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# OCTOBER 2015

## To the Honorable Board Members of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

During October, we continued to work on important activities related to Hispanic Heritage Month and community outreach. We visited Rhodes College in Lima, Ohio as special guests to present on Latinos in Ohio. PPC Officer Lewis and Director Cavanaugh had the opportunity to provide an update on the state of Latinos and learn about the increasing opportunities that the college has to offer Latinos in the area. In Bowling Green, we met with Beatriz Maya, Managing Director for [La Conexion de Wood County, Inc.](#), a 501©3 non-profit organization formed in 2012 by a group of local Wood County, Ohio citizens that felt the need to come together to serve as a resource for the growing Latino/a community in the area. The Latino population in Wood County has grown over 40% from 2000 to 2010; therefore, La Conexion is critical to serve the needs of the community. The organization focuses on creating, establishing and nurturing the connections of the Latino and Wood county community; they promote educational opportunities, assists Latinos to meet their needs and seeks to strengthen and promote their value and identity as productive members of society.

We continued our work with Kent State University for the pilot project that engages schools, parents, leaders and children to implement changes of school culture and to improve instruction. The project seeks to enhance learning with a focus on understanding the needs for ELL and multilingual learners. Our Latino Affairs Commission has been invited by Kent State University to collaborate on this effort by providing insight and connections with the Latino community and its leaders.

As part of the project, a study tour is being organized to Windsor, Ontario to visit schools, learn about culture, and to develop collaborations. During our meeting, Dr. Robertson and



Director Cavanaugh discussed the program and potential statewide leaders who can participate in the study tour. As a result of this project, we expect improvement of Latino student achievement and graduation rates, better ties between Latino families and their communities, an improved community environment that embraces diversity, and stronger contributions of Latinos to Ohio's economy by increasing their competitiveness and educational pursuits.

Director Cavanaugh and PPC Office Lewis met with Jennifer Thornton from the US Attorney's office to begin planning a multicultural civic engagement event for 2016. The commission has been a partner with the US Attorney's Office for several years to host educational opportunities that inform New Americans about their rights and obligations in the United States. We also tailor the program to address the most relevant issues impacting their community and provide educational toolkits in order to improve their quality of life.

Finally, Director Cavanaugh had the pleasure of visiting Commissioner Rev. Juan Rivera in Youngstown for orientation, and to learn about opportunities to support the growing Latino community in his area.

### Meetings Attended by Executive Director

05 Oct - Commissioner Rev. Juan Rivera (Youngstown)  
05 Oct—Michael Beck (OHCC)  
07 Oct—Rhodes Community College, Phyllis Henderson (Lima)  
07 Oct—Beatriz Maya, La Conexion de Wood County (Bowling Green)  
07 Oct—Cesar Chavez Awards, Adelante Inc. (Toledo)  
08 Oct— Medical Mutual of Ohio, presentation (Cleveland)  
08 Oct— Linda Robertson, Kent State University (Twinsburg)  
12 Oct— Hispanic Chamber Gala Event (Cincinnati)  
14 Oct— DLA Enterprise keynote, Hispanic Heritage Month (Columbus)  
14 Oct— Meeting with Senator Charleta Tavares  
16 Oct— DHO Gala  
21 Oct—Jennifer Thornton, US Attorney's Office  
26 Oct—University of Akron, L.A.S.E.R. Symposium, Keynote (Akron)  
27 Oct—OCHLA Board Meeting

## Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

Andrea M. Lewis, Public Policy Officer

- Advise

### Ohio Latino Education Summit

Much of October was spent laying the groundwork for the 2016 Ohio Latino Education Summit. I created a "Save the Date" flyer to share with our networks, and to include in the OSU Bridge Builders program. Additionally, I made a spreadsheet of all VIPs to invite to the summit, which includes Toledo's elected officials (local, state and federal) and community leaders. The spreadsheet also included a list of key people to keep "in the know" regarding the Education Summit. I worked with an intern to draft letters to Senators Lehner and Tavares, requesting their presence as co-chairs for next year's



summit. The letters have been mailed to the respective offices. More importantly, Executive Director Cavanaugh and I devised a draft agenda for the summit, and I created an alternate scenario agenda and student track agenda as well. Director Cavanaugh and I created a summit timeline to help stay on track leading up to the summit. In October I had a conference call with UT to discuss logistics as well as registration and RFPs for the website. I created an RFP and Latino Education Summit fact sheet to be used as language for the webpage. I've sent all of the committee members the aforementioned documents, and have asked them to distribute the flyer and fact sheet as they see fit. On October 27th we held an Education Summit Committee meeting where we proposed a title change for the summit and made changes to the agenda. We have eliminated a second speaker and will facilitate group discussions after lunch, instead of doing a 3rd session. Minutes from our meeting and further updates have been sent to committee members.

