



LULACnews

Autumn 2013



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INSIDE:

Vice President Biden Addresses LULAC Youth and Young Adults

Youth and Collegiate LULAC Leadership Address

The Affordable Care Act and Young Adults

Closing the Student Achievement Gap





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LULACnews

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A MESSAGE *from the President*

The 84th Annual LULAC National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada

With the theme *Lifting Our Voices through Civic Participation*, this year's Annual LULAC Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, marked our organization's 84th year as the largest, oldest and only Latino membership based organization in the country. We promised an agenda packed with important seminars, workshops and town halls – and we did not disappoint.

This year, we had the distinct honor to have Vice President Biden address the Youth and Young Adults Banquet. There, he spoke passionately about immigration reform and its impact on our young people. LULAC is entrenched in the future of immigration reform, and it was particularly significant to have the Vice President speak about the impact that immigration reform will have on our community.

The Vice President delivered his message at the Youth and Young Adults Banquet because it recognizes the important contributions of Latino youth. In fact, working with young Latinos continues to be one of LULAC's priorities. We are fortunate to have a committed group of young people who is always ready, willing, and able to meet the challenges of our community. Our young people gather at school



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

At the LULAC National Convention, USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack met with LULAC National President Margaret Moran, underscoring the economic windfall that will result when the millions of undocumented immigrants are on their pathway to citizenship. "It's a pro-growth and pro-jobs bill," Vilsack stated, referring to the pending immigration reform bill.

campuses across the country in order to bring critical information to the community about health care, education and immigration reform.

LULAC not only supports such efforts but wants to ensure that the youth have the appropriate resources to become our next generation's leaders. LULAC understands that a good education is key to this effort. Thus, at the convention, LULAC announced its education initiatives, including efforts that address the nation's drop out crisis.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Vice President Biden's remarks on the economic benefits for passing immigration reform were well received by an enthusiastic crowd of more than 1,000 attendees. The Vice President's earnest and heartfelt speech was particularly poignant as he spoke of the history of immigrants and the value they give our nation, economically and beyond.

A MESSAGE *from the President*

Lea este artículo en español en la página 26.

LULAC discussed its partnership with the Ford Foundation to promote the Ford Driving Dreams through Education program. This year, the Ford Driving Dreams through Education program has awarded ten grants to local LULAC councils in New Mexico, Texas, Florida, Colorado, Arizona, Ohio and Missouri. The grants serve to provide additional educational funding for local Latino youth.

In addition, and true to its roots in civic participation and advocating against discrimination, LULAC focused on civil rights

value to our members and to Federal employees, that LULAC will be hosting the Federal Training Institute Partnership in Washington D.C., on September 24 -25, 2013. For more information you can go to http://lulac.org/events/federal_training_institute_partnership and contact Sara Clemente at sclemente@lulac.org.

Last, but certainly not least, the convention focused on the critical issue of comprehensive immigration reform. LULAC offered information and training opportunities on how best to mobilize



The LULAC Exposition hosted a college fair where more than 30 representatives from top notch colleges and universities talked with prospective students about postsecondary opportunities at their institutions. With 300 exhibitors, the expo also offered free health screenings, a career fair, and tickets to the Concierto de la Gente with PeeWee, la Santa Cecilia, and War.

issues for the LGBT community. In collaboration with the Human Rights Campaign, LULAC released a co-branded report entitled, *Growing Up LGBT Latino in America*. The report discusses the importance of family inclusion for LGBT youth and promotes anti-bullying efforts and is available at <http://LULAC.org/lgbtyouth>.

Our work with the LGBT community underscores our commitment to equality for everyone, including LGBT youth who live disconnected from their homes. As it is particularly disheartening to see LGBT youth experience ostracism and even homelessness, LULAC's work to educate the community is particularly significant.

For those re-entering the workforce, the Federal Training Institute (FTI) – a long standing staple of our annual conventions – brought tremendous benefit. LULAC offered a week long federal training program that focused on leadership training and discussed opportunities in the Federal Government. In fact, the FTI has become such a successful part of the convention, bringing so much

the Latino community to call upon our representatives to pass immigration reform. In the months ahead, LULAC will continue its advocacy efforts to ensure immigration reform becomes a reality for the 11 million Latino families who are currently living in limbo. Our work with our Youth and Young Adults will also continue to be a working integral part in carrying out our mission.

Warm Wishes,

Margaret Moran

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President

A MESSAGE *from the President*



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Throughout the week, participants engaged in a series of workshops on topics ranging from Empowering Nuestra Comunidad Through Civic Engagement, Community Health: Where You Live Matters, Understanding the Housing Market: Foreclosure Prevention & Home Owners, among others. For a complete listing, visit <http://LULAC.org/convention>.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

2013 Award Winners

1. Man of the Year: Tom Sandoval from Texas
2. Woman of the Year: Yvonne Gonzalez Duncan from California
3. Council of the Year: Council #7 from Texas
4. Senior Awards: Silvia Gonzalez from Texas and Pedro Enriquez from Illinois
5. Raymond Telles Award for Education: Lydia Medrano from Florida
6. Felix Tijerina Award for Service to the League: Eddie LeGuerre from New York
7. Aztec Award for Civil Rights: Jorge Rivera from Texas
8. J.C. Martinez Award for Membership and Expansion: Priscilla Rocha from Nevada
9. Cesar Chavez Award for Leadership and Community Services: Lourdes Ribera from Ohio
10. Dr. Anita Del Rio Award for Latina Leadership and Women's Advocacy: Elizabeth Zepeda from California
11. Crecencio Padilla Award for Volunteerism: Salvador Lazalde from Utah
12. State Director of the Year: Yvonne Quiñones-Lanzo from Puerto Rico
13. Lifetime Achievement Award: Benny Martinez from Texas
14. Lifetime Achievement Award: Silvia Gonzalez from Texas
15. Ohtli Award: Jose Rivera from Illinois
16. Dr. John David Arnold Humanitarian Award: Nana Otimpong Otibribi III, King of the Buem People of Ghana, Africa

LULAC Youth Push Higher Education, Immigration Reform

Students Develop Leadership Capabilities through Civic Engagement

By: Roman Rodriguez, LULAC Youth President

The mission for LULAC Youth greatly encourages academic achievement. Higher education correlates to a better living standard in the future. A recent Pew Hispanic study shows the rapid growth of Latino students within higher enrollment to colleges/universities versus other minorities, but we need to guarantee that these high enrollment rates translate into high college graduation rates. College entry for Latinos is no longer an option but an obligation to be prepared for the 21st century workforce.

Latino youth have made great strides in education and leadership. Latino youth are developing leadership skills thanks to organizations like LULAC. Showing our leadership skills in our schools and

History will not be repeated as in 1929 when anti-immigrant hysteria allowed millions of Latin American citizens to be deported to Mexico. As LULAC Youth we have to assure that our entire community is safe, and we must advocate for a humane legalization bill for all undocumented immigrants and their families in the United States of America.

By working together, we will be a prime example of leadership all across the country. Setting high standards for Latino students will demonstrate that through hard work and persistence our community will succeed. There will no longer be a day where the words of our people will be ignored and that our education will be second hand to



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

The newly elected 2013 Youth Board includes (pictured, from left to right) LULAC Youth President Roman Rodriguez, LULAC National Youth Treasurer Sergio Perez, Jr., LULAC National Youth VP for the Southwest Galilea Martinez.

communities helps elevate our potential.

In July, the LULAC Youth hosted an immigration reform town hall in Chicago, Illinois, urged students across the country to focus on passage of the Senate bill in the House of Representatives.

We know that the future of millions of Latino children are at risk as many of their parents face deportation. Millions of these students are U.S. born and have their liberties stripped away when they must be move to another country due to their parents' deportation.

others. As we transition into the leaders we are capable of becoming we welcome any challenges of taking on the role of being some of the best leaders in this country.

Collegiate LULAC Expands Civic Engagement Efforts in Third Year

By: Manuel Rendon, LULAC Vice President for Young Adults

When our Young Adult members arrived in Albuquerque, New Mexico, it was disappointing, but not surprising, that only two states in the entire nation had Young Adult representation at the LULAC Convention in 2010.

At the time we only had Young Adult councils in four states and a low turnout at National Conventions was usually expected. We knew then that we had an opportunity to alter the course of LULAC in a positive way by strengthening and growing the Young Adult branch of the organization if we could elect a VP for Young Adults that could set the framework and implement a national council development strategy. I had the honor of being elected LULAC National VP for Young Adults in 2010 with the support and trust of my fellow Young Adult members and I immediately set a list of goals that I wanted to get done in order to get the ball rolling. In truth, we had a lot of work to do.

I had the fortune of sitting on a predominantly newly elected LULAC National Board that were equally eager to grow and strengthen the organization. I knew that having the support of our Regional VPs would be instrumental and all we would have had to do was work together and work effectively. During my first National Executive Board meeting in August of 2010, President Margaret Moran took me aside to discuss our vision for LULAC Young Adults



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

and how she could help. We had no path to follow; we would have to pave our own. I explained to President Moran that progress would take time, and she assured me that we would have the full support of the Board. Thankfully President Moran along with our National Executive Director, Brent Wilkes, have been amazing allies in advancing the Young Adult movement and developing our new Collegiate LULAC initiative. As a former LULAC Youth member, I felt that it would be important to work hand in hand with our National Youth President and VP for Youth in order to promote membership transition from the Youth to the Young Adults. The result has been a positive one, given that more LULAC Youth



members are transitioning to Young Adult/Collegiate councils than before.

The most vital ingredient in this new Young Adult/Collegiate movement has been the actual Young Adult membership. LULAC possesses some of the brightest and most extraordinary young Hispanic leaders in the nation, which I say with a smile. We may have had loads of ideas and strategies, but we simply could not have dreamt that we would have the caliber of student leaders that we have today. What many people don't realize is that in an academic and economic environment like today's it is exceptionally difficult to find young people that are willing to dedicate their time and personal lives to give back to the community. And that in my eyes has been the highlight of my term as National VP. Being able to know them

and work alongside them has been a reward in itself. Our Young Adult members are the cream of the crop and they embody the great promise that is the American Dream. Many are the first in their families to attend college, some are DREAMers, single mothers, and we now have an LGBT Young Adult council.

As of this summer (2013), we have LULAC Young Adult/Collegiate councils in 15 states. This year, the University of New Mexico became the first Young Adult/Collegiate council to host a LULAC state convention and the University of Northern Colorado became the first Young Adult/Collegiate council outside of Texas or California to win National Young Adult/Collegiate Council of the Year. In Texas, our membership has worked extensively to register the Latino electorate and create "a culture of voting." With representation now in the Northeast, Southeast, Far west, and Midwest; LULAC's national programs and initiatives will have a ground team of energetic and young, brilliant leaders ready to implement them. Our community at times seems to be fighting an uphill battle towards economic, political, and

educational attainment. Now, we at least have a shot at a fair fight.

Immigrants and their children have always made significant contributions toward making the United States of America the world model it is today. Andrew Carnegie, Joseph Pulitzer, and Irving Berlin; to name a few, were all immigrants and proud Americans. We too are proud Americans and our pride runs so deep that the success and prosperity of this nation is something we want to be a part of. You may not realize it, but a future Hispanic president, governor, or Fortune 500 CEO may be right under your nose at the next LULAC National Convention.

Be a LULAC Youth Mentor

Change a Student's Life

By: Ana Valenzuela, LULAC Vice President for Youth

Join LULAC and mentor our Youth councils. Mentors produce improvements in grade retention, school engagement, and perceived scholastic competence; a measure linked to grades and test scores. A mentor has the ability to shape a student's capacity to succeed in school.

By coupling mentorship experiences with rigorous academic programming, we develop the whole child. LULAC Youth Councils are a treasure in that they focus on providing not only the technical skills needed to succeed academically but also in fomenting the attitude with which to achieve it.

Our structured coursework found in college entrance forums, university fairs, and college affordability workshops provide the technical knowledge that empowers students to achieve their career goals. LULAC has a proven history of enriching student opportunities, an expansive one that stems from the creation of the Little School of the 400 over 50 years ago. Our goal has been to empower youth to plan their educational future with the best resources, connections, and mentorship programs available.

Help us mentor students nationwide through a LULAC Youth Council. Though they can serve all children, mentors who work closely with children who face adversity, those living in single-parent or low income homes, households where a parent is incarcerated, or military families will see tremendous social returns since these children are the most vulnerable. Through Youth Councils, at-risk children can be eager to learn and anticipate a successful future.

Together we can help students develop the loftiest of career goals. I look forward to witnessing our growth and experiencing the impact of our commitment to educational excellence. To start a LULAC Youth Council, contact Jossie Flor Sapunar at JSapunar@LULAC.org. Blessings y Abrazos!



At the LULAC Youth Convention, students attended professional and academic enrichment workshops and advocacy training.



Working alongside the National Parks Service, the students explored STEM careers with behind-the-scenes access to the Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, Moapa Valley, and Red Rock.



Coming from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, over 200 students attended the 2013 LULAC Youth Convention.



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Continuing the Fight Against Childhood Obesity

By: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ensuring the health and well-being of our nation's children is a top priority for President Obama, and for all of us at USDA. We have focused in recent years on expanding access, affordability and availability of healthy foods for families and children.

Recently, we learned of some promising new results in the fight against obesity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the rate of obesity among young, low-income children appears to be declining. In 19 states, the obesity rate among low-income preschoolers has dropped for the first time in decades – and in many other states the obesity rate has leveled off.

This is encouraging for us at USDA, because we have made special efforts to help low-income families expand their access to healthier foods. In particular, we've provided healthier choices through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children – the WIC program – while helping parents learn more about healthy nutrition.

We have helped expand local markets around the country – with more than 8,100 farmers markets around the country today – and in the last two years we've doubled the number of these markets that accept SNAP and WIC benefits.

We're also increasing access to fresh produce during the school day. USDA has provided grants to help schools in low-income areas provide fruits and vegetables to children – and USDA Farm to School programs in nearly every state are helping school districts buy locally-produced food for school meals.

Unfortunately, some of these efforts cannot continue unless Congress passes a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill this year.

We still face a challenge in the coming years, with one in eight preschoolers overweight or obese today. This has troubling implications for the health of our nation, our economy and our national security in years to come.

The fight against childhood obesity is winnable, but we can't let up. We must continue efforts that have already helped millions of parents and children with better access to healthy foods. We can create a generational shift to improve childhood nutrition and together, we can build on the promising results we've seen so far.



