of civic engagement and their participation in helping to create policy.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Julia Arbini-Carbonell Columbus

Born and raised in Colombia, Julia Arbini-Carbonell came to the United States and started her state service career when she was hired as the administrative assistant for the Ohio Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs. In 1997, she pursued a career with the Ohio Department of Human Services as a Program Developer at the Office of Children and Families. There, she administered the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Program, establishing the first ever stable funding source for Ohio's Domestic Violence Shelters. She was assigned as a staff-on-loan to the Ohio Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs in 1996, when the director of the commission requested her assistance in establishing an outreach program to the Latino community throughout Ohio.

Julia returned to Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in 1998 to assist in the development of the department's Cultural Diversity Initiatives. In this capacity at ODJFS, she monitors compliance of the Prohibition of Discrimination against Limited English Proficient individuals and provides technical assistance to the department as well as county agencies on Title VI. Arbini-Carbonell is also the founder of the Ohio Hispanic Coalition, a long standing Hispanic organization, which provides services to the community including interpreting, after school classes, GED classes and many other services for the growing Hispanic community in Central Ohio.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Giovanna Alvarez Dayton

Migrating from Peru to the United States, Giovanna Alvarez manages and directs Su Casa Hispanic Center, a program of Catholic Charities in Cincinnati where she has worked for the last three years. She has experience in managing complex business accounts, the ability to perform multiple tasks at one time and is politically savvy. Through many organizations, Alvarez has been instrumental in offering direct social services; she is also experienced providing interpretation services within the Department of Job and Family Services, and the Juvenile Court. Giovanna has represented the Hispanic Community at numerous meetings and events, and through her leadership at Su Casa Hispanic Center was able to acquire an array of grants and donations in order to expand the center's educational services.

Alvarez is an alumna of the FBI's Citizens Academy, graduate of the 1st class of Community Leaders Institute and a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Advisory Board for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Cincinnati, a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens National and Cincinnati Council, as well as a member of the PLANEO Board of Directors.

Giovanna is very happy to be working at Su Casa Hispanic Center with a great team of individuals that fight for the human rights of the Hispanic and Latino immigrants. Today, she lives in Dayton with her husband, Clemente, and her 4 year old daughter, Alessandra.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Julio Gonzalez Dayton

Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Julio Gonzalez has served as a Supervisor and Senior Staff Accountant for over thirty years at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Gonzalez is an avid entrepreneur who has been involved in Real Estate, Marketing, Interpreting Services, and who also created an Outdoor Wedding and Events Venue in Miamisburg, Ohio.

In 1990, Julio was one of the founders of a Hispanic Non-Profit Organization: The Puerto Rican and Caribbean Organization [PACO], with the purpose to create and maintain a positive image of the Hispanic Community and to help Hispanics with financial needs. He was elected the first President of PACO and served for 14 years. During his tenure, Mr. Gonzalez initiated many Hispanic programs in the Dayton area to provide food for families, toys for children, micro-loans for small Hispanic owned businesses, as well as art and educational programs.

In order to promote higher education for Hispanics, Julio initiated a PACO program to engage and support LULAC in providing scholarships; he also worked in the establishment of an outreach program with Wright State University and Central State University. With full support from the PACO organization, Gonzalez has created one of the largest Hispanic Festivals in Ohio. This event encourages the public, as well as organizations that participate in the festival, to raise their level of multi-cultural awareness and to achieve a higher level of community acceptance for the Hispanic American Culture.

Julio is a member of the Hispanic Dream Team; he actively participates in the organization of Dayton's Cinco de Mayo celebrations and coordinates Hispanic events for Wright Patterson Air force. Gonzalez considers his greatest achievements to be his family and work with the community.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Elizabeth Martínez Columbus

Elizabeth Martinez, a native of Puerto Rico, is the Vice President of Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, the third largest Big Brothers Big Sisters agency in the country. She has responsibility for the creation, implementation, direction, oversight and evaluation of all agency programs, which served approximately 4,000 children last year. Before this promotion, Martinez was the Vice President of School Based and Hispanic Mentoring for the agency. Under her leadership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio was selected to mentor other national Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in their implementation of Hispanic Mentoring programs.

Martinez has worked on several diversity committees and as a Board member in 2004-2006 for the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON). She has also served on the Education Committee of LEON, LULAC League of United Latin American Citizens, Hispanic Scholarship Fund Walk a Thon Committee and Columbus Hispanic Professionals. She is an interpreter for the Southwestern City School District and was a local commentator for WOSU public radio.

Near and dear to her heart is the work she does as a youth leader and her active involvement in her church. For her dedicated service to the community, Martinez received The “Lider de la Comunidad” (2004) award from the LEON organization and the “Making a Difference” award at the 2010 Ohio Diversity Latino Talent and Leadership Conference for her work with youth. She is a well-known and respected throughout the Columbus community as a youth advocate.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Juan Lopez Jr. CISSP Beavercreek

A retired United States Marine Corps Master Sergeant, Juan Lopez has not only served his country but the Latino community of Dayton, Ohio. He is an Air Force Cyber Researcher at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base where he has provided live, hands-on demonstrations and multi-media presentations to students from grades 8 to 12 in order to introduce students into careers in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering.

Lopez has provided public research demonstrations on attacking and protecting the power grid from terrorist cyber-attacks and is the recipient of multiple awards for excellence and was interviewed and appeared on a CNN Money Interview on Critical Infrastructure Protection. Lopez engages the international information security research community to work together on applying scientific principles and engineering techniques to address current and future problems in information infrastructure protection.

Juan has been a positive role model for the Latino Community through the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Southwest Chapter, which enabled him the opportunity to enter local schools as a positive Hispanic role model for Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics. He directly supports the mission of Department of Homeland Security Industrial Control Systems and has participated in a thirty organization cyber working group to steer cyber education efforts. Lopez was a National Award Winner for the Government Information Security Leadership Award and continues his Air Force Cyber Research today.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Rosalind C. Florez Cincinnati

Ranked the highest Latin American public official in Southern Ohio, Magistrate Florez has served the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court as a mediator and, currently, as Magistrate in the Domestic Relations division. Florez received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism with a minor in Spanish and English Literature from Ohio University and her Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati.