### Professional Development Workshop

I've continued working with the Central Ohio ESC and our presenters to craft an agenda for the Professional Development Workshop. We have confirmed a date of January 28th for the workshop, and hope to have at least 50 teachers attend the full day program. I drafted a document for everyone that has the time slots, presenters, and agenda for the program. We also finalized a title for the workshop, "Educational Considerations for Students with Undocumented Immigration Status." I've worked with the Central Ohio ESC to create a flyer that we can send around to promote the workshop. The flyer gives bullet points for the topics that will be touched on, and briefly mentions the presenters. Our office printed off 1,000 copies of the flyer for the purpose of including the flyers in the tote bags of the annual TESOL conference. During the conference, my colleagues and I heavily promoted the workshop and encouraged Central Ohio teachers and administrators to attend.

### Legislative Relations:

- The DHO Gala was in October, which recognized 12 awardees. I contacted all of the state senators and state representatives who represent each of the awardees and asked that they honor our awardees with commendations. All of the offices as well as Senators Portman and Brown said they would draft commendations, and I provided them information for drafting the commendations. I maintained communication with each of the offices during this process, to ensure that the commendations were received in time for the Gala. The commendations were presented to the awardees at the October 16th Gala.
- Coordinated a congratulatory video message for DHO recipients with Senators Brown and Portman.
- Sent Rep. Ramos information to contact Ohio's living Borinqueneers.
- Rep. Ramos this year earned the title of the longest serving Latino state officeholder in Ohio history. To honor Rep. Ramos, I worked with the Ohio House of Representatives to draft a press release that recognizes this achievement. This press release was sent out to major state media outlets, as well as Latino media outlets and social media. La Prensa drafted a news article on the press release and the Plain Dealer mentioned it on their Twitter account.
- A group of Latino non-profit leaders and I met with Rep. Duffey to discuss how our organizations can contract with the government to provide bilingual services for them. He asked for a synopsis of our conversation, and I drafted and sent it to his office following our meeting.
- I organized a meeting for the President of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and Senator Tavares to discuss SB 33. Director Cavanaugh and I attended the meeting as well, and offered



our support for the bill. Throughout the month, I continued to keep the Language Access Network apprised of SB 33 updates.

- This month leaders representing various immigrant groups in Columbus met with Rep. Kevin Boyce to discuss hosting a New American Summit. We are working with Rep. Boyce to host the event and to devise legislative priorities that would benefit immigrant communities. I devised a list of legislative priorities to share with community leaders.
- Senator Tavares' office reached out to me, requesting information on Ohio's ELL population. I provided the office with numerous statistics and federal mandates that require districts to address the needs of English Language Learners.
- I sent DHO recipient Anamaria Perales' biography to City Council, as they wanted to award her with a commendation.
- Worked with an intern to highlight bills in the General Assembly that would impact the business community. The bills were all summarized and put into a document for the chamber leaders. Bills and bill analyses were then printed off for further context.
- Reached out to Maria Teresa Kumar of *Voto Latino* to be the keynote speaker for next year's Legislative Visit Day.
- Sent out a Legislative Update to a 400+ listserv featuring HB's 193, 296, 308 and SB 214. News articles featuring state news were included in the update.
- Worked with intern to draft a 2015 Ohio Ballot Issues Update that was sent to a 400+ list serv. The update gave brief summaries of the initiatives on this year's ballot, as well as news articles for further reading.
- Meet and greet with Senator Edna Brown

## Cesar Chavez Day Resolution

As a follow-up to our previous board meeting, I drafted a resolution for the OCHLA board to consider that would urge Ohio's General Assembly to recognize March 31st of each year as Cesar Chavez Day. I researched information to include in the resolution, including the number of states that formally recognize Cesar Chavez Day. I worked with an intern to contact various state legislatures to confirm their recognition of the holiday. Upon completion of the resolution, AG McNamara provided feedback and suggestions. The final version of the Resolution was submitted to the board for consideration on October 27th, and received unanimous support. Since then, I have contacted Wright State and Sinclair Community College to discuss next steps and to devise a plan of action.