Thomas Vilsack serves as the Nation's 30th Secretary of Agriculture. Vilsack is working hard to strengthen the American agricultural economy, build vibrant rural communities and create new markets for the tremendous innovation of rural America. In more than four years at the Department, Vilsack has worked to implement President Obama's agenda to put Americans back to work and create an economy built to last. USDA has focused on expanding economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; promoting American agriculture; helping to ensure a nutritious, safe food supply for American families; and conserving our Nation's natural resources.

Key Fact

In 19 states, the obesity rate among low-income preschoolers has dropped for the first time in decades.

Key Fact

More than 4M children suffer from food insecurity, which means they cannot access healthy foods.

Key Fact

SNAP benefits lift 4.5M Americans, including almost 2 million children, out of poverty every year.

Key Fact

In fiscal year 2011, on average, SNAP provided \$134 per person to 44.7M individuals in 21.1M households each month.

Invest in SNAP, and Invest in America's Health



By: Declan Kingland, Health Programs Coordinator

Obesity is “the toxic consequence of economic insecurity and a failing economic environment.”¹ The incidence of chronic illnesses, including obesity, follows a socioeconomic gradient, with the highest rates observed in populations with the lowest levels of education and income,^{2,3} and childhood obesity is no exception.⁴ Dietary factors play an extensive role in the development of these health inequities^{5,6,7} and reducing the income gap mitigates these health disparities.^{5,7} The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a major federal nutrition supplement program that aims to directly address dietary inequities by providing eligible families with money for nutritious food.⁸ It serves as “the nation’s first line of defense against hunger and [is a] tool to improve nutrition among low income Americans.”⁹

SNAP provides funds to those with the most need; families or individuals with a net income below 100% of the poverty line.¹⁰ In fact SNAP benefits lift 4.5 million Americans, including almost 2 million children, out of poverty every year, or nearly 13% of participating households. SNAP is uniquely qualified to impact childhood obesity as 61% of SNAP funding goes to participants that have children in their households, directly reaching younger populations. In fact, when SNAP funding was added to other income in 2007 the percentage of working families with children below 50% of the poverty line dropped from 20% to 4%, and the percentage of families with children at or above the federal poverty guidelines increased from 26% to 45%.

Childhood obesity damages almost every key system in the body and can lead to a variety of disorders in the metabolic, digestive, respiratory, circulatory, and skeletal systems. This damage is persistent and can affect that child’s health for the rest of their life.

1 Drewnowski A. “Obesity, diets, and social inequalities.” *Nutrition Reviews*, May 2009.

2 P. Lantz., et. al. “Socioeconomic Factors, Health Behaviors, and Mortality: Results From a Nationally Representative Prospective Study of US Adults.” *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1998: 1703-1708.

3 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2010.

4 Singh G.K., Kogan M.D., Van Dyck P.C., Siahpush M. “Racial/ethnic, Socioeconomic, and Behavioral Determinants of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in the United States: Analyzing Independent and Joint Associations.” *Annals of Epidemiology*, September 2008: 682-695.

5 W.P. James, M. Nelson, A. Ralph, S. Leather. “Socioeconomic determinants of Health: the Contribution of Nutrition to Inequalities in Health.” *British Medical Journal*, 1997: 1545-1549.

6 P. Martikainen, E. Brunner, M. Marmot. “Socioeconomic Differences in Dietary Patterns Among Middle-Aged Men and Women.” *Social Science and Medicine* 56 (2003): 1397-1410.

7 N. Darmon, A. Drewnowski. “Does social class predict diet quality?” *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 87, no. 5 (May 2008): 1107-1117.

8 Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Research. 7-24-2013. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ORA/menu/Published/SNAP/SNAP.htm#Building> (accessed 7-24-2013)

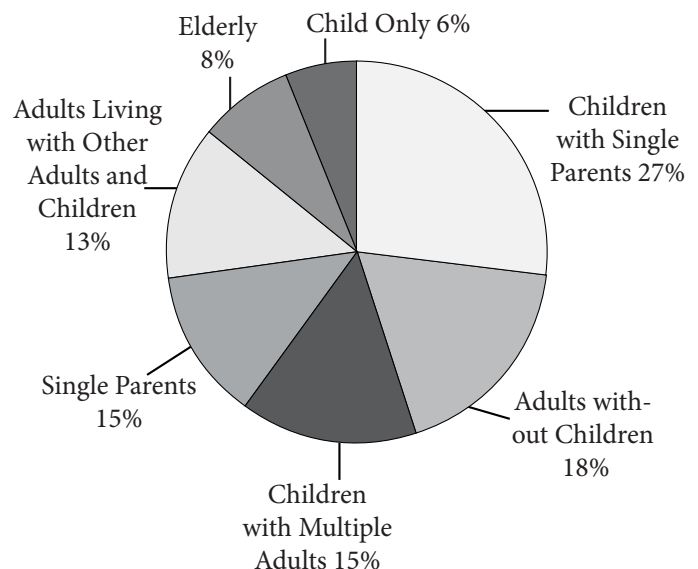
9 Office for Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. “Building a Healthy America: A Profile of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.” Program Profile, 2012.

10 Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Research. 7-24-2013. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ORA/menu/Published/SNAP/SNAP.htm#Building> (accessed 7-24-2013).

SNAP corrects this by positively contributing to a household’s overall dietary quality, lowering rates of nutritional deficiency and raising levels of essential vitamins and minerals.¹¹ The majority of SNAP benefits go towards the purchasing of vegetables, fruits, and grain products. In children, “the diets of SNAP participants as measured by the Healthy Eating Index rank similar to that of higher income Americans.”³

Unfortunately, in the United States the cheapest foods are also the unhealthiest.¹² Low-income Americans must consistently choose

Demographic Characteristics of SNAP Participants in FY 2010



the cheaper unhealthy food options that are high in energy but low in nutritional value. In fact, the cost of substituting healthier food options into their diets can cost upwards of 40% of the average family’s food budget.¹³ An increase of that amount is simply not feasible when 67% of their income is already accounted for within preexisting food and housing costs.³ For some, buying healthier is simply not an option.

Food Insecurity in Food Deserts

Even if these families can raise the funds required to improve their diets, they are sometimes unable to because they live in a food desert. Food deserts form because supermarkets and grocery stores

11 SNAP To Health. SNAP and Obesity: The Facts and Fictions of SNAP Nutrition. 2013. <http://www.snapttohealth.org/snap/snap-and-obesity-the-facts-and-fictions-of-snap-nutrition/> (accessed 7 24, 2013).

12 N. Darmon, M. Maillot, F. Vieux, A. Drewnowski. “Low Energy Density and High Nutritional Quality are Each Associated with Higher Diet Costs in French Adults.” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 2007: 690-696.

13 N. Darmon et. al. “A Nutrient Density Standard for Vegetables and Fruits: Nutrients Per Calorie and Nutrients Per Unit Cost.” *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 2005: 1881-1887.

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Young, Broke, and Healthy

Why Young Adults Will Determine the Future of the Affordable Care Act

By: Silverio Ramirez, LULAC Health Fellow

Dubbed as the *Young Invincibles*, young adults between the ages of 19 and 25 have become the focus for health officials who will soon begin to roll out the last stages of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As a demographic presently suffering from high uninsurance rates, with almost 15 million young adults between the ages of 19-29 being uninsured prior to the passing of the ACA—an increase of 4 million uninsured young adults in the past 10 years¹—there is concern in the health care community that young adults will pose a challenge in the mission of getting all Americans affordable health care coverage.

As a group heavily impacted by the economic downturn, it gives many even more reason to believe young adults will not enroll in health insurance plans at the expense of other fiscal responsibilities they frequently encounter. A paycheck can only go so far when the list of bills for a young adult includes rent, tuition or student loan bills, groceries, and a myriad of other expenses that must be paid before even thinking about health insurance. A study conducted by the Commonwealth Fund outlines how 45% of young adults who delayed their care did so because of the high costs, and 58% of young adults who do get care claim to have difficulty paying medical bills.

The perception of the so called *Millennials* who find themselves too healthy and too poor to embrace health care insurance is what worries supporters of the new health care law. Without a base of healthy people dependably paying into the pool of health insurance premiums, the entire system by which the ACA was designed will collapse.

Research by the Kaiser Family Foundation has found the perception of health care coverage among young adults is positive, contrary to popular belief. In a July 2013 study the Kaiser Family Foundation finds that more than 7 out of 10 young adults between 18 and 25 believe coverage is “important to them personally to have” and it is “something [they] need.” Even more illustrative of young adults’ concern for their personal health is how young adults have very distinct health care needs other age groups do not have. The National Adolescent Health Information and Innovation Center has found young adults require care for issues such as mental health concerns, substance abuse, sexual health, and obesity at larger rates than other age groups.

The ACA Helps Young Adults in Many Ways

The ACA allows for children under 26 years of age to remain on their parent’s or family policy. Under this provision young adults can remain on a parent’s insurance plan regardless of financial independence of dependence status, marriage status, or educational enrollment. Regardless of whether young adults are part-time or full-time students, had one or multiple jobs in the past

1 English, A. (2012) “Access to health care for young adults: The affordable care act of 2010 is making a difference.” *Center for Adolescent Health & the Law National Adolescent and Young Adult Information Center*. Accessed 6-20-2013.

month, or if these jobs have been full time or part time employment opportunities, the ACA allows young adults to have access to affordable health insurance. A young adult does not even have to live with their parents to qualify for this provision.

This provision was one of the earliest to be implemented and has led to a significant increase of young adults enrolling for insurance. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reports nearly 3 million young adults have gained health insurance as a result of this provision. Even more promising, estimates show that by 2014, once the ACA has been fully implemented, more than 12 million of the 15 million uninsured young adults will have the opportunity to gain access to affordable coverage.²

Preventative care is also highlighted in the ACA, requiring health plans to offer preventative services. Through preventative services offered at no expense of co-payments or deductibles, young adults now have access to health screenings such as those for diabetes, depression, HIV and sexuality transmitted infections, obesity, various cancers, and counseling for drug and tobacco use. The ACA requires women to be covered for services including but not limited to checkups and domestic violence counseling, as well as all FDA approved contraception methods.

After the Supreme Court decision on the ACA, states have the option to expand their Medicaid programs. Traditionally young adults faced the dilemma of having an income too high to qualify for Medicaid assistance but too low to have affordable health insurance. Before the ACA a young adult had to be of low income and then satisfy an additional provision to qualify for Medicaid benefits, such as having a child or being disabled. Depending on the acceptance of the Medicaid expansions, states can now have young adults who are childless, do not have disabilities, non-pregnant, and with incomes no greater than 133% above the federal poverty level (\$30,657/year for a family of four) qualify for Medicaid benefits.

Rate Shock

There are health analysts who fear young adults, and other demographic who are not in dire need of health insurance, will experience an increase in premium costs under the new health care system compared to prices before the legislation became law. These fears are premised around the belief that healthy people will be subsidizing those with preexisting conditions or with high costs of care, and be required to enroll into a medical plan that provides more services and are consequently more expensive.

According to research by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) it suggests these beliefs of higher care premiums are only speculation. ASPE finds that in eleven states where data is already available on the proposed insurance premiums,

2 English, A. (2012) “Access to health care for young adults: The affordable care act of 2010 is making a difference.” *Center for Adolescent Health & the Law National Adolescent and Young Adult Information Center*. Accessed 6-20-2013.

Continued on page 25.

Are You Ready? The Health Insurance Marketplace is Coming



Preparing for the Affordable Care Act's Marketplace

By: Ryann D. Roberts, Health Intern

As the opening date for the Health Insurance Marketplace approaches, many wonder how this key part of the health care law will work. The best place for the latest, most accurate, information on the Marketplace is www.healthcare.gov, which provides insurance options, access, affordability, and more.

Starting October 1st, the Marketplace will help individuals find and purchase health insurance that fits their budget and their needs. The Marketplace will allow insurance seekers to purchase insurance from private health providers which will include a comprehensive set of benefits, including doctor visits, hospital stays, preventive care, and prescriptions. Under the health care law, insurance companies can no longer deny coverage because of a preexisting condition. With a single application, individuals can also see if they qualify for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, or for savings that lower health insurance premiums.

The Latino community, in particular, will greatly benefit from health insurance access under the Affordable Care Act. One third of Latinos are uninsured, and, because of their inability to treat preventative illnesses at an early stage, have higher rates of serious diseases. Hispanic women are almost twice as likely to die from cervical cancer as non-Hispanic white women, and Hispanic Americans are twice as likely to suffer from diabetes as non-Hispanic

whites of similar age. Hispanics also use prenatal and preventive services at lower rates than Non-Hispanic whites.

Visit Healthcare.Gov to Get Ready for Open Enrollment Starting October 1

Visit www.healthcare.gov to receive updated enrollment information, print checklists, and watch videos on the application and enrollment process. The website also includes details about benefits and the prices presented in clear and easy to understand language.

Starting in October, eligible enrollees will be able to enroll in the Marketplace directly for coverage that begins as soon as January 1, 2014.

Need help or more information?

To receive additional help www.healthcare.gov has set up a 24-hour online web chat on the website and a 24-hour toll free number. Call 1-800-318-2596 to speak with a trained customer service representative who can answer questions that may arise from this new enrollment process. Visit www.healthcare.gov now to get all the necessary information about the Marketplace. On October 1st, fill out an application and enroll. It's that easy!

How the Marketplace Works



Create an account

First provide some basic information. Then choose a user name, password, and security questions for added protection.

Apply

Starting October 1, 2013 you'll enter information about you and your family, including your income, household size, and more.

Visit HealthCare.gov to get a checklist to help you gather the information you'll need.

Pick a plan

Next you'll see all the plans and programs you're eligible for and compare them side-by-side.

You'll also find out if you can get lower costs on monthly premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

Enroll

Choose a plan that meets your needs and enroll!

Coverage starts as soon as January 1, 2014.



Latino Solidarity for Gay Civil Rights

Supporting LGBT Non-Discrimination Bills

By: Shane Smith, Education Policy Intern

Our country has reached a critical point in the gay civil rights movement. With the recent Supreme Court decisions overturning both the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's Proposition 8, the advancement of marriage rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation seems inevitable. Yet, these wins in advancing rights do more than show how far the movement has come; they also highlight just how far it still has to go before full equality will be realized. While marriage laws have been shifting heavily in favor of greater equality, people from across the lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) spectrum still face a great deal of discrimination.