Magistrate Florez was a director of student media at the University of Cincinnati, where she taught news writing and reporting, columns and reviews, copy-editing and electronic media law. She began public service when the Ohio Supreme Court first funded common pleas court projects to provide alternatives to litigation. She served one year prior to that time as an independent contractor and was appointed to Magistrate to the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court division of Domestic Relations in November 2006.

A long standing community Hispanic community leader and advocate, she inspires other Latinos to pursue their educational and professional career goals, and is a true example of excellence in public service. Florez has three children and three grandchildren as well as three brothers and one sister.



DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS



Simón Sotelo Cincinnati

Simón Sotelo was born in Mexico, where he began his banking career. As a banker with various executive positions and as an advocate, Simon has utilized his work to create opportunities to promote awareness and educate others. He has conducted innumerable courses on financial education for English and Spanish speaking individuals and families in the Cincinnati metropolitan area. Furthermore, he provides consulting services to Hispanic entrepreneurs on how to incorporate, implement and open a business in Cincinnati, and has also provided them accounting and tax preparation services.

Mr. Sotelo served as member and treasurer of the Pan American Society of Cincinnati from 1985-1988; this organization is known today as Su Casa Hispanic Ministries. Simón was also an active supporter in the early stages of formation of the Ohio Tri-State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, known today as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, USA, where he has served as Vice President for the last six years. He is currently serving on Hispanics Avanzando Hispanics, Sisters of Charity Ministry Foundation, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, 3CDC Cincinnati Equity Fund, City of Cincinnati Community Development Advisor Board, City of Covington Business & Community Advisory Board and the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board.



**PEOPLE BEING
CURIOUS IS
HOW THINGS
GET DONE.**

**IT'S THE SAME
FOR BANKERS.**

**Fifth Third Bank is proud to
support the Distinguished
Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala.**

Anything that ever got accomplished began with people asking: "What if?" Challenging themselves. Challenging the system. At Fifth Third Bank, "What if?" is one of our favorite phrases. We support those who aren't afraid to reach, try and ask.



Nuestra Familia Awards

The Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio



The Cleveland Foundation is a steadfast supporter of Greater Cleveland's Hispanic population. In the last five years, the foundation has made more than \$1.5 million in grants to organizations serving this community. Recognizing the importance of the family in Hispanic culture, the foundation has focused many of these gifts on strengthening families.

Education is a key area in which the foundation has collaborated with the Hispanic Community. The Cleveland Foundation has partnered with Esperanza whose mission is Hispanic academic achievement. Esperanza commended the foundation at the 2012 Fiesta of Hope for supporting its strategic plan and its ASPIRA program. The Cleveland Foundation has been a reliable funder of ASPIRA which is a program that increases the retention, achievement, and advancement of Latino students in Cleveland. Beyond high school, the foundation encourages Hispanic students to pursue higher education, working with Lakeland Community College's Hispanic Leadership Project to ensure Lakeland Latino students succeed in college through grants and internships. From Hispanic theater to business training to outreach to at-risk Hispanic youths, the Cleveland Foundation and its generous donors support and strengthen this community both within and outside the city of Cleveland, working to enrich lives and develop the vast potential of its members so they can take their rightful place among the area's leaders, now and in the future.



Nuestra Familia Awards

Hispanic Catholic Ministry
Dayton, Ohio



The Hispanic Catholic Ministry is a welcoming presence to incoming Hispanic immigrants. They help immigrants adjust to life in the US and assist in finding the services needed for Ohio Latinos. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati, through the Hispanic Ministry, commits itself to advocate for the integration of Hispanic Catholics into their rightful place in the Church, always with a respect for their language, culture and customs. They assist in the many human/social issues facing the Latino communities by collaborating with schools, agencies and services concerned with justice, peace and integrity of creation.

The Hispanic Ministry changed drastically in 2002 when the archdiocese hired Sister Maria Stacy to work with a more integrated approach. Sister Maria Stacy has made advocacy one of their principal activities. She gives several talks throughout the year on Immigration myths and Immigration issues, regularly participates in community meetings and supports the empowerment and inclusion of Latinos in the community.



Hispanic Ministry OF ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI
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Nuestra Familia Awards

Fifth Third Bank
Columbus, Ohio



Fifth Third Bank is a proud supporter of the Latino Community. Fifth Third has shown its' commitment to the community by investing in Latino businesses, organizations and efforts that promote economic growth and financial education. During the past year, Fifth Third Bank has targeted investing in high-impact Latino-based organizations, developing local and statewide alliances and partnerships, supporting philanthropic efforts within the Latino community, supporting leadership development for both women and youth and strengthening our network of leaders advocating for the Latino community.

During the month of April, Fifth Third Bank in collaboration with the Columbus Dispatch sponsored the launch event for the Latino Business Directory. This directory highlighted the achievements of several prominent Latino business owners and also serves as a resource for numerous businesses that are owned and serve the Latino Community. We also partnered with the Immigrant Community Action Center and Dublin City Schools to recognize Latino Students who exemplified leadership in both their schools and communities. Fifth Third Bank also provided after school financial education to students in grades K through 6.

Fifth Third Bank is not only committed to educating youth, but also providing financial education to upcoming entrepreneurs. We continue to actively support the Latina Mentoring Academy in Columbus, Ohio and hosted sessions to provide information to these women about the linkages between strong personal finances and small business ownership. Furthermore, our bank supported recent events such as the Ohio Hispanic Business Summit, the 2012 Ohio Diversity Latino Talent and Leadership Conference and the Ohio Hispanic Coalition's 22nd Anniversary Celebration.

Most Importantly, Fifth Third Bank continues to support events that assist the Latino community in understanding personal finances. Fifth Third has participated in two recent Consulate visits in Columbus Ohio, including both the Honduras and Mexican Consulate. During these events, Fifth Third was able to assist many individuals to establish checking and savings accounts. We also supported Hispanic heritage events throughout the state and continue to nurture a culture of employee engagement and inclusion through several of its Business Resource Groups including one targeting Hispanics/Latinos throughout our statewide footprint to ensure opportunities for career development, recruiting and retention, and business networking.