## • Connect

### Constituent Outreach

- Assisted constituent with college application process. His parents do not speak English and he did not understand the application process. I also called the admissions office and put him in contact with an advisor at Columbus State when he had questions I could not answer.
- An individual in Toledo called to ask for information on Latino elected officials in Ohio who are Republican. The individual was looking for a panelist that fit these criteria, so I provided him with contact information for State Rep. Rick Perales.
- Sent constituent scholarship opportunities for nursing school.
- Worked with intern to create a New Americans Flyer to distribute among our networks.
- I have continued to work with a family who alleges that their son was treated unfairly at school because of his ethnicity. I reached out to the Civil Rights Commission about the possibility of issuing a complaint against the school, and they referred me to the U.S. Department of Education Civil



Rights Office. I contacted the Civil Rights Office and explained the situation, they said the complaint sounded like it would fall under their jurisdiction, so I put the family and their lawyer in contact with the office.

- Performed investigative work on a case involving a human trafficking victim (T visa holder) who was denied a driver's license.

### Event Preparation

—I devised and sent panel questions to four ladies who took part in a panel discussion at OSU's Bridge Builders Forum. I also drafted remarks for a short speech and introduction of a keynote speaker at the event. For this event, I worked with a presenter to design a workshop for the forum.

—Coordinated a presentation for the Hispanic Chambers with the U.S. SBA and PTAC regarding the services they offer to the business community.

-I prepared remarks for a Hispanic Heritage Month Presentation at Rhodes State Community College. Director Cavanaugh and I co-presented to students, community and faculty members.

### Meetings Attended:

10/1—Conference call for Professional Development Workshop  
10/5—Lynn Stevens, Governor's Office  
10/5—Rep. Mike Duffey  
10/7- Rhodes State College Hispanic Heritage Month Presentation  
10/8- Kent State University Conference Call  
10/9—U.S. Attorney Event, "Protecting Our Houses of Worship"  
10/14— Roberto Gonzalez, National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
10/14—Senator Charleta Tavares  
10/15— Senator Edna Brown  
10/15—Senate Bill 214 Hearing  
10/16—DHO Gala  
10/20—Asian American/Pacific Islander Legislative Visit Day  
10/21—Jennifer Thornton, US Attorney's Office  
10/22—Dana Weber, Brenda Custodio, Luis Macias  
10/23—David Young, University of Toledo Conference Call  
10/26—Rep. Boyce and New American Summit Focus Group  
10/26 — Human Trafficking Task Force Meeting  
10/27—OCHLA Board Meeting and Committee Meetings  
10/29—Project R.E.A.C.H.  
10/30—TESOL Conference  
10/31—Bridge Builders Forum



# Latino Community Network (LCN) Report

Lair Marin-Marcum, Community Liaison

During the month of October, our work focused primarily on the 35th Anniversary of Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards final logistics, program booklet, awardees, partners, briefings, run of show, hotel programing, confirmations and all venue conferencing logistics of the gala.

We are almost finalizing the 2015-2016 OLANet Latino Serving Organizations and all have been up-loaded to the website. By the second half of November, a campaign will be prepared to communicate and connect the community with the more that 100 new organizations update.

## Connecting the Community: Information and Resources

OUTLET	DESCRIPTION	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Website Calendar	Community Events	66	70
Facebook	Number of “Likes” to date	916	930
Facebook & Twitter	Postings of news, resources, events	215	215
Website (Job Opportunities Page) Facebook & Twitter	Job Openings Promoted	84	71

September constituent inquiries processed:	33
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### Student Intern / Volunteers

In the month of October we went up to 4 Interns volunteers with Evan Carfagno. We will start recruiting in November, December and January since we will have 2 intern volunteers leaving (Iliana Vasquez and Jordan Royster) in third week of December after OSU semester finishes and they go on Christmas Vacation.