Congress is currently considering several bills to address the prejudices and discrimination that contribute to tragedies such as these: most prominently, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA), and the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA). ENDA aims to guarantee security for LGBT persons in the workplace, with the most crucial tenet making it illegal for an employer to fire an employee on the basis of that person's sexual orientation or gender identity. SNDA and SSIA, meanwhile, tackle the problem of student bullying on the principle that schools should be safe spaces for all. Meanwhile, SNDA as its own bill and SSIA as an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) tackle the problem.

The case for ENDA is strong. The only relevant information for an employer should be if the employee is capable of doing his or her job well. Sexual and gender identity is not a choice, and employees should not be vulnerable to punishment for a fact that has nothing to do with their job and that they cannot change. Discrimination in hiring and retaining employees can create economic inequalities for LGBT persons, and it isn't fair that they should feel compelled to hide their sexuality in the workplace. Straight employees are, in most workplaces, allowed to keep photos of their families on their desk. So should gay employees, without being worried that it should put their job in jeopardy.

The argument for SNDA and SSIA can be framed a little differently. If the government is going to require that all children across the country attend school until at least the age of 16, then its

obligation is to ensure that those children are secure in those schools. The sad truth is that, much of the time, LGBT youth do not feel safe. According to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) 2011 National School Climate Survey, 63.5% of LGBT students feel unsafe because of their sexual orientation, and 43.9% feel unsafe due to their gender expression. This is a problem not

Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

- First Introduced: 1994
- Provisions: Non-religious private employers with 15 employees or more may not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in hiring, firing, or paying employees.
- Key Actions: Referred to House Committee April 25, 2013. Passed Senate Committee July 10, 2013. Awaiting Senate vote.

only because of their bodily safety, but also because of the effect such feelings of insecurity may have on their capacity to learn.

Identical, or near identical, versions of these bills are currently being considered in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, yet so far only the Senate version of ENDA has managed to make it out of committee. This is somewhat unsurprising: this is not the first Congressional session in which these bills have been introduced. ENDA was first proposed in 1994. Most years it fails to get out of committee, and if it does it dies on the floor. What is remarkable about this year's bill however is that it is the first time that a gender identity-inclusive version has been passed by a committee. This is both good and bad. Good in that it upholds civil rights and does not drop transgender rights for the sake of gay, lesbian, and bisexual advancement, but bad in that the gender identity provision will undoubtedly make it more difficult to be passed, especially by the more conservative House of Representatives. Even if these three bills do not pass during this legislative session, their prospects have improved greatly since they were first introduced, and it seems only a matter of patience until the

THE HISTORY of LULAC & LGBT Equality

2006

Dubbed as the "Rainbow Council," the first LULAC Council made up of LGBT Latinos and allies launched in Dallas, Texas.

LULAC passes national resolution supporting the repeal of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*.

2008

time when they do finally have the needed number of votes.

Until that day, our membership continues to support the passage of this legislation. According to research, 75% of Latinos support school policies to prevent harassment and bullying of LGBT youth and 83% of Latinos support laws that protect gay people from discrimination in housing and employment. The former represents the intended purpose of both SNDA and SSIA, while the latter represents the goal of ENDA. These numbers are evolving, too. More and more Latinos are beginning to accept their LGBT acquaintances, facilitated by campaigns such as Familia es Familia, an organization with which LULAC partners that seeks to guide constructive conversations about sexuality between family members in order to promote acceptance.

But LULAC's concern goes beyond representing our membership.

Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA)

- First Introduced: 2010
- Provisions: Bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity from public education systems. Defines bullying and other forms of harassment as a form of discrimination.
- Key Actions: Referred to House Committee April 18, 2013. Referred to Senate Committee June 4, 2013.

For one, as an often underrepresented and underserved part of society, it is important for Latinos to demonstrate solidarity for a similar group: the LGBT community. This fits into LULAC's goals as a civil rights organization. But this is also an issue that is directly related to the Latino community. For example, according to a report by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and LULAC, Injustice at Every Turn, Latino transgender people are more than twice as likely as transgender people of other races to live in extreme poverty. If ENDA were passed, it would be illegal to discriminate against transgender people in the workplace, and it would be easier for them to find and hold onto jobs, improving their standard of living.

Latinos also face disproportionate discrimination in schools. According to *Supporting and Caring for Our Latino LGBT Youth*, a report by LULAC and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released at our June 2013 National Convention in June, 81% of LGBT Latino youth believe they have been the target of harassment and assaults because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Compare this to the HRC's numbers for the general LGBT student population: 51% experiencing verbal harassment and 17% experiencing physical

harassment. These higher levels of discrimination and harassment demonstrate that this is not only an LGBT issue, but a Latino issue as well.

LULAC has already done much work to fight for LGBT rights. We had a strong group attending the same-sex marriage rally at the Supreme Court back in March, carrying signs that called for "Matrimonio, Igualdad y Respeto para todos." We also signed amicus briefs in the court cases against the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8. We are partnered with a number of other pro-LGBT initiatives and organizations, such as the aforementioned Familia es Familia. We are currently pressing Congress to include LGBT-inclusive provisions in the comprehensive immigration reform bills currently being considered. Supporting the



Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA)

- First Introduced: 2010
- Provisions: Requires schools receiving ESEA funding to create codes of conduct prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Key Actions: Referred to Senate Committee February 28, 2013. Referred to House Committee March 14, 2013.

passage of these anti-discrimination bills is just one way to help their cause.

As a civil rights organization serving the Latino community, LULAC understands very well what it means to face and to fight discrimination, both by the public and under law. Latinos were once forced to attend separate schools. We once had to pay a poll tax in order to vote. We were denied the right to serve on a jury. We were punished for speaking Spanish in an English-dominated society. The parallels to the discrimination faced by LGBT persons are clear. And so as LULAC fights to ensure civil rights and equal treatment for Latinos in the United States, it makes sense for us to support a movement who has had a similar struggle. As such, LULAC will continue to watch these bills as they make their way through the two houses of Congress and will continue to ask our representatives to pledge their support for these measures that would do so much good. We urge our members to do the same, both for the sake of the Latino community and for our LGBT brothers and sisters.

2012

LULAC unanimously passes national resolution supporting marriage equality.

LULAC passes national resolution supporting the Employee Non-Discrimination Act.

2009

The Supreme Court rules favorably for marriage equality advocates.

2013



Advancing Latino Educational Attainment

An Education Primer for Advocates

By: Luis A. Torres, LULAC Education Policy Director

From proposals to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in Congress, and ESEA waivers from the Department of Education, to the implementation of Common Core State Standards across the country, much is happening in the world of education. With the myriad of debates, bills, and actions taking place in Washington, D.C. and across the country, here's what you need to know on the topics of most importance in education reform today.

The Common Core State Standards

Adoption and Implementation

To date, 48 states, as well as the District of Columbia, have agreed to adopt and implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort that established a single set of clear educational standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English language arts and mathematics that states voluntarily adopt. The standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit bearing entry courses in two or four year college programs or enter the workforce. The standards were created to be clear and concise to ensure that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics in school.

Thanks to the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, LULAC National's education policy team has been able to launch an educational campaign to inform the Latino community in key states like Florida and New Mexico about the CCSS. LULAC has been able to distribute materials, hold town halls, workshops, and other events, develop advocacy toolkits, and much more. For more information, please visit www.lulac.org/commoncore.

Frequently Asked Questions

(Source: Engage NY Common Core State Standards Fact Sheet)

Q: What are the Common Core State Standards?

A: The Common Core State Standards show what students in Pre-K through 12th grade should know and be able to do in English language arts and mathematics. The standards will help all students across the State learn the same skills. This will make sure that they are ready for college and careers. The standards include changes, or "shifts," in how teachers teach to help children succeed in the topics and skills that matter most. The standards are designed to help all young people get prepared for college and careers.

Q. Do the standards tell teachers how to teach?

A. No. They are a tool to help teachers prepare the best classroom lessons and activities. The standards also help students and parents by showing them what it takes to be successful in each grade level. They are an important roadmap for teachers, students and parents.

Q: How were the standards developed?

A: Forty-six states brought together experts, teachers and researchers to write the Common Core State Standards, along with almost 10,000 comments and suggestions. The standards are well-matched for our classrooms and will help our students learn more. Please visit <http://corestandards.org/the-standards> to read the full set of standards.

Q. Will this mean more tests?

A. No. The Common Core State Standards do not mean more tests. But there will be different, and better, tests. States have set dates to begin using assessments that will test student's Common Core knowledge and skills in English language arts and Mathematics. These new tests will reflect the changes, or "shifts," in the standards. The tests will make sure that students can meet grade-level expectations.

Q. Will these new tests be harder?

A. At first, the new tests may seem more difficult. This is normal. The new tests will be based on the "shifts" in the standards. Over time, students and teachers will adjust to the clear expectations. There also is a possibility that student test scores could drop in the first or second year of the new tests. However, the tests are an important tool for improving student achievement. The new tests will help principals and teachers identify those students who might need extra support to successfully move on to the next grade level.

For more information about the work LULAC is doing with regards to Common Core State Standards, please visit www.lulac.org/commoncore.

ESEA Waivers from the Department of Education

The delay in Congress' ability to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has presented multiple issues with the enforcement of expired provisions. In 2011, the Department of Education (ED) announced that it would allow states to request flexibility waivers for the ESEA which would exempt the states from having to abide by certain provisions of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation in return for a state's commitment to implement robust accountability and intervention plans. To date, ED has granted waivers to states exempting them from specific requirements of the NCLB to nearly 40 States and the District of Columbia.

As a member of the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE), LULAC has been monitoring the implementation of the waivers across states and has been working with coalition partners to inform the community regarding some of the concerns around the loosening of accountability in state submitted and approved waiver applications. LULAC has convened education experts for various workshops both for the LULAC Legislative Conference and National Convention to provide the community with more information. In addition, LULAC joined 9 other civil rights organizations in releasing an analysis of ESEA in waivers.

The Education Bills in Congress

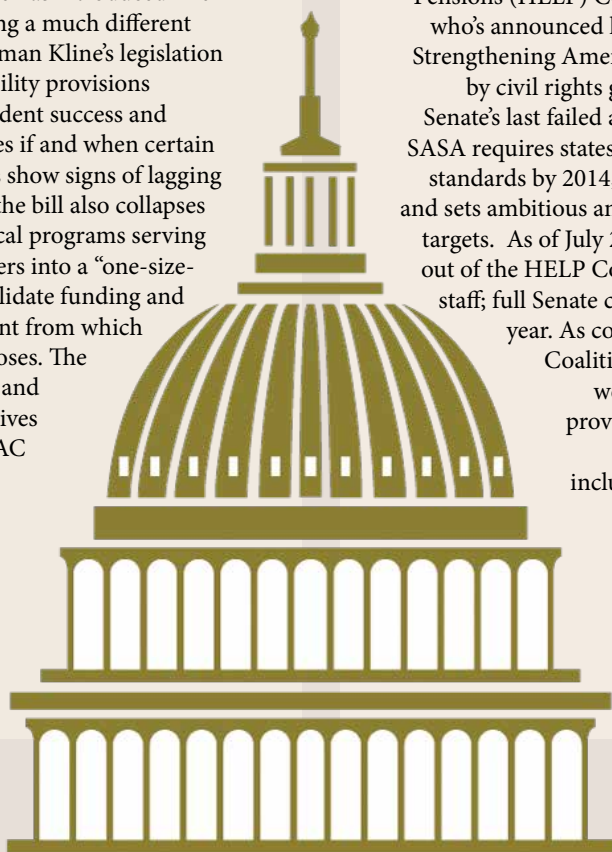
With the expiration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, otherwise known as the No Child Left Behind, in 2007, the summer of 2013 has seen a flurry of activity on the Hill as Congress moves to consider competing proposals to overhaul the long-expired ESEA, the landmark education reform law that authorizes crucial programs and supports for underserved students and sets accountability provisions that require states to monitor student performance. Two competing proposals, one from the Senate and one from the House, have taken center stage with divergent takes on the extent to which the federal government should be involved in requiring accountability and oversight. For more information, visit www.lulac.org/educationissues.

The Bill in the House of Representatives

On the House side, Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline has introduced The Student Success Act (SSA). Taking a much different approach than the Senate, Chairman Kline's legislation largely forfeits federal accountability provisions requiring that states monitor student success and implement intervention strategies if and when certain subgroups like Latinos and ELLs show signs of lagging behind their peers. In addition, the bill also collapses several funding streams for critical programs serving migrant students, ELLs, and others into a "one-size-fits-all" account aiming to consolidate funding and provide states with a large account from which they can draw for multiple purposes. The bill was voted out of Committee and passed the House of Representatives on a strictly partisan basis. LULAC joined numerous civil rights, education, and business organizations, in expressing opposition to the bill.

The Bill in the Senate

On the Senate side, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, who's announced his retirement, has introduced the Strengthening America's Schools Act (SASA). Lauded by civil rights groups as a step forward from the Senate's last failed attempt to reauthorize the law, the SASA requires states to adopt college and career ready standards by 2014, establishes an equity report card, and sets ambitious and achievable annual performance targets. As of July 2013, the SASA has been reported out of the HELP Committee and according to Senate staff, full Senate consideration is expected later this year. As co-chairs of the Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC), LULAC and MALDEF weighed in favor of the bill and also provided specific recommendations to improve the bill moving forward, including strengthening interventions or persistent achievement gaps in schools, closing biennium funding loopholes, and mandating proven interventions for subgroups.





Ford Driving Dreams through Education Grants

Continue Work to Mitigate Latino Dropout Crisis

Program Participant Speaks Out

By: Elena Segura, LULAC Education Program Coordinator

At the 2013 LULAC National Convention, LULAC and the Ford Motor Company Fund announced the 2013 Ford Driving Dreams through Education grantees. Eight winning LULAC councils will each receive \$20,000 over two school years to implement a local drop-out prevention program in partnership with an educational entity in their respective communities.

The winning councils will implement programs that uniquely addresses their local drop-out crisis by using student engagement activities ranging from music to mentoring. This year's winners are:

- Albuquerque, New Mexico – Council No. 8035
- Austin, Texas – Council No. 4933
- Bartow, Florida – Council No. 7227
- El Paso, Texas – Council No. 8
- Plano, Texas – Council No. 4537
- Pueblo, Colorado – Council No. 3043
- San Antonio, Texas – Council No. 4619
- Tucson, Arizona – Council No. 1057

Also, two councils – Council No. 39000 in Dayton, Ohio, and Council No. 9607 in Kansas City, Missouri – were selected from the 2012 recipients to receive an additional \$10,000 to continue their programs. Ford Driving Dreams has reached more than 700 students since its launch in 2010.