It is through these efforts and more that Fifth Third continues to show the commitment to the Latino community, by investing in Latino businesses, organizations and efforts that promote economic growth and financial education to the community.



Nuestra Familia Awards

Yvonka Hall, Neighborhood Leadership Development Program
Cleveland, Ohio



Yvonka Marie Hall is a highly recognized health disparities expert. Being the former Director of the Cleveland Office of Minority Health, she used her strong suites as a stakeholder and consensus builder to bridge the gap between social, economic, and political viewpoints to promote sustainable community systems. She has received numerous honors for her work, among them: the National Speaking of Women's Health Foundation, Cleveland Clinics Universal Sisters Everyday Hero Award, and a Special Award of Recognition from Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson.

Presently, Yvonka is the Alumni Support Manager for Neighborhood Leadership Development Program (NLDP) a program of the Mandel Foundation and Cleveland Foundation. Her work continuously emphasizes the need to educate, inform and empower at risk communities. In her endeavors, Yvonka continuously reaches out to the Hispanic community and works hard to include them by providing opportunities for participation and the betterment of services to this population. She truly is an energetic leader who consistently reminds our community that together we can make long term and consistent improvement in the quality of lives for our Hispanic Ohioans in the Cleveland area.



Nuestra Familia Awards

Daniel Radocaj, El Centro
Lorain, Ohio



Daniel Radocaj started at El Centro de Servicios Sociales on July 5, 2007, and is currently the Fiscal Director. He does grant writing, program evaluation, organization of fundraisers, and anything else the organization may need. Dan always volunteers and represents El Centro in events, going above and beyond. Some of our Latino Seniors participating in the program have had emergencies, and Mr. Radocaj has used his resources to find donations for our seniors in the community on many occasions. He is known and respected by all Latino Leaders in Lorain as well as the National Council of La Raza.

Mr. Radocaj's most recent accomplishment includes being the project manager for El Centro's 1.2 million dollar renovation project, which provided the agency approximately 11,000 square feet in office, training and meeting space. This project was the first significant private capital investment in South Lorain in many years, and will help revitalize a vibrant community. Dan has only the best interest in the agency and Latino community, and played a key role in the success of El Centro Capital Campaign. The community is deeply grateful to Daniel for his commitment, dedication and vision; he touches people's lives every day and helps them believe in themselves and improve their lives.



Nuestra Familia Awards

Charleta Tavares, State Senator
Columbus, Ohio



Charleta B. Tavares was sworn in on January 3, 2011 as the first African American and Democrat woman to serve as a state Senator from central Ohio in Ohio's 208-year history. She is a committed public servant who most recently served as a member of Columbus City Council from 1999-2010. Tavares has a state and national reputation as a leader in the areas of housing, health and human services. During her tenure on Council she chaired the Council's Housing and Health & Human Development Committees and served on the Finance, Utilities, Development, Minority and Small Business, Public Service and Transportation, Recreation and Parks and Zoning Committees.

Tavares was the chief sponsor of and successfully passed some of the most significant legislation in recent history in the areas of health, human development and housing. Prior to joining Council, Tavares left a legacy for the residents of Ohio during her 5 ½ year tenure in the Ohio General Assembly as the State Representative in the 22nd House District. Tavares was the first African-American and democrat female to serve in the state legislature from Franklin County and the first African-American woman ever to hold a leadership position in the Ohio General Assembly, opening the doors for others to follow. She has received more than 200 national and state honors.



Senator Tavares continuously supports initiatives that improve the quality of life for Latinos and other minorities. She is a much respected leader and an inspiration for our youth.

Nuestra Familia Awards

Mark Evans, Volunteer, Su Casa
Cincinnati, Ohio



Mr. Mark Evans is a well respected and admired attorney who has been an active member of the Cincinnati Latino community since 1996. Not only has he become fully bilingual, but he has gone above and beyond to learn and understand the culture of the people he is proud to serve.

Mr. Evans is a member of the San Alissious Catholic Church, where he provided free counseling services for members of the Guatemalan community applying for community asylum in 1996. He was involved in the organization and creation of the Su Casa Hispanic Ministry. Mr. Evans has given free seminars and workshops in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky as he educated the Hispanic Community on new laws/regulations, immigration and civil rights affecting them. He is a yearly volunteer at the Su Casa Hispanic Ministry Festival. In 2006, Mr. Evans was awarded the Cesar Chavez award for his involvement, hard work, and dedication in the Hispanic community of Cincinnati. Mark Evans is one of the most needed and trusted members of our community. Mr. Evans is a compassionate individual who enjoys giving back to those he now refers as "Mi Familia".