### Meetings Attended:

- 6 October – United Way Latino Engagement Committee Mtg—To discuss Community Engagement
- 7 October – Conference Call with 2015 DHO Keynote speaker Juan Sepulveda review logistics
- 9 October – Call with Comm. Santiago for 2015 DHO Updates on speaker, numbers and logistics
- 9 October – Mandatory Fire Drill—Must evacuate Building
- 14 October – Meeting with LEON - Lourdes All Logistics Run of Show & Seating Chart and all details
- 15 October – Conference Call with Chair Florez 2015 DHO Gala Run of Show Briefing and Logistics
- 27 October – OCHLA Board Meeting and Committee Meetings



28 October – Meeting with Will Hatley / Sheraton Cleveland Airport Employment Opportunities  
29 October – Intro Call | Atrium Personnel & OCHLA  
30 October – Meeting with Lynette Santiago National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)

## Organizations Development Center (ODC) Report

Georgina Alvarez— ODC Officer

### Grant Announcements—E- Campaigns –

We have completed our customized regional funding database tailored to focus on Ohio's Latino grassroots organizations. This new tool will provide local and regional grant opportunities with target programs which will decrease the time spent by organizations searching, cataloguing and selecting potential funding opportunities. The ODC Center is also available to work with grassroots organizations on grant preparation, data research, strategic alliance formation and building support for grant applications. Additionally, our regularly schedule e-campaigns with funding opportunities were distributed among our networks.

### Building rapport with Hispanic grassroots and serving organizations

#### Agenda Latina 2015

During October, the ODC focused on planning for Agenda Latina 2015. This meeting targets Latino grassroots organizations and seeks to build their capacity, provide an opportunity for sharing best practices and connect with state government. The 2015 session will focus on visioning and developing strategies to increase collaboration and tap into the organizations' competitive advantage, including an analysis of:

- Community needs and regional landscape
- Expertise, program focus, competitiveness
- Threats, opportunities, priorities
- Partnerships and collaboration potential

Agenda Latina serves as an opportunity to discuss strategies based on feedback from Latino grassroots organizations and leaders to increase our effectiveness. Additionally, Agenda Latina will provide the Organizations Development Center at the Latino Affairs Commission with critical feedback and guidance to better support the development work in our communities.

#### Capacity Building

- Worked with the Fatherhood Summit application and encouraged Latino organizations to consider hosting events through this grant opportunity.
- Worked with the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and continued providing follow up to their agenda.
- Met with Beatriz Reina, Executive Director of La Conexion in Bowling Green for an update on the regional situation, to learn about their programming opportunities to be included on our grant search-



es.

- Followed up on the Spanish American Committee on their workforce development project.
- Met with the USDA – Rural Development Office to discuss possible funding opportunities for organizations serving rural communities.
- Accompanied Executive Director Cavanaugh to meeting with Kent University and provided input regarding the education project for migrant families.
- Met with Proyecto Mariposas (Columbus), a new 501©3 organization that works with young girls and women affected by domestic violence; they are looking for new opportunities and funding.

### Meetings Attended

- October 8 - Met with Beatriz Reina, grassroots organization La Conexión, in Bowling Green
- October 8 - Attended the Adelante Toledo Gala Celebration
- October 9 - Attended meeting with Medical Mutual in Cleveland
- October 9 - Attended meeting at Kent University
- October 12 - Attended the Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Gala Celebration
- October 14 - Attended Health Forum, City of Columbus
- October 15 - Met with Yahaira Perez-Caraballo, Executive Director, Proyecto Mariposas
- October 16 - Attended the DHO – OCHLA & LEON Gala Event
- October 23 - Conference call with Efrain Soto, Spanish American Committee
- October 27 - Attended OCHLA’s Board of Commissioners and Workforce and Economic Development Committee
- October 29 - Attended the R.E.A.C.H. Conference in Columbus
- October 30 - Met with Mr. Randy Monhemius and Deborah Rausch from USDA – Rural Development
- October 30 - Met with Lynneth Santiago from National Youth Advocate Program.

Respectfully submitted,