Recent studies indicate that even though dropout rates are decreasing and college enrollment is increasing for Hispanic youth, they continue to lag whites.

In 2011 about 14 percent of Hispanics, ages 16 to 24-years old, were high school dropouts. In contrast, in 2000 the percent of Hispanics dropping out of high school hovered at 28 percent, according to the Pew Research Center. About 7 percent of whites dropped out of high school in 2000, down to 5 percent in 2011, the Pew Research Center noted.

If your LULAC Council is interested in receiving a Ford Driving Dreams through Education Grant to implement an innovative drop-out prevention program in your community – become an e-member through the LULAC website to ensure you receive up to date information regarding this innovative program. (http://lulac.org/sign_up)

Council Highlight

Located in Kansas City, Missouri, Camino de Vida serves as one example of an exemplary after-school program. Managed through LULAC Council 9607, Camino de Vida encourages at-risk youth to stay in school. This program site has been active since 2011 when it was first granted funds to implement an innovative two year program through Ford Driving Dreams. Camino de Vida was recently granted a one year extension due to its best practices and positive results when implementing local dropout prevention program.

The program site teaches at-risk youth how to reach their academic and professional goals through hands-on activities and field trips conducted through the “College Coach” program. Students learn how to apply for scholarships and study for college admission tests. Geared toward minority students, the courses give the participants valuable information on what specific scholarships and colleges that have a high success rate for minorities.

Gabriela Quiroz

Working diligently to prepare for a better future has been my objective throughout my life, but it wasn't until I joined the program, Camino de Vida, funded by the Ford Motor Company that I found the right path to accomplish this goal. Camino de Vida is a program that supported and guided me to exemplify both academic achievement and moral character. This program opened many doors of opportunity. Improvement in grades resulted from the constant advice, motivation, and encouragement. Their mentorship prepared us for the future challenges in college.

But not only was I impacted academically but also socially. Before I had not done nor did I know about volunteering opportunities and when I joined the program I was offered many chances of volunteering in diverse activities. I got to experience helping the community which encouraged me to find more ways to do so. Also I meet other students and together we learned from each other, in turn it also resulted in expanding our communication skills. Consequently from these experiences I developed a different outlook on life and the future. I learned that by staying focused and having determination and practice I can accomplish any goal. However my thoughts were changed to look out towards others as well. I came to appreciate and value the help granted to me. For example, when Camino de Vida offered the opportunity to support the Dreamers walking to Washington DC became a unforgettable experience. There I realized how difficult it is for many people to obtain opportunities others may take for granted and realized as well how much an impact people can create in the future. It gave me insight of the life of students around the country. Thus it brought me to seek giving back the same help and expand it to others as well. Truly Camino de Vida is a program that has benefited me tremendously and that has directed its students toward the route of success in school and life.



driving a brighter future



Ford is proud to continue to partner with LULAC on
the Ford Driving Dreams through Education grants program.

Together we continue to improve the lives of Latino youth one community at a time.

Congratulations to the 2013 LULAC Councils grantees!

40 Celebrating 40 Years of Changing Lives Through Education

LNESC

By: Sara Melton National Program Coordinator and Elia Quintana Director of Corporate Relations and Development, LNESC

Forty years ago, LULAC members established the organization's educational arm, the LULAC National Educational Service Centers, to address the educational needs of the Latino community. With extensive support from parents, community leaders, schools, foundations, government agencies, and corporate partners, LNESC has expanded its services to include scholarships; leadership development; science, technology, education, and mathematics (STEM) focused curriculum; and literacy, college access, and health and wellness programs through our 14 educational centers across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

LNESC's approach begins in elementary school by seeking to encourage children to read and write. Based on this fundamental building block of academic success, we enroll middle school students in programs designed to help build their confidence and to increase their interest in STEM programs. In addition, through our college access and career exploration programming, high school students set and meet personal and professional goals.

For 40 years, LNESC has served over 500,000 underserved students, sent over 150,000 students to college, and awarded over \$20 million in scholarships to make college a reality for students. Our educational programs break down the barriers that exist between high-need students

and high school diplomas, college degrees, and jobs in highly skilled fields in science, technology, engineering, and math. After 40 years of commitment to the Latino community, LNESC continues to provide educational services to help close the achievement gap across the nation.

For our 40 years of educational services to underserved communities, LNESC was honored with the 'Corazon Award.' Univision Communications, Inc. recognized LNESC as the organization of the year. At the helm, Executive Director Richard Roybal described the organization's unwavering dedication to academic excellence, "We are honored to have Univision recognize

LNESC's 40 year commitment to increasing not only high school graduation rates among Latinos, but college graduation rates as well."

Cesar Conde, President of the Univision Networks, Univision Communications Inc., presents the 'Corazon Award' to Richard Roybal, Executive Director, LNESC.



The award presentation was featured in a special segment on Univision's "Al Punto," hosted by network anchor Jorge Ramos.

LNESC has impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of Latino students and families through our direct educational services. To commemorate this important milestone, LNESC will host the 40th anniversary gala on October 4, 2013 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. LNESC has also launched www.lnescisforty.org, a website that highlights the hundreds of success stories of those who have benefited from its educational programs and scholarships over the last 40 years.

40

Celebrating 40 Years
of Changing Lives
Through Education

LNESC

LNESC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar Participant, Camila Viaño

Senior at Oswego East High School in Plainfield, Illinois

I was elected Youth National VP for the Midwest at the National Convention in June. At the LNESC Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYLS) in 2012, I was encouraged to adopt a more engaging role as leader in my school and community. At WYLS, I met dozens of other young Latinos and Latinas who were already making a difference in the world. I returned to Plainfield, Illinois, with a fresh vision inspired by the people I met, as well as the knowledge I gained from the panelists.

I appreciate that LNESC gave me an education that allowed me to help the Latinos in my community and school. WYLS made me more confident that political science was the career path I wanted to follow. Advocating for Latinos in D.C. strengthened my desire to choose a career where I can make a difference. While at the seminar I met several panelists who have careers related to political science, which gave me an idea of careers.

I hope to continue using the leadership skills that LNESC taught me to be an effective LULAC National Youth Board Member and a successful leader in all my activities. The success of the seminar can be found in that fact that I hold a leadership position in almost every activity I participate in. My goal is to attend a good university next fall, to major in political science, and then go on to law school.



LNESC Scholarship Recipient, “Rainie” Trinh Le

Bachelor’s of Business Administration from the University of Houston

My family owned an electronic store back in Vietnam before we immigrated to America. Ever since I was young, I helped my father with the store by presenting the products to customers, maintaining the accounting book, and making deals with customers while my father was away. So when I came to America, I naturally wanted to do something business-related. I was amazed by the technology in America. Therefore, I wanted a college degree in something that could help me combine my business experience and learn more about technology. The first step towards accomplishing my dream was to enroll at the University of Houston’s Bauer College of Business. Even though I was admitted to the business program, my family’s situation was not financially stable enough to pay tuition.

I applied to the General Electric Foundation/LNESC Scholarship. Though rigorous, the application process proved fruitful for an academic achiever: I was shortly notified that I had been selected for the General Electric Foundation/LNESC Scholarship, a three-year scholarship for STEM majors. This scholarship contributed to my peace of mind and allowed me to attend my dream college! This May, I successfully completed my three years in college and graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems.



40 Celebrating 40 Years of Changing Lives Through Education

LNESC

LNESC Houston Director, Rose Ann Blanco

Commemorating 40 Years of Service

LNESC is a one-stop informational center for students and parents to gather data on higher education, scholarships, financial aid. As director of the Houston Center, I discovered that I could make a difference in the community every day of my life. At LNESC, I work with the inter-city community by offering programming from elementary to high school students and parents.

Coming from a small farming community to the big city was a scary ordeal. With LULAC and LNESC activities, however, I found a new home that inspired me to bring knowledge and life-skills to the Latino youth and their parents. Through partnerships with school administrators, community programs, and responsible corporate leaders, Houston LNESC has produced educational programming that provides awareness, understanding, and quality educational activities to inner-city youth.

In these 40 years at Houston LNESC, I have assisted countless first-generation college-bound students from Latino families become doctors, lawyers, teachers, professors, and community leaders. LNESC provides leadership and communication tools as well as material resources for students to further their educational endeavors and achieve their professional goals.

I took advantage of the parental workshops, leadership conferences and LULAC conventions to educate and enlighten my children and would recommend it for all children. As both a parent and LNESC director, I discovered that summer enrichment programs were necessary to create higher education pathways. Therefore, all four of my children learned that summer meant swimming, fun, games, and math, science, and language enrichment classes. The children grew up attending and volunteering at LULAC district, state, and national conventions. They had to attend career and college workshops on how to enroll into higher education and obtain the necessary resources to be successful.

Blanco children did not fall far from the tree – a combination of strict upbringing, grassroots involvement, and LNESC programming impacted my children, just as these factors impact children across Houston. Because community service and educational opportunities are prevalent, students adopt a caring worldview that streamlines their academic goals with this great organization.

LNESC teaches that a role model has to contribute, become involved, and make a difference to the Latino community on an ongoing basis. LNESC has been the perfect place for me to raise a family and make a difference to the Houston community.





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La educación como camino a las oportunidades y a la prosperidad para un joven hispano

Por: Riamny Méndez. LULAC Communications Intern

El trabajo duro de dos generaciones de mujeres inmigrantes, la dedicación a los estudios, y un programa estatal de apoyo académico, dieron como resultado que un joven afro latino de origen dominicano, Jeffrey Hidalgo, se convirtiera en el primer miembro de su familia en acudir a la universidad.

Hidalgo, de 19 años, delegado de un concilio de adultos jóvenes de LULAC cursa una licenciatura en informática con una especialidad en negocios en la Universidad del Estado de Nueva York en Albany (State University of New York at Albany, en inglés).

“Mi familia está muy contenta, mis primos y mi hermano menor se fijan en mí, como un ejemplo”, dice para enfatizar cómo el hecho de haber ingresado a una universidad a estudiar una licenciatura es motivo de orgullo e inspiración.

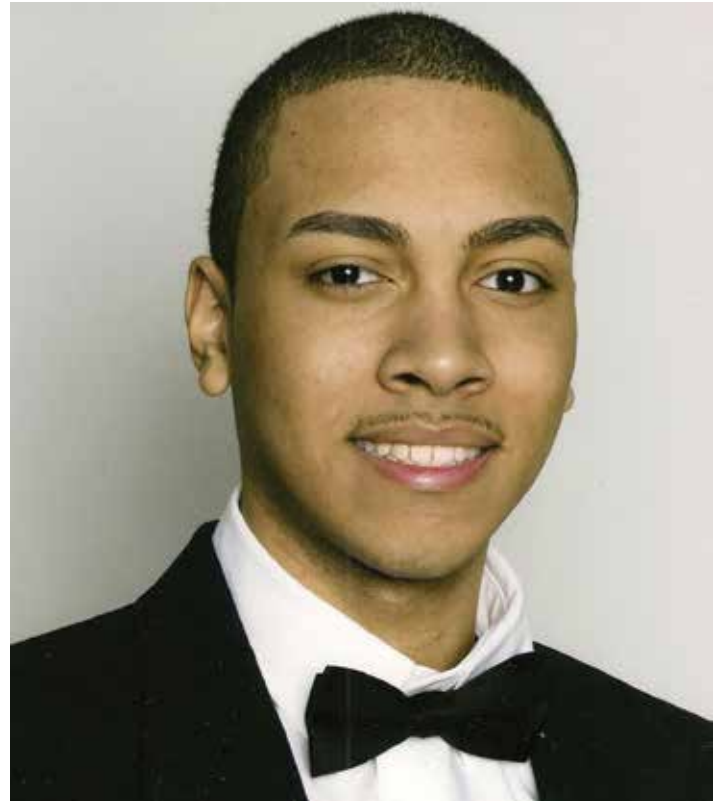
Explica que para su mamá, Mairah Batista, su ingreso a la universidad, en la que ya tiene un año, es un sueño. Ella fue madre a los 20 años, y no pudo realizar estudios universitarios. Su hijo lo ha logrado.

Hidalgo explica que Batista inmigró a los Estados Unidos, gracias a que su abuela, Rosa Romero, decidió dejar la República Dominicana y tratar de encontrar la prosperidad en los Estados Unidos hace más de 20 años.

“Mi abuela trabajó duro para traer a sus cuatro hijos y a mi abuelo a los Estados Unidos. Por esa razón vino mi mamá y yo nací aquí, en este país”, dice.

Hidalgo pudo ingresar a la universidad gracias al Programa de Oportunidad Educacional (EOP), que apoya a estudiantes de secundaria con potencial de ingresar a la universidad con asesoría académica, personal y asistencia financiera.

El joven explica que sin esa ayuda hubiese sido imposible asistir a la universidad, y por eso apoya la lucha de los soñadores por la Reforma Migratoria, de modo que ellos también puedan ser



legalmente ciudadanos y tener acceso a más oportunidades.

Sus sueños personales y profesionales están relacionados con su ingreso a la universidad. Espera obtener un trabajo fuera de Nueva York, tener su propia casa, y continuar su trabajo como activista para la comunidad latina.

Desigualdades en el acceso a la educación superior

El 13% de todos los grupos hispanos de más de 25 años de edad tienen al menos una licenciatura. Ese porcentaje es del 15% en la comunidad dominicana.

Estos porcentajes son bajos con respecto al total de la población del país. Al menos un 29.3% del total de la población de Estados Unidos con 25 años o más tiene una licenciatura.

El 30% de la población blanca con 25 años o más tiene al menos un título de licenciatura.

Entre la comunidad afroamericana el porcentaje de personas con licenciatura o más es de 17.7%

El 13% de los nativos americanos tiene al menos un título académico de licenciatura. El 50.2% de los asiáticos es al menos licenciado.

Datos: Census Bureau of the United States and Pew Research Hispanic Center.