Nuestra Familia Awards

H.A. Musser, Santa María Community Services
Cincinnati, Ohio

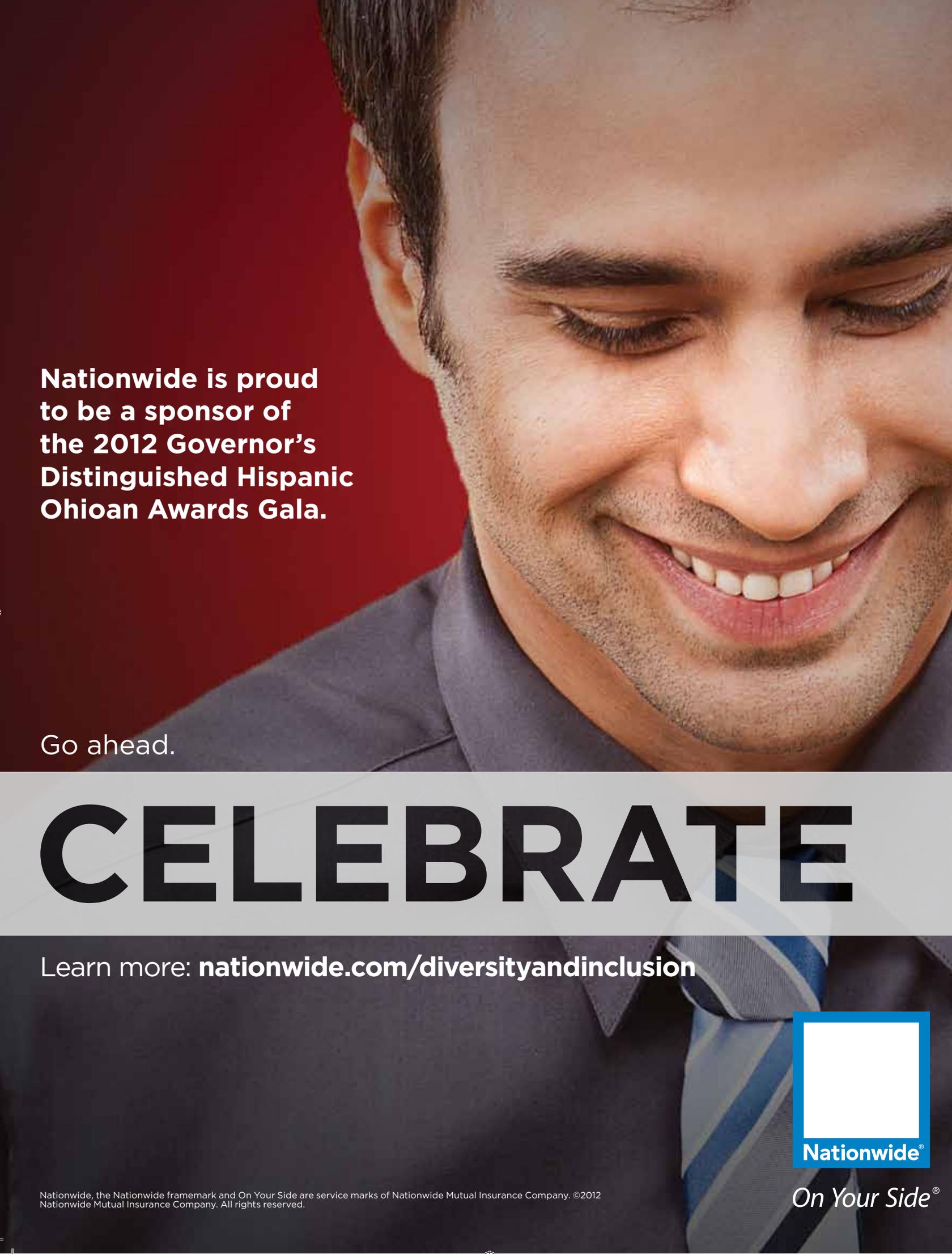


H.A. Musser began at Santa Maria as a Planning Specialist and soon became a Neighborhood Organizer. During this time period, H.A. helped bring together residents to discuss common issues and work toward solutions. H.A. has been the chief executive of Santa Maria since 1989, currently holding the title of President and CEO.

Santa Maria was founded in 1897 to work with Italian immigrants to Cincinnati, and this more recent work with Latinos has returned Santa Maria to its roots of serving immigrants and helping them acclimate to life in America. Approximately one-quarter of Santa Maria's 42 employees are bilingual Spanish/English. While locally Latinos represent less than 15% of the population, more than 40% of families served in several Santa Maria programs are of Hispanic heritage. Some of Santa Maria's programs serving this population include Wellness/Bienestar, Every Child Succeeds, Promoting Our Preschoolers, International Welcome Center, and Price Hill Financial Opportunity Center. In addition, Santa Maria partners with TriHealth to host a free clinic providing primary care to uninsured adults at no cost.

H.A. is an innovative and visionary leader who is able to connect and inspire our community. His work in Cincinnati is creating opportunities and empowering our growing Latino community. He is a well-known and much respected "amigo" for Latinos who is always ready to support and encourage others.





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PNC salutes Simon Sotelo on receiving this great award. We believe in and are inspired by what you do every single day. Congratulations.

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Veterans Services



Department of
Veterans Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Thomas N. Moe, Director



The mission of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services is to actively identify, connect with, and advocate for veterans and their families. Every generation of veterans has earned benefits from both the federal government and Ohio, and all veterans can apply for these benefits at the county veterans service offices in each of our 88 counties. Although the offices are operated by the county, the department trains the service officers who make personal contact with each veteran and assist them in applying for their benefits. Statistics have shown that when veterans receive no assistance in applying for benefits, they miss out on about 40 percent of what they are entitled to, so this support is vital.

Assistance to veterans is also a significant economic generator for the state of Ohio. In 2011, the combined efforts of our department and the county veteran service officers to find and connect veterans were responsible for returning over \$5.7 billion in federal dollars to Ohio for veterans' benefits and the operations of the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (the VA). Our own Ohio Veterans Bonus for veterans of the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan eras has paid more than \$50 million to over 60,000 Ohioans.

Ohio has and always will be a patriotic state that answers the call for our nation's defense. Since 9/11, over 76,000 Ohioans have deployed for overseas contingency operations with our active, National Guard, and Reserve forces. These men and women continue the legacy forged by the more than 800,000 veterans of all generations who call Ohio home. Our department is proud to serve them all.



Max Figueroa

Specialist, 4th Class, US Army (Retired)
Latino Military Service of Distinction Award



Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Max Figueroa is an Army Veteran who served the country from 1973 to 1975. Mr. Figueroa graduated from high school while serving in the military. After the military he attended the University of Ponce Puerto Rico for two years majoring in Business Administration. Max has worked for the federal government as a Mail Carrier for the past 19 years. He has always been a loyal public servant; in fact; he has accumulated 1200 hours of personal time off due to his dedication and sense of duty and has rarely missed a day of work.