Young, Broke, and Healthy

Continued from page 12.

after full implementation of the ACA, the lowest cost for the silver plan (medium coverage) is on average 18% less expensive than original estimates by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).¹

For young adults, this research is very promising. In Los Angeles county, the county with the largest amount of uninsured Americans in the U.S., the lowest silver plan for a 25-year-old is \$174 a month, and \$117 a month for catastrophic (the most basic form of insurance). These averages are not only lower than previously estimated but also do not take into account federal tax credits that can help young adults pay these low premiums in the individual market.

Nearly all young adults qualify for tax credits. Only 7% of the 10.8 million young adults in the individual market do not qualify for tax credits or Medicaid expansions. To illustrate how these tax credits further help young adults afford health insurance, a 25-year-old who earns 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$17,235/year) could afford a silver plan (medium coverage) for \$34 a month, and a Bronze plan (second to lowest coverage) for as little as \$7 a month in California.

Young Adults are the Key to Preventative Care-Based Health

The ACA needs young adult enrollment. Weary of this, the legislation is built to entice those young adults who are healthy and do not believe they need health insurance through a system that allows for affordable premiums. Perhaps we live at a moment in our lives when other priorities might distract us from our own health, but to what point will we continue to ignore a basic fundamental right, especially when our participation in the new law will define how others benefit from it?

"Attention to health is life's greatest hindrance"—Plato.

¹ Skopec, L. (2013) "Market competition works: Proposed silver premiums in the 2014 individual and small group markets are nearly 20% lower than expected." Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

No New Insight into Affirmative Action Policies



By: Silverio Ramirez, Health Fellow

The long-awaited decision from the Supreme Court on *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* left many on both sides of the case wanting more from the justices. In a rare, nearly unanimous decision (7-1, with Justice Kagan recusing herself), the Supreme Court sent the case back to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

According to the Supreme Court, constitutional protection applies to racial classifications only when it satisfies two provisions. First, racial classifications must include "compelling governmental interests" and second, the ways in which these interests are determined must be "narrowly tailored." In the case of affirmative action, this means universities are constitutionally allowed to have a race conscious admission process if they can show that the programs pose a benefit, and the way in which they go about their selection is specific.

Regarding the first premise, the decision ruled that the attainment of a diverse student body is constitutionally permissible under the goal of higher education, as per the *Bakke* decision of 1978.

The Supreme Court did not question the judgment of universities, in this case the University of Texas, to include race as a factor in the admission process. In this opinion the court provided no new insight on the constitutionality of affirmative action programs to the disappointment of *Fisher* supporters.

The court, however, sent the case back to the lower court, with Justice Kennedy arguing, "It is at all times the University's obligation to demonstrate, and the Judiciary's obligation to determine, that admissions processes 'ensure that each applicant is evaluated as an individual and not in a way that makes an applicant's race or ethnicity the defining feature of his or her application.' And most importantly, 'The reviewing court must ultimately be satisfied that no workable race-neutral alternatives would produce the educational benefits of diversity.'"

The court takes issue on the actions of the Fifth Circuit court, and whether or not they imposed the appropriate scrutiny to the University of Texas. According to the Supreme Court, "the Fifth Circuit held petitioner could challenge only whether the University's decision to use race as an admissions factor 'was made in good faith.' It presumed that the school had acted in good faith and gave the petitioner the burden of rebutting the presumption. It thus undertook the narrow tailoring requirements with a degree of deference to the school."

Through this decision, the Court has made the case about Ms. Abigail Fisher, and not about affirmative action. The court no longer argues about the constitutionality of the University of Texas' policy, but rather, whether or not the current constitutional process of admissions that impacted Ms. Fisher was conducted in the proper manner.

The possibility remains if the lower case rejects its earlier ruling and finds the University of Texas system not complacent of both prongs of racial classification, and thus claims it to be unconstitutional. At that point the Supreme Court could decide to take on the case again and have an argument about affirmative action policies as a whole given the actions officials the University of Texas, and not the technicalities of the admission process of one individual.

UN MENSAJE *de la presidenta*

La Octogésima cuarta Convención Nacional de LULAC en Las Vegas

Traducción de la página 3.

Bajo el tema, *Alzando nuestras voces a través de la participación cívica*, la Convención Anual de LULAC en Las Vegas, Nevada marcó los 84 años de nuestra organización como la más grande, antigua y únicamente basada en miembros hispanos del país. Prometimos una agenda repleta de seminarios y talleres importantes – ¡y vaya que si lo cumplimos!

Este año, tuvimos el gran honor de presentar al Vicepresidente Biden en el Banquete de los Jóvenes, donde habló apasionadamente sobre la reforma migratoria y su impacto en los jóvenes. LULAC es una organización muy activa en el futuro de la reforma migratoria y fue particularmente importante que el vicepresidente hablará del impacto que la reforma migratoria tendrá en nuestra comunidad.

Fue particularmente apropiado que el vicepresidente entregara su mensaje en el Banquete de los Jóvenes ya que así se reconocen las contribuciones importantes de la juventud latina. De hecho, trabajar con los jóvenes latinos sigue siendo una prioridad para LULAC. Tenemos la suerte de tener un grupo de jóvenes

comprometidos, que siempre están listos, dispuestos y son capaces de afrontar los retos de nuestra comunidad. Nuestros jóvenes se organizan en las universidades de todo el país para hacer llegar información crítica sobre el cuidado de la salud, la educación y la reforma migratoria a nuestra comunidad.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

El Congresista Raúl Grijalva, el Congresista Steven Horsford, el Asistente del Gobernador de Colorado Joseph A. García, y el Comisionado Residente de Puerto Rico en Washington Pedro Pierluisi hablaron en el Banquete de los premios presidenciales el viernes de la convención nacional de LULAC.

LULAC no sólo apoya estos esfuerzos, sino que también quiere asegurarse de que nuestra juventud tenga los recursos necesarios para convertirse en los líderes de la próxima generación. LULAC

entiende que una buena educación es la clave para este esfuerzo. Por lo tanto, en la convención, LULAC anunció sus iniciativas de educación, que incluyen esfuerzos para mitigar el abandono escolar en todo el país. LULAC habló de su colaboración con la Fundación Ford para promover el programa Ford Driving Dreams through Education. Este año el programa Ford Driving Dreams through Education ha otorgado diez becas de \$20,000 a los concilios locales de LULAC en Nuevo México, Texas, Florida, Colorado, Arizona, Ohio y Missouri. Las donaciones sirven como un financiamiento educativo adicional para la juventud latina local.

Además, fiel a sus raíces en la participación ciudadana y la defensa contra la discriminación, LULAC se centró en cuestiones de derechos civiles de la comunidad lesbiana, gay, bisexual y transexual (LGBT). En colaboración con la Campaña de Derechos Humanos, LULAC dio a conocer un informe titulado



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

El Concierto Voces Unidas Por América presentó Pee Wee, War, y la Santa Cecilia.

AROUND THE LEAGUE *briefs*

Civic Engagement through the Milwaukee Latino Carnival



The Señoritas En Acción League of United Latin American Citizens (SEA LULAC) Youth Council #16006 recognize their individual responsibility to work together to make a difference in our community. LULAC's commitment stems from the understanding that their members comprise a larger social fabric. The members take an active role in finding solutions for resolving today's social problems. Since the formation of the council, the members have been involved in two civic engagement and service events per month. The most recent event has been the First Annual Latino Carnival in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

With 22 flags the members represented a variety of Hispanic and cultural groups from Latin America. The flags sent a ripple of harmony and unity between the Latino nations. In their diversity, the council made a statement, "Regardless of differences in identity, we as human beings must walk together in order to move forward."

Civic engagement is an effective vehicle for our LULAC youth-citizens to use their knowledge and skills to help solve problems in the community. Our dedicated Señoritas En Accion LULAC Youth Council #16006 will continue their civic engagement efforts as an effective avenue for community improvement.

LULAC Council 10 Provides Scholarships for Students in Summer Program

To mitigate the drop-out rates in Davenport, Iowa, LULAC Council 10 provided scholarships for forty elementary school students to attend summer literacy program Stepping Stones. As part of the LULAC Council 10 community partnership agreement, council members also volunteered for the summer literacy program with literacy enrichment, field trip supervision, and educational activity coordination.

Stepping Stones serves at-risk students by delivering a 5.5 day summer enrichment program that focuses on academic enrichment and study trips weekly. Without the scholarships, the students may not have been able to attend the program that allows them to start the school year on grade level.



LULAC Council #7 of Laredo, Texas was honored with the Council of the Year Award. Since its 18 years of inception, the Laredo council has provided half a million dollars in scholarships, substantial tutoring programs, and food donations to the elderly. For its community work, Council 7 received a proclamation from the City of Laredo. Mayor Raul Salinas presents the honor to Council President San Juanita Gonzalez with members of Council #7.

Growing Up Latino LGBT in the United States. El informe analiza la importancia de la inclusión de la familia de los jóvenes LGBT y promueve los esfuerzos contra la intimidación.

Nuestro trabajo con la comunidad LGBT pone de manifiesto nuestro compromiso con la igualdad para todos, incluyendo a los jóvenes LGBT que viven desconectados de sus hogares. Debido a que es especialmente descorazonador ver a jóvenes LGBT sufrir exclusión e incluso la falta de vivienda, es por eso que el trabajo de LULAC para educar a la comunidad es particularmente significativo.

Para aquellos que desean mejorar su empleo en el gobierno federal, el Instituto de Capacitación Federal (FTI, por sus siglas en inglés) – un componente integral de nuestras convenciones anuales – trajo consigo enormes beneficios. LULAC ofreció un programa de entrenamiento federal que se centró en el desarrollo de capacidades de liderazgo y oportunidades discutidas en el Gobierno Federal. De hecho, FTI se ha convertido en una parte tan exitosa de la convención, y aporta tanto valor a nuestros miembros y empleados federales que LULAC presentará el Federal Training Institute Partnership en Washington D.C. el 24 y 25 de septiembre de 2013. Para más información puede dirigirse a http://lulac.org/events/federal_training_institute_partnership y ponerse en contacto con Sara Clemente en sclemente@lulac.org.

Por último, pero no por eso de menor importancia, la convención se centró en la cuestión fundamental de la reforma migratoria integral. LULAC ofreció información y entrenamiento sobre la mejor manera de movilizar a la comunidad latina para que ésta llame a nuestros representantes a aprobar la reforma migratoria. En los próximos meses, LULAC continuará sus actividades de participación cívica para asegurar que la reforma migratoria sea una realidad para las 11 millones de familias latinas que actualmente viven en el limbo. Nuestro trabajo con la juventud también seguirá siendo una parte integral en la realización de nuestra misión.

Abrazos,
Margaret Moran
Margaret Moran
Presidenta nacional de LULAC



Are You Pocket Smart?

Financial Literacy Quiz

Every year thousands of scam artists and illegitimate multi-level marketing companies, also known as pyramid schemes, defraud Latinos across the U.S. Many individuals are duped by these scams because of the enticing, though fraudulent, offers that advertise high returns on investment in a short period of time. Take this quiz, and find out how much you know about safe investments!

1. Which of the following phrases should raise your concern about an investment?
 - a. High rate of return
 - b. Risk-free
 - c. Your investment is guaranteed against loss
 - d. You must invest now
 - e. All of the above
2. Securities laws protect investors by requiring companies to:
 - a. Show profits before they can sell stock
 - b. Provide investors with specific information about the company
 - c. Pay dividends
 - d. Repay investors who have lost money
3. In which situation are you taking the least amount of risk?
 - a. Buying a Certificate of Deposit (CD), in United States, or a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC), in Canada, from a bank
 - b. Investing with someone you know through your church or community association
 - c. Investing offshore
 - d. Investing with someone who contacted you by phone
4. A fellow book club member tells you about an investment opportunity that has earned returns of 20% during the past year. Your investments have been performing poorly and you're interested in earning higher returns. This person is your friend and you trust them. What should you do?
 - a. Ask your friend for more information about the investment so that you can understand the risks before you make a decision
 - b. Invest only a small amount to see how things go before making a larger investment
 - c. Call your securities regulator to see if the investment has been registered or is properly exempted for sale
 - d. a and c
5. Which of the following should you rely upon when making an investment decision?
 - a. Testimonials of other investors
 - b. Advertisements and news stories in the media or on the Internet
 - c. Technical data that you don't really understand
 - d. Information filed with your securities regulator
6. Ways to protect yourself from investment fraud include:
 - a. Read all disclosure documents about an investment
 - b. Seek advice from an independent and objective source
 - c. Be skeptical and ask questions
 - d. Never write the check for an investment in the name of your salesperson
 - e. All of the above
7. When dealing with a securities salesperson who is considered reputable, you should do all the following except:
 - a. Request copies of opening account documentation to verify that your investment goals and objectives are stated correctly
 - b. Open and review all correspondence and account statements when you receive them
 - c. Verify your written account statements with information you can obtain online
 - d. Allow the salesperson to manage your assets as they see fit because they are the expert
 - e. Evaluate your salesperson's recommendations by doing your own independent research
8. Which of the following are frequently used to defraud the public?
 - a. Short-term promissory notes
 - b. Prime bank investments
 - c. Offshore investments to avoid taxes
 - d. Nigerian advance fee letters
 - e. All of the above
9. You have been working closely with your securities salesperson for years. Recently your salesperson asked you to invest in a product that he/she is really excited about, however, the recommendation seems very different from financial products you have invested in previously. Which of the following should you do?
 - a. Agree to make the investment because you have done business with your salesperson for years and trust them implicitly
 - b. Check with your securities regulator to see if they have any information on the investment product
 - c. Check with your securities regulator to see if the securities salesperson is authorized to sell the product in question
 - d. Rely upon the written material the salesperson gives you
 - e. a & d only
 - f. b & c only

Solutions found on page 43.





POCKET SMART

Managing Your Money Wisely

10. An investment is likely to be legitimate if:
- The promotional materials and company website look professional
 - The company has a prestigious office location
 - Other investors are receiving quick up-front returns
 - The company has an official-sounding name
 - None of the above

LULAC is taking action to protect the high rates of Latinos who are targeted by scam artists, fraudulent companies, and other predatory schemes. To ensure that the Latino community will no longer be an easy target for financial predators, LULAC has partnered with the Hispanic Federation to educate Latino communities about predatory practices and pyramid schemes. With this new partnership, LULAC has created Pocket Smart, an educational curriculum that trains Hispanics to become savvy consumers through financial management and fraud prevention.

The program offers two opportunities for membership involvement. The first opportunity is to be a Regional Program Associate in certain states. Regional Program Associates are highly-qualified field coordinators that organize the Pocket Smart curriculum and to roll out the statewide education campaign. The second opportunity is for councils to hold financial fraud prevention workshops in states that lack consumer facilitators. To organize the workshops, councils must receive training and certification through the national office. Certified councils will then be provided with curriculum materials and a stipend to host the workshops. To learn more, please contact Karina Castellanos, LULAC Program Coordinator, at KCastellanos@LULAC.org or 202-833-6130 x. 114.



LULAC is taking action to protect the high rates of Latinos targeted by scam artists.



To report a complaint about financial predators, email LULAC at PocketSmart@LULAC.org

LULAC Hosts Federal Training Institute in Partnership with Federal Government Agencies

Partnership Promotes Diversity and Development in the Federal Government



By: Sara Clemente Sosa, Director of Federal Affairs

Working in partnership with Federal agencies, LULAC is hosting the Federal Training Institute Partnership (FTIP) on September 24 and 25 at the Health and Human Services headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Recent cuts in Federal spending have resulted in the suspension of critical educational and outreach programs which Federal employees need in order to advance in the Federal government. In order to help alleviate these challenges, the FTIP will provide a career-development training program for Federal employees free of charge. The two day program includes plenary sessions, workshops, and executive coaching designed to enable government employees to enhance their leadership skills and develop the Executive Core Qualifications required for leadership positions and entry to the Senior Executive Service.

Through the FTIP, LULAC works in collaboration with the Federal Government to address the Hispanic under-representation in the Federal workforce. The FTIP is committed to ensuring that the Federal workforce is diverse, and well educated.

DID YOU KNOW?

On August 19, 2011, President Barack Obama signed and issued Executive Order 13583, establishing a Coordinated Government-Wide Initiative to Promote Diversity and Inclusion in the Federal Workforce, in order to promote the Federal workplace as a model of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

According to the 2011 Diversity and Inclusion Report produced by the Office of Personnel Management, the Federal workforce is 17.8 percent Black, 8.1 percent Hispanic, 5.6 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 1.7 percent Native American, 0.8 percent non-Hispanic/Multi-racial, and 66.0 percent White.



Immigration Reform is Personal

Gaining Speed for the Final Push for Comprehensive Reform

By: *Sindy Benavides, Director of Civic Engagement and Community Mobilization*

Latino voters have a personal connection to our broken immigration system. According to the Center for American Progress, 25% of surveyed Latino voters in a June 2011 poll by Latino Decisions said they know a person or family who is facing deportation or has been deported. 53% said they know someone who is undocumented. We have a personal stake in the outcome of what may happen on Capitol Hill. For me, this issue hits close to home.

In 1983, my mother made the difficult journey to the United States as an undocumented immigrant, where she joined my father in Los Angeles. Though she received a visa to enter the U.S. legally, she crossed the border illegally in order to travel with my brother and me from Honduras.

In the third grade, my family moved to Virginia to pursue a better public education for my older brother and me. The move, however,



coincided with a period in which the state was experiencing a 160% growth rate in its foreign-born population. In Virginia, I experienced discrimination for the first time. I was too young to know what the phrases and the looks meant, but with time I learned the implications of their actions. As I adjusted to my new life, I learned that where I come from could never be disassociated with who I was and who I was meant to be, even after earning U.S. citizenship.

This year in the Senate, the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act* (S.744) secured 68 Yeas and 32 Nays. The leadership in the House of Representatives, however, has not moved forward on the issue.

For Congressmen and -women in the House who have short term memories or are reluctant to adjust to change, we have some news: In 2012 Latinos were 8.4% of all voters, and every month, more than 52,000 Latinos turn 18. The overwhelming majority are U.S.-born citizens who are eligible to register to vote, which translates to 2.4

million more Latinos voting in every election cycle. Although the Hispanic community may be a small percentage in congressional districts, we have the collective power to impact change.

According to Pew Hispanic Center projections, Hispanics will account for 40% of the growth in the eligible electorate in the U.S. between now and 2030, at which time 40 million Hispanics will be eligible to vote, up from 23.7 million now.

As we head into the fall and the midterms next year, let's remember the impact that immigration has on all communities in the country and on our economy. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), by 2023, enacting S.744 would lead to a net increase of 9.6 million in the total number of people residing in the United States. They also estimate that enacting S.744 as passed by the Senate would generate changes in direct spending and revenues that would decrease federal budget deficits by \$158 billion over the 2014-2013 period.

I'm sure that, like me, there are many LULAC members who share the immigrant experience, or who have family members and friends who have experienced this journey. Reflecting on all the obstacles that my mom faced – that all immigrant families face – in hopes of a better life allows me to empathize with and to understand that extreme circumstances can make someone face, even death, just to survive.

Join us Thursday, October 3rd for National Advocacy Day. Learn more at www.LULAC.org/actober. You can take action by sending an email to Congress at Latinos United for Immigration Reform (www.latinosunited.org/), setting up a meeting with your Member of Congress, or hosting an event to do phone-banking. We are in the last push and must urge our representatives to act by reminding them that for us immigration is personal!

For comments or questions please contact me at: TakeAction@LULAC.org.

Every month, more than 52,000 Latinos turn 18. Hispanics will account for 40% of the growth in the eligible electorate in the U.S. between now and 2030, at which time 40 million Hispanics will be eligible to vote, up from 23.7 million now.

By 2023, enacting the Senate immigration reform bill would generate changes in direct spending and revenues that would decrease federal budget deficits by \$158 billion over the 2014-2023 period.

Texas Shows Congress Must Update the Voting Rights Act



By: Dr. Spencer Overton, Professor of Law at the George Washington University Law School

A recent court action against Texas is important, but it should not fool us into believing that existing laws are sufficient to protect voting rights. Indeed, the central lesson from Texas is that Congress must update the Voting Rights Act.

The Justice Department joined several civil rights groups in asking a federal court to require that Texas preclear its future voting changes with federal officials. The Department relied on Section three of the Voting Rights Act, which remains in force even after last month's Supreme Court decision. Section three allows a court to "bail in" to coverage areas with contemporary, intentional voting discrimination.

Contemporary Voting Discrimination in Texas

Significant discrimination persists in Texas, and the court should order Texas to preclear future voting changes.

Last August, for example, a federal court concluded that a congressional redistricting map was "enacted with discriminatory intent." In redrawing district maps, Texas politicians had excluded Latino and African-American lawmakers from the process and drew maps that diminished minority votes. For example, they split the minority community in Dallas-Fort Worth into four separate Anglo-controlled districts (including one "lightning-bolt" shaped district), and also packed minority voters into a handful of minority districts (one district was increased to 86 percent minority) to maximize the number of Anglo-controlled districts. Every predominately African-American district lost its congressional district office location and economic engines (e.g., sports arenas, hospitals, universities) -- but none of the predominately Anglo districts suffered such losses. The federal court concluded that "[t]he parties provided more evidence of discriminatory intent than we have space or need to address here."

Many more contemporary examples exist, especially at the local level. In Nueces County, Texas, for example, county officials responded to the rapidly growing Latino community, which has surpassed 56 percent of the county's population, by gerrymandering local election districts in 2011 to diminish Latino voting strength. And in Runnels County, Texas, a court ordered that every polling place have at least one bilingual poll worker (90 percent of Latino residents speak Spanish at home), but the county defied the court -- in November 2009, not one county polling place had a bilingual poll worker.

Covering Texas under preclearance would not be unfair "bullying" or "targeting" of the state. Since 2000, Texas has had more Justice Department objections to voting changes than any other state -- over 40 percent of which were issued during the Bush administration. No other state -- whether controlled by Republicans or Democrats -- has had a new statewide congressional map blocked by the Voting Rights Act in this decade.

Covering Texas would not interfere with "states rights." Texas politicians do not have the right to discriminate against American

voters. Covering Texas also complies with last month's U.S. Supreme Court decision, which struck down another part of the Act because it referenced 1960s and '70s discrimination. Texas should be covered today not because of 1960s or '70s discrimination, but because of current discrimination.

Congress Must Update the Voting Rights Act

Events in Texas show that existing law is insufficient to protect voting rights and that Congress needs to update the Act.

Voting rights lawsuits are often ineffective tools to stop discrimination, especially in local elections. Voters in places such as Runnels County (population 11,500) often lack the thousands and sometimes millions of dollars necessary to bring a lawsuit to challenge an unfair change to bilingual election procedures or a racial gerrymander of county commission districts. Political operatives know that most discrimination will remain under-the-radar, as local elections are often nonpartisan and evade national media attention. Even when unfair changes are challenged in court, lawsuits can take years and often do not stop unfair voting rules before they are used in elections and harm voters.

While the federal court should require preclearance from Texas, Section three is insufficient to expand preclearance to many other states with recent voting rights violations. Currently, Section three requires a finding of intentional discrimination, and courts often find voting rights violations without explicitly affixing the stigma of intentional discrimination to an area. Further, jurisdictions often become fixated on denying that they engaged in intentional discrimination, which thwarts constructive agreements to enter into preclearance and avoid future problems. Efforts to establish or deny intentional discrimination also drive up litigation costs for voters, jurisdictions, and the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice should continue to enforce voting laws on the books, but that is not enough. Republicans and Democrats in Congress must work together to update the Voting Rights Act to ensure voting is free, fair, and accessible for all Americans.

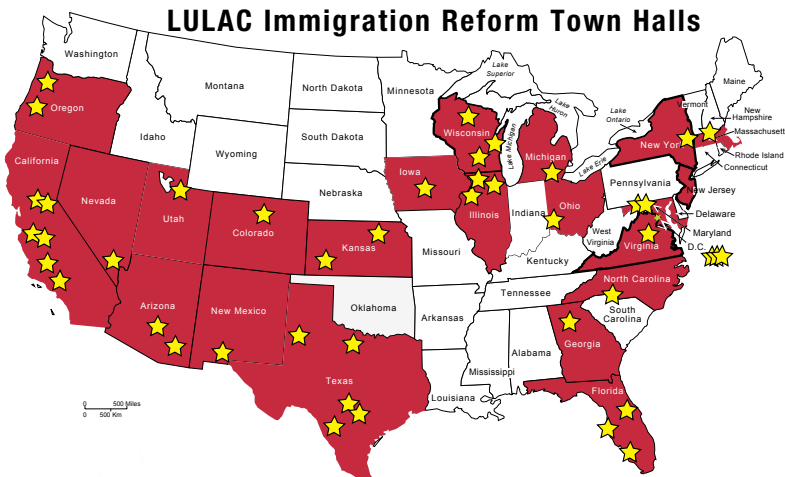
Spencer Overton is a Professor of Law at The George Washington University Law School and a Senior Fellow at Demos. He is a former Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy at the U.S. Department of Justice.

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LULAC Councils Take the Lead on Immigration Reform

Through email and phone banking campaigns targeting lawmakers, as well as in-district meetings with members of Congress, LULAC is providing forums for communities and local civic and economic leaders to communicate the importance of immigration reform. Since January, LULAC has organized nearly 60 town halls, voter registration drives, and generated immigration petitions calling on Congress to pass immigration reform.



Maryland Congresswoman Donna Edwards Joins LULAC for Immigration Reform Roundtable

By: Hillary Yeboah, Gapbuster Intern

Congresswoman Donna Edwards' main objective in organizing an immigration reform roundtable discussion was to hear from her constituents while providing an update on the expected immigration bill. Congresswoman Edwards stressed that border control provisions should be effective but not overbearing. She communicated to the audience that she understands that border control needs to be fair, and that she has done her best to represent her voters' opinions.

The audience agreed with the Congresswoman's statement that the rest of American society needs to be aware of the real impact immigrants have made and will make in America. She stressed that communities must embrace the immigration package and not denounce it, and the support that key organizations like CASA de Maryland and LULAC has made a significant difference in the passage of the Senate bill. She urges people to keep advocating for the immigration bill.

Near the end of the meeting the audience was allowed to ask questions and share their personal stories. A member of the audience asked the Congresswoman for her thoughts on the educational aspect of the bill. Congresswoman Edwards believes education is important, especially for immigrants but also stated that Congress may not have the resources to fully meet their educational needs. National and community-based groups must fill in the educational gaps Congress cannot reach.

Dr. Yvette Butler, President of LULAC Council 21006, asked a question pertaining to the discrimination of border security, stating that the northern border of America neighboring Canada allows immigrants easier access to the United States than the southern border. The Congresswoman's answer focused on the differences between the northern and southern senators, where the northern senators are less interested in the immigration debate.

Though the Senate has passed an immigration bill, constituents must continue to pressure the House of Representatives to act quickly on the issue.

Iowa LULAC Organizes Statewide Coalition in Support of Immigration Reform

By: Jossie Flor Sapunar, Editor of the LULAC News

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 61 joined Iowa LULAC President Joe Henry, Des Moines Hispanic activist Paula Martinez, Pastor Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz and others in unveiling a report on immigration reform.

According to the coalition, the immigration reform proposal, passed by the U.S. Senate and waiting action in the House of Representatives, would mean a \$3.3 billion cumulative increase in the earnings of all Iowa residents, and \$2.8 billion cumulative additional earnings for Iowa immigrants, who will pay an additional \$283 million in state and local taxes over the next 10 years.

The report by the Center for American Progress found that "the full effect of granting legal status and citizenship to unauthorized immigrants is an income gain of 25.1 percent. Of this boost in income, about three-fifths comes from legalization and about two-fifths is attributable to transitioning from legal status to citizenship."

The group also called on Republican U.S. Rep. Tom Latham of Iowa's 3rd Congressional District to vote for the legislation.

In response, Latham's Communications Director Chris Deaton said, "Congressman Latham does not support the U.S. Senate-passed immigration bill, which is a moot point as House leaders have announced the House will not consider it. The House will instead take its own approach on needed reforms to our nation's broken immigration system and failed border security [sic]. Only after the issue of border security is addressed will House members move forward to debate and discuss other issues related to immigration reform [sic]."



Daughter of Ghanaian immigrants, Yeboah will begin her undergraduate degree from Cornell in the fall.

LULAC Councils Take the Lead on Immigration Reform



Senator Mark Warner Joins LULAC in Virginia Town Hall

By: Jossie Flor Sapunar, Editor of the LULAC News

LULAC, and the Hispanic Organization for Leadership and Action (HOLA), hosted an immigration town hall at the Northern Virginia Community College in Woodbridge, Virginia. The focus of the town hall was to educate and engage the Latino community in the fight for comprehensive immigration reform.