Figueroa has also been a change agent in the Hispanic/Latino community, where he has always looked for opportunities to assist others. He is actively involved with La Sagrada Familia Church, where he participates on various committees and roles, including the Holy Name Society, Treasurer; Former Finance Committee member; and Parish Council member with the merger of San Juan Batista and Cristo Rey churches. Max was instrumental in the formation of the Knights of Columbus, Hispanic Council which conducts programming to serve children with disabilities. He has also supported fundraising efforts for the Special Olympics; he is actively engaged in Esperanza's appeal fund, toys for disadvantaged Latino children during Christmas, and many other community efforts to assist those in need. He is a humble servant and bridge builder for the entire community.

Max lived in Yauco, Puerto Rico where he met his wife, Yolanda Figueroa. He is married with two children and seven grandchildren.

Gary Munoz

Major, US Air Force & Med Lab Technician, US Army (Retired)
Latino Military Service of Distinction Award



Gary Munoz honorably served our country through his distinguished twenty two year military career in the Army and Air Force. He worked as a medical laboratory technician, administrative officer, squadron commander, and chief pilot. In 1996, Gary founded Monterey Consultants, Inc. where he serves as the President of the organization.

Monterey Consultants, Inc. was originally tasked to provide support to Air Force Small Business Programs. Monterey personnel quickly became experts in mentor programs, acquisition forecasting, Women-Owned Small business and Minority Institution Programs. Gary values and believes in the importance of empowering others through strategic partnerships. Under his leadership, the company has been able to establish a broad spectrum of capabilities, including engineering and logistics services, program management and acquisition support, information management systems, strategic planning, market research, contract administration and closeout, and management consulting.

Gary Munoz and Monterey Consultants, Inc., have developed an excellent reputation as a well-known, high quality company in Dayton, Ohio. Monterey has received numerous awards for superior accomplishments.

John Ramos

Petty Officer, 3rd Class, United States Navy (Retired)
Latino Military Service of Distinction Award



John Ramos served as Petty Officer, Third Class in the United States Navy. He is originally from Puerto Rico and has dedicated almost ten years to working in favor of equality; in particular, equal opportunity and liberty to the Puerto Rican people as citizens of the United States. He is an active community leader and supports different causes in the community of Columbus, where he resides. Among those is his work with the League of Latin American Citizens, where he served in its local and state board. He also supports education and outreach programs and consistently volunteers for community activities.

Ramos is currently a General Supply Specialist Instructor at the Defense Logistics Agency in Columbus, Ohio. John has been part of the Defense Supply Center in [DSCC] since 2003. He is the recipient of the LULAC Ohio Special Recognition Award, and was acknowledged by the Columbus City Council honorable Councilwoman Tavares for the achievement of the first LULAC Columbus Community and Gala Awards ceremony.

Sean Spradlin

Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Force
Latino Military Service of Distinction Award



US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Sean S. Spradlin has been assigned to the Pentagon since January 2012. He graduated from the Air Battle Manager course in 1997 and was assigned to the 74th Air Control Squadron at Langley, VA. He was immediately sent to prepare for a deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch, where he was one of the first Second Lieutenants in charge of Mission Crew. Shortly after that deployment our squadron was tasked to support Operation Noble Anvil (part of the Kosovo campaign). In 2000 Lt. Col Spradlin was assigned to Tinker AFB, OK where he initiated his flying career in the Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS), where he earned his Air Battle Manager Wings and immediately deployed to Operation Northern Watch supporting the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

Shortly after 9-11, Sean deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was chosen to lead the weapons team on the first crew. One significant event that stood out during this deployment was the role his crew played in the rescue of Jessica Lynch. More recent assignments include the NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, to Mission Crew Commander and Assistant Director of Operations in Oklahoma City and Tinker AFB.

Lt. Col. Spradlin intense work schedule leaves limited time to engage in other activities; however, he is deeply committed to honoring his Mexican-American heritage by inspiring and encouraging others to pursue excellence in their military careers. He often supports food and toy drives during the holidays - mostly for Vets and current military families; and while stationed in Germany, his squadron collected toys for a local Dutch Orphanage. During deployments, Sean works hard to bring a little bit of home to the troops and enjoys organizing cook-outs and softball tournaments for the crews, which always turn out to be a huge morale booster. Also, while serving overseas, Sean attended the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Henri Chapelle, US Military Cemetery, Belgium in honor of his Great Uncle Adolfo Velasquez who was killed in action during WWII.

Gustavo A. Rios-Ordonez

Private First Class, United States Army

Latino Military Service of Distinction Award



Fallen **HERO**



Army Pfc. Gustavo A. Rios-Ordonez, 25 of Englewood, Ohio was assigned 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan. He died June 20, 2011 in West Pashmul, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

Rios was born in Colombia and did not move to the United States until August 2007. He lived in Englewood, Ohio until joining the U.S. Army in 2010. His family, including parents Gilberto and Diana Rios of Richmond, wife Tiffani, and two daughters Isabella and Elizabeth, remember him with admiration for the pride he expressed when he enlisted to serve our country. His sudden loss in the battlefield brought together a community and invigorated the sense of patriotism and admiration for the men and women who serve in Afghanistan. "Hundreds of residents lined the streets of this small town to pay respect to a fallen soldier. Most of the people who gathered waving American flags never met Pfc. Gustavo A. Rios-Ordonez. 'He was honored to serve, and we are honored to have him serve' ". (Fallen Hero - Operation Enduring Freedom. Robert Sullivan. Richmond, Indiana Palladium-Item.)

Gustavo frequently spoke proudly of his heritage, his traditions and his family. He believed and stood for the principles of liberty and opportunity offered by this country, which he considered his own and was willing to serve with pride. As we remember Pfc. Gustavo A. Rios-Ordonez and his sacrifice there is no doubt as to his patriotism; for as Benjamin Franklin reminds us, "Where liberty dwells, there is my country."

LORAIN VIETNAM

Fallen Heroes

Five decades ago, seven sons of Lorain County were sent to the Republic of Vietnam in defense of democracy and freedom. Each of these young men gallantly accepted this responsibility. They left behind parents, siblings, and their friends and bravely placed themselves in yet another foreign country many thousands of miles away from the tranquil shores of Lake Erie.