In Virginia, the immigrant population is an important and vibrant part of the community. For this reason, U.S. Senator Mark Warner participated in the immigration town hall along with local community leaders, and immigration experts. In the past several months, in collaboration with partner organizations, LULAC has hosted over 60 such immigration town halls across the country.

"I really appreciated this chance to participate in our roundtable with Latino businesses and community leaders," Senator Warner said. "This is a historic moment and the best chance in 35 years we've had to fix our broken immigration system. It's vital to stay engaged with the Virginia's vibrant and growing immigrant community to hear their concerns."

Latino voters played a decisive role in the 2012 elections, and as a result, the political power of the Hispanic community was clearly established. Now, using its political strength, the Hispanic community calls for reform to immigration laws. The community will bring its efforts to pass immigration reform to the House of Representatives to help bring over 11 million immigrants out of the shadows.

According to National LULAC Executive Director, Brent Wilkes, "Despite the present challenges, passage of comprehensive immigration reform is vital to the Latino community and we will continue to fight for its passage. Town hall meetings empower individuals within our community to advocate for this much needed reform."



At the LULAC town hall, Senator Warner stated, "This is a historic moment and the best chance in 35 years we've had to fix our broken immigration system. It's vital to stay engaged."

Wisconsin LULAC Hosts Immigration Reform Town Hall in Response to Anti-Immigrant Sentiments in the State

By: Jossie Flor Sapunar, Editor of the LULAC News

Wisconsin LULAC joined a coalition of civil rights, community and faith groups in August to denounce the recent rash of anti-immigrant statements in the state and elsewhere as extreme and hurtful. They called on the public to "get engaged" by contacting members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation to urge them to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation, which polls



show the public overwhelmingly supports.

Members of the coalition referred specifically to immigrant "hunting permits" that have been sold in Germantown.

And they condemned the comments by Steven Krieser, the former assistant deputy for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, who said that when he looks at immigrants he sees Satan. He was promptly fired by Governor Scott Walker.

The event also highlighted comments made by U.S. Rep. Steven King (R-Iowa), who said many immigrant youth are not valedictorians but drug mules with "calves the size of cantaloupes" from carrying drugs across the border.

Television ads that are being run by the group the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) in Wisconsin aimed at U.S. Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) were also criticized by Darryl Morin, the National Vice President for the Midwest of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"We're concerned that a group that has been identified with hate groups is allowed to run these ads, and these ads should be stopped," Morin said. The Southern Poverty Law Center has said FAIR has ties to white supremacist groups.

Morin said a recent Pew poll showed that immigration reform was supported by 71% of respondents. "There's broad support, yet sadly there's a vocal, but small, minority that talks of hate and their actions are hurtful," he said.

"We need a system that honors our values," the coalition stated, noting the number of families that have been separated through deportations and people who have died in the desert trying to cross.



Las solidarias redes que teje la inmigración de mujeres dominicanas

Por: Riamny Méndez, LULAC Communications Intern

Las fotos familiares dominicanas están llenas de ausencias. En torno a ellas se habla no solo de los rostros que están, sino también de los que faltan, de la tía que no pudo viajar desde Nueva York a celebrar esa navidad, de la madre que inmigró a Madrid y no estuvo presente en los quince años de su hija. Así, la vida se cuenta a partir de las fechas que marcan las ausencias y los regresos temporales o definitivos de los inmigrantes.

En esas ausencias, resuenan con profundo dolor, las de las madres que se fueron a buscar un futuro próspero para sus hijos. La migración en la República Dominicana es desde hace décadas cosa de mujeres.

Las mujeres son el 56% de la población de inmigrantes dominicanos en los Estados Unidos, de acuerdo con el informe “El perfil de la población de origen dominicano en los Estados Unidos”, realizado por el Centro de Estudios Monetarios Latinoamericanos, el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) y el Fondo Multilateral de Inversiones en 2012.

Pero aunque no siempre puedan estar físicamente presentes mientras los hijos y los sobrinos crecen, la mayoría mantiene contacto con sus familias y tejen redes de solidaridad, ya sea a través del envío de remesas o con el apoyo a los esfuerzos de otros miembros de su familia que desean emigrar.

La historia de Mercedes Segura de Ramírez, ilustra esas redes que se tejen gracias a las inmigrantes. Llegó a Washington hace 22 años. Dice que no fue una decisión planificada o buscada por ella, siguió los pasos de su marido que para ese entonces ya había vivido en este país durante unos 12 años. Tenía 40 años y era un ama de casa que llevaba una vida tranquila y conservadora en Santo Domingo, la capital dominicana.

Pero en Washington su vida empezó a desarrollarse fuera de las cuatro paredes de su hogar. Para ayudar a su marido trabajó en un restaurante, ahorró y con el tiempo se hizo socia y posteriormente dueña del restaurante y discoteca Carolina.

Así empezó para ella una vida de independencia y liderazgo en su familia nuclear y extendida. Ahorró, ayudó a traer a sus hijos a los Estados Unidos y envió remesas a los parientes que había dejado atrás. “Mi satisfacción más grande es haber podido ayudar a mi papá”, dice.

Su habilidad para los negocios la convirtió por varios años en dueña de otro restaurante, Los Arrieros, ubicado en el condado de Montgomery, en Maryland.

Su prosperidad económica le permitió ayudar a dos sobrinas que durante sus primeros años en Estados Unidos trabajaron para su restaurante.

También ha contribuido a crear otros lazos entre su familia residente en la República Dominicana y los Estados Unidos.

Su hermana, Clara Segura, reside en la República Dominicana, pero viaja con frecuencia a los Estados Unidos a visitar a su hija, una de las sobrinas que doña Mercedes Segura ayudó a establecerse en este estado. Durante sus visitas, Clara también vende antojitos dominicanos en el restaurante de su hermana.

Ellas han logrado mantener los lazos familiares más allá de las

fronteras, por donde fluyen el cariño, los negocios y las esperanzas.

Mercedes Segura no se arrepiente de su decisión de inmigrar, y dice que ha hecho de Washington su hogar. En la República Dominicana ha construido una casa con piscina, de la que se siente orgullosa. También siente orgullo de haber podido contratar, según cuenta, a sus artistas dominicanos favoritos como Anthony Ríos o a

¿Sabías que...?

La socióloga y artista visual Karin Weyland se ha interesado en el papel de las mujeres dominicanas en esas relaciones transnacionales, tanto a nivel familiar como de la comunidad, y han documentado el impacto de la migración femenina para el país, sobre todo desde la comunidad dominicana en Nueva York.

En su ensayo *Negociando la aldea global con un pie aquí y otro allá: la Diáspora dominicana femenina y la transculturalidad como alternativa descolonizadora*, afirma:

“Para mejor entender la experiencia migratoria dominicana entonces es necesario enfocarse en el estudio de la mujer y comenzar a visualizar que como resultado directo de la migración, la mujer dominicana ha podido revertir muchas de las imágenes que se tenían de la mujer en el siglo XIX y comienzos del siglo XX, rompiendo con las relaciones coloniales/modernas, y dando lugar a nuevos significados de su comportamiento laboral, familiar y comunitario”

Ensayo publicado en *Cruzando fronteras: Convergencias entre la sociedad civil y la academia en el Caribe*. 2010. Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC).

los comediantes Raymond Pozo y Felipe Polanco (Boruga) para que actuaran en el restaurante Los Arrieros, que fue muy famoso entre la comunidad latina.

“Esto ha sido un regalo de Dios, fue una vida que no busqué, pero gracias a Dios he podido hacer mi casa y he estado con artistas que me gustan de ahí. En mi país no salía de mi casa”, dice. A su alrededor hay sobrinas, una nuera, un nieto y mucho ruido.

LULAC Women Serve as Leaders in the LULAC National Convention



By: Jossie Flor Sapunar, Editor of the LULAC News

LULAC is an organization that revolves around the efforts of thousands of grassroots volunteers. It's vital to the success of our population that, with our political and electoral power, we affect policy that will eradicate the disparities in education, the labor force, and poverty. LULAC Women, in particular serve as local leaders for the female population and act to diminish obstacles that prevent gender equality. They not only recognize that Latinas possess the potential to establish community change but also take the lead in ensuring that other women answer the call to action.

At the 2013 LULAC National Convention, LULAC Women's Commission organized key trainings and events geared specifically towards the female population. At the Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon, Congresswoman Dina Titus of Nevada addressed convention attendees regarding national gender disparities. She urged LULAC women to continue the fight for wage equality, indicating that women will be integral in "setting [the world] right again." In addition, she stressed the urgency of passing immigration reform to respect the millions of immigrants in the United States who live in the shadows. Her determination to pass a comprehensive bill – not a stopgap

half measure – serves as motivation for women across the country to press the urgent issue of immigration reform.

Also at the Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon, on behalf of the LULAC Women's Commission, National Vice President for Women Elsie Valdes Ramos presented awards to women that championed gender equality and female empowerment.

The Latina Trailblazers seminar focused on the historic and ongoing contributions that Latina leaders have made to the civil rights struggle and the development of LULAC as a civil rights organization. By documenting this vibrant history, this panel aimed to foster greater appreciation for Latina activism and to inspire Latinas for future successes.

Keynote speaker Lisa Pino, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, joined the LULAC Women at the Women's High Tea. Civil rights advocate Pino passionately reminded our members and local attendees that the Latino community plays a major role in our nation's development and by advancing equality for women of all races and creeds, society benefits at large.

2013 Award Winners

Hortensia Dorado
Esperanza Gonzalez
Phylis Duran
Iris Cancel
Beverly D. Sparks
Elba Iris Crespo
Maria Alvarado
Yolanda Escobar
Mildred Rubayil
Zayra Alicia Fosse

At the convention, P&G Orgullosa awarded the first *Mujer Con La Falda Bien Puesta* Award to LULAC National President Margaret Moran. The award is presented to a woman that serves as role model; a woman that is making a difference; a woman that is determined, dedicated and committed to reaching her goals in life while also helping and inspiring other people to reach their own; a woman that embodies everything that defines a *mujer con la falda bien puesta*. President Moran was honored to receive the award.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Now at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, civil rights advocate Lisa Pino previously found innovative solutions to increase access to nutrition through SNAP.

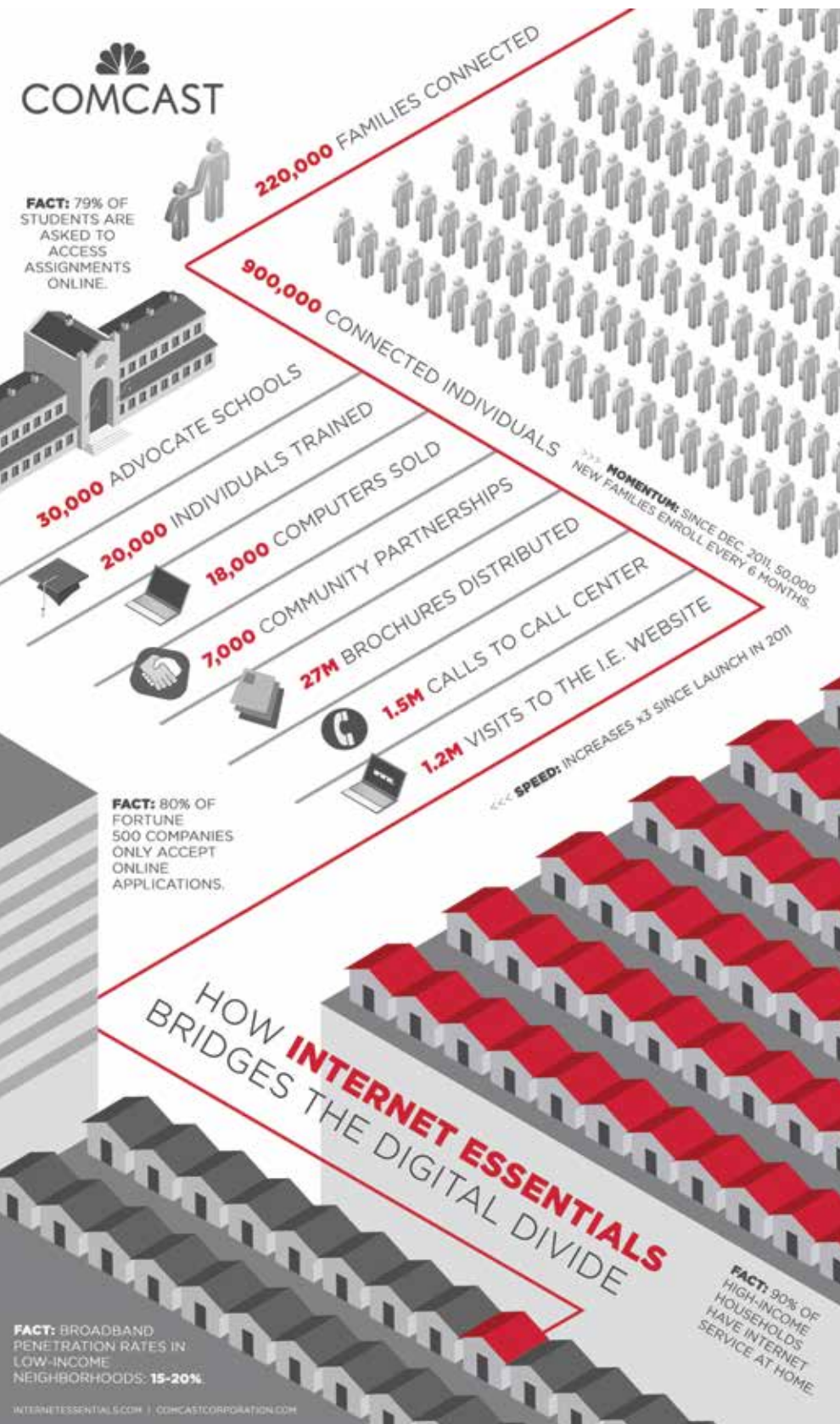


Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

The Honorable Dina Titus serves as a role model for women that wish to seek political office.

Momentum for Internet Essentials Continues to Increase

Program that Provides Low-Cost Broadband Enrolls More Than 100,000 Yearly



Since the program's launch in August 2011, Internet Essentials has enrolled upwards of 50,000 new families every six months. In the last six months alone, 70,000 new families have signed up. In addition, Comcast has distributed more than 18,000 subsidized computers and has trained nearly 20,000 people.