Each possessed the courage, tenacity and character that carried their families from Puerto Rico to Ohio. Their dreams were identical to those of our young Americans today: aspirations for a good education, a loving family, a successful career, and a better future. They placed these hopes on hold in order to serve our nation with dignity. But, they never forgot the importance of “familia”. Wherever they were overseas, they always made sure to stay in touch, to write letters, to send a word of encouragement, and to stick together.

Most of these men had served less than one year before giving their lives for our country. Serving in the United States Army were: Jose Hector Ortiz who was then just 19 years old. Angel Luis Sanchez and Jose Antonio Carrion were both 22. Marines Zeneido Ortiz, Jr., Edgardo Rafael La Torre, and Eddie Nelson Corcino were each just 20 years old. Ricardo Galvan was only 19.

Today in the presence of your family as well as your brothers and sisters who did come back, we honor the memory of our seven Latino soldiers who died in Vietnam. So in the words of President Abraham Lincoln, we also “pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom”.



ANGEL LUIS SANCHEZ



RICARDO GALVAN



JOSE ANTONIO CARRION



EDDIE NELSON CORSINO



EDGARDO RAFAEL LATORRE

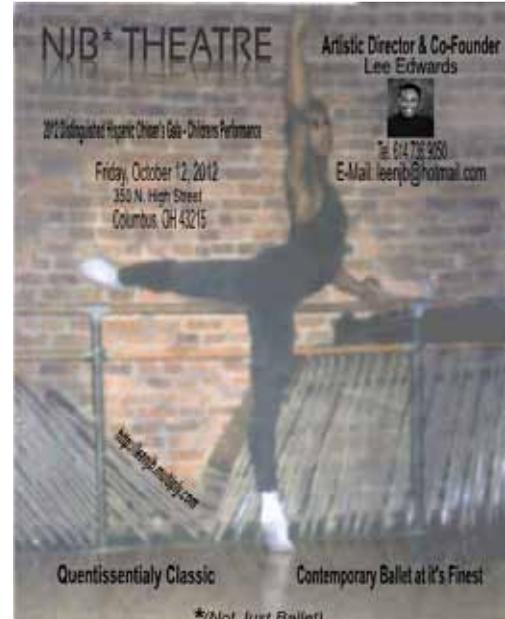


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JOSE HECTOR ORTIZ

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The CHIP logo is a large, stylized letter 'C' in a gradient of yellow and orange. To its right is a circular emblem with a map of the Americas and the text "Coalition for Hispanic Issues & Progress". Below the 'C' is the text: "C.H.I.P. The Coalition for Hispanic Issues & Progress Seeks to Advance and Promote the Hispanic/Latino Culture and Community Get Involved and become a member! Preservar y Promover la Cultura y la Comunidad Hispana/Latino Envuelvase y hagase miembro! P.O. Box 614 Lorain, Ohio 44052-0641 Phone (440) 371-2551". At the bottom of the graphic is a row of flags from various Hispanic and Latino countries.

The Coalition for Hispanic Latino Issues & Progress

Congratulations on the Governor's Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards 2012. CHIP is honored and very proud to be a Sponsor of this important event. CHIP would like to invite guests and attendees to CHIP's 18 Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference coming up on April 19, 2013 - Save the Date

CHIP Officers:

President: Joel Arredondo
Vice President: Antonio Barrios
Treasurer: Elizabeth Soto
Secretary: Juanita Senquiz

Trustee: Miriam Rosa
Trustee: Jose Ramirez
Trustee: Tomas Cabasa

The Public is always welcome!
C.H.I.P. meets at 6:30 pm each fourth Wednesday of the month
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Inside OCHLA

Advise. Connect. Build

The Commission was created by Legislative Act and signed into Law by Governor James Rhodes on July 8, 1977. The purpose of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is to advise state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, to connect the diverse Latino communities across the state, and to build the capacity of community Organizations so they may better serve the growing Latino population of Ohio.

CORE VALUES

Building cooperation and understanding between Hispanic Ohioans and Government by providing Hispanics with information, resources and by informing the Governor, Legislature and state agencies about Hispanic issues throughout the State.

Collaborating with the community by promoting community awareness, education, engagement and inclusion in mainstream society to ensure Latinos are part of the foundation and fabric of the state.

Partnering with state agencies to create institutional change to assure equity and access to culturally competent programs and services for Latinos.

Identifying Hispanic Ohioans issues and concerns through public policy analysis and data driven outcome-based research in order to create awareness of issues to form the foundation for institutional and systemic change in the Ohio state government.

Engaging with the National Latino Agenda and aligning our initiatives with the efforts that seek the integration and empowerment of Hispanic and Latinos in the United States.

Planning the work of the commission based on strategic priorities that consistently impact and address the needs of the Latino community in Ohio.

Encouraging new ideas and supporting openness and acceptance of differing ideas or beliefs. The commission respects the opinions of others and will provide a safe environment for all voices, opinions, ideas and beliefs.

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Lorain

Tony Ortiz
Dayton

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Cleveland

Baldemar Velasquez
Toledo

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Lourdes Barroso de Padilla
Columbus

Christina Hagan
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Emerald Hernandez
Columbus

Rev. Max Rodas
Cleveland

Charleta Tavares
Senator
District 15th ~ Franklin

Richard Romero
Lorain

V. Tony Simms-Howell
Cincinnati

MEET YOUR COMMISSIONERS



Mary Santiago
Chairwoman

Chairwoman Santiago's objective is to serve and make a positive difference in her community by assisting community organizations that provide services to the underprivileged and Latino communities. She is currently the board chair for the Ohio Commission of Hispanic/Latino Affairs and Chairs the Governor's DHO event. She has served as a member on numerous other boards in Lorain, Ohio always seeking to support activities that provide services and empower Latinos and other minorities.



Andres Gonzalez
Vice Chair

Andres Gonzalez has worked in the non-profit sector for over 16 years and has been Instrumental in creating culturally and linguistically competent programs for Hispanic/Latino serving agencies. Mr. Gonzalez served as the Executive Director of El Barrio, a workforce development agency that serves the Hispanic/Latino community in the Near West Side of Cleveland and currently serves as Director for the Office of Diversity at the Cleveland Clinic.



Michael Florez
Secretary of the Commission

Michael Florez is an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Civil Division of Hamilton County, Ohio. He graduated from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and has been practicing in Ohio for 30 years. Michael has been very active in the Hamilton County Republican Party for over 30 years, serving as Campaign Treasurer for over a dozen state and county wide candidates. He has served on the Boards of several not for profit organizations and has been a Commissioner on the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs for over 10 years. Michael is currently a Board member of the Hamilton County Law Library Resource Board and Treasurer of Victim's Voice, Inc. Michael is an average golfer and an avid fly fisherman.



V. Anthony Sims-Howell
Finance Chair

V. Anthony Sims-Howell was born in The Republic of Panama and migrated with his wife to the US in 1968. Volunteering is a way of life for him and his wife and they restrict their time to those organizations whose policy provides opportunities that provide quality of life for individuals, their families and their communities. Anthony is also a board member of the FBI Citizen Academy Foundation, a founding member and former Treasurer of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati and an involved member of many other organizations that promote enrichment within the community.



Emerald Hernandez

Emerald Hernandez has experience with the Ohio Department of Veteran Services, Legislative Liaison, where she represented the Dept. of Veterans services to the Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as outside stakeholders. She has worked as a legislative liaison for the Office of Governor Ted Strickland and the Ohio Department of Public Safety. She has also been involved with The United Way of Central Ohio and the American Society for Engineering Education. She is actively involved with initiatives that seek to empower and educate Latino youth.



Baldemar Velasquez

Mr. Velasquez has dedicated his life to working for social justice, dignity, and improved working conditions for agricultural workers through leadership in organizing and advocacy. He was born into a migrant farm worker family in 1947 and began working on a farm at the age of six. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Sociology in 1969 and has been an avid activist for migrant worker rights for nearly five decades. Mr. Velasquez currently serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs and as President of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee that he helped to form in 1963. Mr. Velasquez is the recipient of several awards and honors including an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from the University Toledo, Hispanic Leadership Award from the National Council of La Raza, and the Midwest Academy Award for outstanding contributions to social change.



Reverend Max Rodas

Pastor Max Rodas has been involved in responding to health inequities to the urban communities of Greater Cleveland, Ohio since 1984. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Proyecto Luz, an HIV/ AIDS, faith-based initiative on the West Side of Cleveland and 5 years ago became the Chief Executive Officer of Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center, a larger umbrella organization addressing the root causes of systemic poverty and health inequities in Cleveland's Cudell Neighborhood. Under his leadership, Nueva Luz has evolved from an idea to a social service organization providing assistance to over 3,000 individuals both in Cleveland and Lorain, Ohio. Currently, Nueva Luz employs over 20 staff members, contracts with numerous consultants and collaborates with over 100 volunteers in challenging health inequities in Northeastern Ohio.



Luis "Tony" Ortiz

Tony Ortiz is the Director of Athletic Training Education and the Latino Community Liaison at Wright State University. He is a member of the Dayton Hispanic Chamber, Del Pueblo, Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Ohio LULAC and the Dayton Dream Team. He was recently awarded the Martin Luther King Service Award from Wright State University and the Distinguished Educator Award from Ohio Magazine. Tony is deeply committed to increasing educational opportunities for Latinos and minorities.



Richard Romero

Richard is a principal owner of IGM Consulting, which is a public relations and government relations consulting firm. He founded the Ohio Latino Media Network, which is a division of IGM Consulting and does extensive work with for profit and nonprofit organizations in the Latino community. Richard's passion is to promote education and political empowerment through advocacy, which he brings to both his professional career. He lives in Lorain, Ohio.



Lourdes Barroso de Padilla

Mrs. Padilla has an extensive background in youth development and leadership. She began her 17-year career with City Year, an AmeriCorps program that unites diverse young adults in fulltime community service. She is a first generation Cuban-American who was born and raised in Columbus and also serves as President Elect for the Board of Directors for the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network and as a member in numerous other organizations and commissions.



Isabel Framer

Isabel Framer is the founder and principal partner of Language Access Consultants, LLC. Since 1998, Ms. Framer has worked as a consultant to defense attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement, state and federal government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice and advocacy firms on language access for Limited English Proficient persons in the legal system. She currently serves as a board member of the State Justice Institute and has been awarded and recognized for her professionalism and interpreting services.

Awards History & Criteria

History

In 1980, in fulfillment of the mandate to “secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments of Hispanic/Latino people to this state,” Ohio Revised Code § 121.32 (B), the Commission began presenting Hispanic Service Awards, which later became the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award.

Every year, Latino community leaders, friends and family gather from all around to meet in Ohio’s capital city to celebrate the annual Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans Gala, along with legislators, and other representatives of state government, including the Office of the Governor.

Awards Criteria

Three types of awards are being conferred in 2011: The Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards, the Nuestra Familia Awards, and the Latino Military Service of Distinction Awards. Nominations may come from members of the Commission as well as from the general public. Awardees were selected based on the nominations received and accepted/confirmed during the August 2011 Board Meeting.

DHO Award

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan nominees must be or should have:

- Hispanic or Latino/a ancestry
- An individual with at least two years of community service whose contributions under consideration for this award are above and beyond one’s job duties, obligations, or of exceptional benefit to Ohioans
- Ties with a Latino community organization
- An Ohio resident, or performed service of great, tangible benefit to Ohioans
- Of good character and community standing, exhibiting leadership

Nuestra Familia Award

Nuestra Familia Award nominees must be or should have:

- Of ancestry that is NOT Hispanic or Latino/a
- An individual, company, or other type of organization
- At least two years of community service
- An Ohio-based person or group, or performed service of exceptional benefit to LATINO Ohioans
- Of good character and community standing, exhibiting leadership

Latino Military Service of Distinction Award

A Latino Military Service of Distinction Award nominee is someone who served our country honorably and continues to contribute to their community, state, and country in an exemplary manner. The nominee must be or should have:

- Hispanic or Latino/a ancestry
- A resident of Ohio or lived in Ohio during military service.
- Received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Be of good moral character and have no felony convictions



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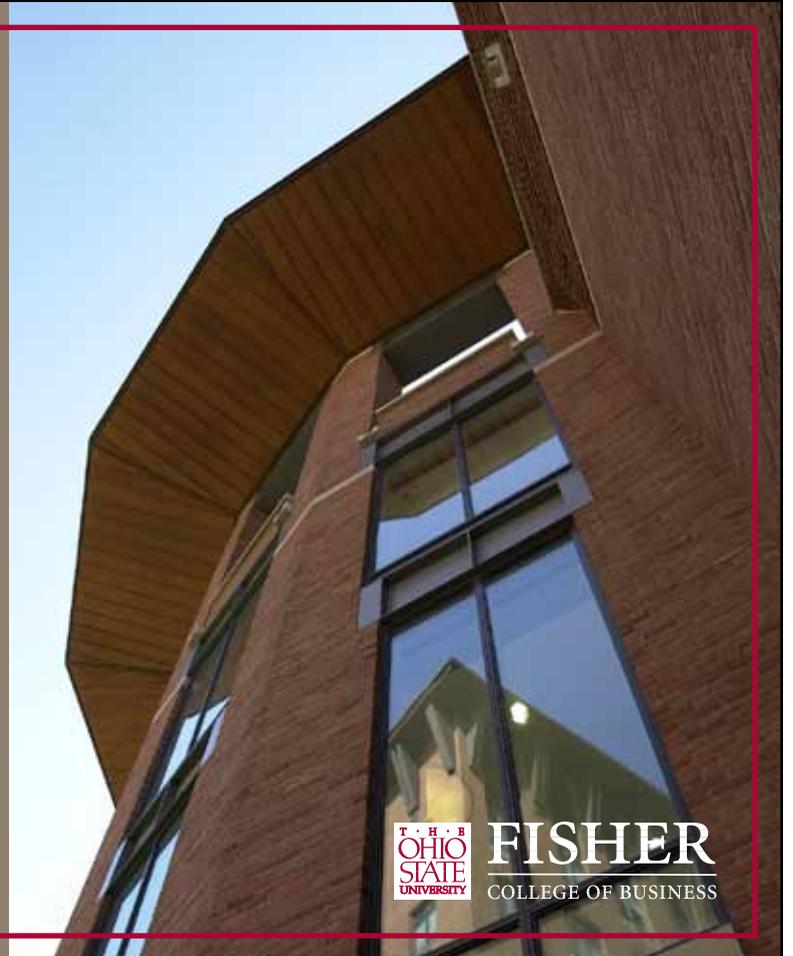
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- Yesi Morillo-Gual, Vice President, CITI



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- **Prepare Non-Hispanics** to More Authentically Supervise Hispanic Employees
- **Certify Hispanics** that Seek Professional Advancement
- **Enable Companies** to Penetrate the Hispanic Market



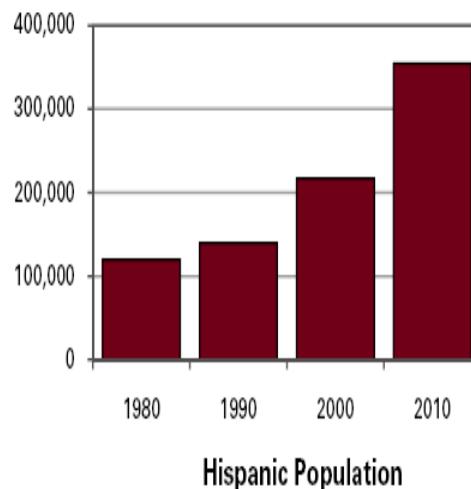
Learn More about the Center for Hispanic Leadership at: www.CenterforHispanicLeadership.com

Contact CHL Director of Client Relations, Annette Prieto at 949-387-2609 or via email at aprieto@centerforhispanicleadership.com

The Hispanic Community in Ohio

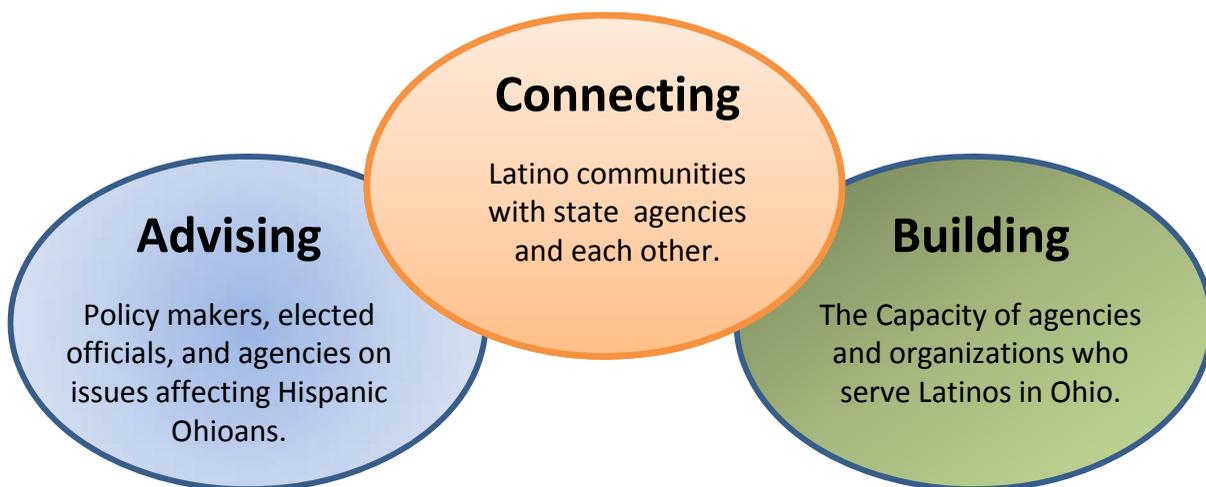
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354,674



**A 63%
increase
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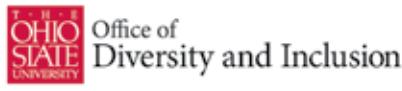
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