Internet Essentials from Comcast is the nation's largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program. It provides low-cost broadband service for \$9.95 a month plus tax; the option to purchase an Internet-ready computer for under \$150; and multiple options to access free digital literacy training in print, online, and in-person. A household is eligible to participate if it has at least one child eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), is located where Comcast offers Internet service, has not subscribed to Comcast Internet service within the last 90 days, and does not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment.

To increase enrollment and continue to help close the digital divide in America, Comcast continues to enhance Internet Essentials. For the second time in two years, Comcast has increased its broadband speeds for Internet Essentials customers up to 5 Mbps downstream and up to 1 Mbps upstream. On September 1st, download speeds will have more than tripled for Internet Essentials customers since the program's launch.

To facilitate enrollment, program eligibility criteria have expanded to nearly 2.6 million families nationwide. The program has instant approval guarantees for families whose students attend schools where 70 percent or more of the students are eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

For more information about Internet Essentials visit InternetEssentials.com for English and InternetBasico.com for Spanish. Parents looking to enroll in the program can call 1-855-846-8376 or, for Spanish, 1-855-765-6995.

The Comcast Foundation is a proud partner of LULAC's Empower Hispanic America with Technology initiative, which provides free broadband access and computer-related training to 150,000 students, parents, and low income individuals through a network of 57 LULAC community technology centers in 25 states.

Acing the Future

Announcing the *Advocate, Collaborate and Elevate Initiative* in the Midwest



By: Darryl D. Morin, LULAC Vice President of the Midwest

We are in the extraordinary position to play a key role during a critical time in our nation's history. Over the next several years, decisions will be made that will impact our community for generations to come. There is no other organization equal to LULAC in commitment, compassion, or capacity that can lead our community during this important time. This being said, the engagement of our entire membership is required, as our commitment to each other and our community will be tested.

Over the last 12 months, I traveled much of the country speaking with our membership. I heard the pride in the voice of our members. I saw the tears of joy and appreciation in the eyes of the individuals for whom we have provided relief. I also heard your hopes and concerns for LULAC.

It is with this insight that we developed and are implementing across the Midwest, our Advocate, Collaborate and Elevate (ACE) Initiative. It is a plan that takes a strategic, proactive approach in areas such as communications, training, partnership building, and program delivery. ACE will better align the Midwest to tackle challenges more

effectively and efficiently, while allowing us to take advantage of new opportunities in our rapidly changing environment.

In our first month, with the strong support and commitment of our State Directors, and through the efforts of our all-volunteer LULAC-Midwest staff, we have made great progress. We have modified our communication structure. We now have a LULAC Midwest Assistance & Programs Coordinator, Ms. Maria Castrejon-Pérez. Maria will support our national staff to ensure information on LULAC programs reach every state director, every council president and every council member. We also now have a LULAC Midwest Advocacy & Awareness Coordinator, Mr. Juan Carlos Ruiz. Juan Carlos has already begun the process of working with State Directors throughout the region so that we can be more effective and strategic

in our advocacy efforts. Most importantly, we have begun to roll out our new training system that has been developed over the last eight months.

Our new training solution can be delivered in person or online via any computer with Internet access. It consists of a number of training modules such as LULAC 101 and State & National Assembly Training and shortly will include Executive Officer Training, Robert's Rules of Order, Legal Do's & Don'ts, Strategic Planning, Treasurer's Training, Youth Adult Advisor Training, and much more. Upon the completion of each training module, participants are given an assessment. Upon successful completion, they are awarded training credits and receive a Certificate of Accomplishment for the training



module.

Another component of our ACE Initiative is one of membership development. There is tremendous opportunity for LULAC to grow. Every state should focus on membership growth for our organization to succeed. Imperative for our organization to succeed, membership growth must be a focus for every state. We need positive growth, recruiting members who share our commitment and who are willing to put the League before self-interest.

Once again, thank you for your support and I look forward to working with LULAC National President Margaret Moran, our National Board and our Midwest State Directors and members, to make LULAC everything we know it can be!

A Professional Career to Celebrate and Promote Diversity

Salvador Mendoza, Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, NBCUniversal

Nobody better than an immigrant understands not only the richness of diversity but also the solitude sometimes felt as a minority, the bad plays that syntax makes when learning a new language, and the disadvantages faced by those who are not part of the majority group – accumulating to the point of exclusion from spaces of wealth and power.

Salvador Mendoza, Vice President in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for entertaining media company NBCUniversal, is originally from Honduras and came to the United States at age 14. In this country he learned English, finished high school, and graduated as a computer programmer from Chicago State University and an MA in education administration from Governors State University.

His first job at the LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNEC) placed him in contact with young people who were in the same situation he found himself just a few years back and that needed support to meet college entrance requirements. Through that route, his professional track took a turn that would determine the rest of his career. Gone were the computer bytes as the inclusion of minorities and education became his guiding point in the corporate



NBCUniversal

world.

He understands that the change in his career goals started as circumstantial; but Mendoza then realized that instead of engaging in pure computer science, he wanted to see “the impact it can play in people’s lives.”

He explains that his main job is to develop and implement long-term strategies in the areas of workforce, community investment and management of the NBCUniversal employee resource groups, with a focus on enhancing the company’s diverse and inclusive environment.

“The greatest achievement is that the company continues to change its culture, to look at the community in other ways, both to recruit staff and to understand the market,” says Mendoza.

He explains that if more people from diverse backgrounds join the industry as actors, writers, producers, executives, and directors, the better opportunity we’ll have to tell Our Story...from Our Perspective. Mendoza states that there are many opportunities for Latino youth to explore.

Appointed to the position of Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion in August of 2012, Mendoza is responsible for the development of long-term strategies in the areas of workforce, community investment and management of the NBCUniversal employee resource groups, with a focus on enhancing the company’s diverse and inclusive environment.

“The greatest achievement is that the company continues to change its culture, to look at the community in other ways, both to recruit staff and to understand the market.”

**THE
SPOTLIGHT**
on
LULAC
&
Corporate America

KEY FACT

LULAC National President Margaret Moran serves as Board Chair for the Hispanic Corporate Responsibility Association, which serves to increase Hispanic inclusion in Corporate America.

Corporate LEADERSHIP

Leadership in Serving the Hispanic Community

Paul A. Gómez, Director Corporate Affairs, Constituent Relations, Walmart

He measures success as twenty-eight minutes of footage. And rightfully so.

When documentary filmmaker Ken Burns would not initially make changes to World War II documentary “The War” in 2007, to include Hispanic members of the Armed Forces, a young Paul Gómez sprung into action to ensure their inclusion in the film.

The pointed advocacy would not be the last time that Gómez would mix his talent with community activism, politics, and business to aid the Hispanic community.

He has become a friend and partner for LULAC as Director of Corporate Affairs, Constituent Relations at Walmart. LULAC’s Latinos Living Healthy Initiative has blossomed under the partnership, with the fourth Feria de Salud planned for September in Los Angeles, California. Featuring free health screenings, healthier foods, physical exercise, and wellness education, the Ferias de Salud are family-friendly festivals that celebrate our Hispanic heritage.

Gómez manages the partnership between Walmart and LULAC, citing the importance and impact that both organizations have within the Hispanic community. “We are committed and working hard to help families bring healthy, affordable foods to the table



every day,” Gómez said. Our commitments in the areas of hunger relief and healthier eating are core examples of how we can leverage our business to bring positive change to the communities we serve.”

Gómez’s career

Gómez’s professional life has repeatedly returned to serve the Hispanic community and to achieve full civil and political rights for the underserved. He has been a congressional aide to Congressmen Ciro D. Rodriguez and Former Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis.

Gómez, who earned his BA in political science and theology at Marquette University, applied his experience taking a role as an administrator and teacher at two notable college preparatory high schools, including Loyola High School of Los Angeles. He credits the Marquette University Les Aspin Center of Government for providing him the tools necessary to contribute in public policy and advocate on behalf of the Hispanic community on legislative issues surrounding education and immigration in Washington, DC.

During his time as assistant to Congressman Rodriguez, he was appointed by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to open conversations with Public Broadcasting Service to include Hispanic contributions to World War II in a documentary since the legacy had been excluded from film production. He also worked on issues related to public health, immigration, telecom and minority participation while working for D&P Creative Strategies and Mickey Ibarra & Associates.

Gómez credits much of his success to his family and mentors, but he has made it loud and clear that there is much more to be done for the Latino community. “In order to grow as an impactful organization that supports the community we serve, we must make time to groom young leaders. If we equip those individuals with the resources and guidance necessary to make a difference, we will ensure that they are empowered to effectively lead tomorrow,” Gómez said.

Gómez is an active member of the LULAC Corporate Alliance and serves as co-chair of the health committee. The LULAC Corporate Alliance is an advisory board composed of more than thirty of the nation’s leading companies who seek to foster stronger partnerships between corporations and the Hispanic community and to provide advice and assistance to the LULAC organization.

KEY FACT

In 2012, there were over 850 Fortune 1000 companies that had no Hispanic inclusion on their boards.

KEY FACT

Corporations participating in the Corporate Alliance work with LULAC in developing national and community-based programs to address the needs of the Hispanic community.



LULAC and Yum! Brands Inc. Launch the United Latino Job Bank to Promote Workforce Diversity



UNITED LATINO JOB BANK

W W W . H I R E L A T I N O S . O R G

By: *Ulises Gonzalez, LULAC Civic Engagement Manager*

Over the last 84 years, LULAC has spearheaded efforts that have allowed Latinos to maximize career opportunities. In this vein, LULAC and Yum! Brands Inc. have partnered to create the United Latino Job Bank, a portal where those seeking employment can access job listings from top corporate companies. Launching soon, the portal offers top-notch career positions and employment education resources, specifically geared for Hispanic job seekers.

As the Latino population continues to grow and more Latinos enter the private sector, companies, now more than ever, understand the importance of maintaining diversity in their workplace. In a 2012 study, the U.S. Department of Labor found that more than 8 in 10 employed Latinos work in the private sector. These trends show that Hispanics have become the driving force of America's private sector.

Diverse workforces are happier, more productive, and more innovative. They bring in different perspectives to resolve the same issue, meaning that the team results in innovative solutions. A diverse team is better able to make products and services that connect with the increasingly diverse customer base.

As America's demographics evolve, the most successful companies and organizations will be those who are able to connect with a growing diversity and the changing face of America. They will establish a culture of diversity and embrace the multiculturalism that defines our country.

To access the United Latino Job Bank, visit www.HireLatinos.org.



Latino Employment at a Glance

Source: *U.S. Department of Labor*

- At nearly 23 million, people of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity represented 15 percent of the U.S. labor force in 2011.¹ By 2020, Latinos are expected to comprise 19 percent of the U.S. labor force.
- In 2011, 58.9 percent of Latinos aged 16 and over were employed and just under 1 in 5 of those employed was working part-time. Women comprised 41 percent of all Latinos in the labor force in 2011, compared to 46 percent among the white labor force. Women represent a smaller share of the Latino labor force both because of the high labor force participation of Latino men and the lower labor force participation rate of Latina women when compared to Whites.
- Latinos are more likely than either Whites or African Americans to be employed in the private sector, with more than 8 in 10 employed Latinos working in the private sector, not including the unincorporated self-employed.
- According to the most recent Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners (2007), Latino-owned businesses were the fastest growing small business sector prior to the recession, expanding at nearly twice the rate of the national average between 2002 and 2007. In fact, the entry rate of Latinos into self-employment compares favorably to that of non-Latino Whites and their entry rate is even higher than that of Whites in low-barrier sectors. The main problem is that Latinos tend to have lower success rates with their new businesses and exit self-employment at a higher rate than Whites.
- The unemployment rate averaged 11.5 percent among Latinos in 2011. The most recent unemployment report in February 2012 shows improvement for all Americans, including Latinos, who have seen their unemployment rate decline to 10.7 percent in February from a high of 13.1 percent in November 2010. In addition, unemployed Latinos experience a shorter duration of unemployment and are less likely to join the ranks of the long-term unemployed than are either their unemployed white or black counterparts.

The Department of Labor data reinforce the need to continue addressing Latino employment issues. LULAC's United Latino Job Bank will help Hispanics seeking employment to hiring entities. This resource has the ability to be a powerful tool to help increase Latino employment, especially in sectors of traditional under-representation. To access the United Latino Job Portal, visit www.HireLatinos.org.

Cultivating Professional Development

The LULAC Internship Program



By: Jose Torres, Education Program Intern

“The disparities seen in the Latino community that LULAC consistently advocates to reduce, such as those seen in health, education, etc., have become public knowledge as our demographic continues to grow. The human story, however, has been lost. Policy is less focused on our mothers, our students, or senior citizens, and seems to be more concerned on Hispanics in general, or simply the Latino vote. Success in the Latino community cannot be reached until the country stops seeing us as a block of votes, but rather day-to-day individuals trying to achieve the same dream as everyone else.”

- Silverio Ramirez, Health Fellow

The theories he has learned at George Washington University and the policies that he has seen on Capitol Hill are as gapped as the Grand Canyon. Throughout his year at LULAC, Silverio Ramirez has quickly realized the incongruence of theoretical learning, where everything is as balanced as a chemical equation or as posited as a macroeconomics problem.

The LULAC National Internship Program, however, provides the skill set necessary to advocate for Latino civil rights in policy and legislation, programming, communications, civic engagement, mobilization, and resource development. By promoting social justice, undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom in a rigorous workplace.

At the 84th National Convention and Exposition, twelve summer interns were able to challenge themselves, working side-by-side with successful Latinos from the Federal Government, think tanks, entertainment, politics, the White House, and corporate America. In preparation for the convention, interns had the opportunity to work collaboratively with LULAC staff to develop workshop content, secure expert panelists, and host town halls on site. J. Camilo Vilaseca, education policy intern, valued the experience, noting that he had the opportunity to network with individuals who have the ability to affect policy, especially during Thursday's Youth and Young Adults Banquet at which Vice President Joe Biden spoke.

Shane Smith, education policy intern, states that his experience with LULAC has heightened his understanding of politics on Capitol Hill. Smith praised his supervisor, Education Policy Director Luis Alfonso Torres, for giving him the ability to understand the legislative process and the relationship between LULAC and the Hill. He has written letters to Congress and organized advocacy visits that led him to develop effective presentation skills.

While organizing town halls and workshops, immigration policy intern Jessica Vallejo has attained the ability to transform ideas into action. Vallejo states that the staff's extensive knowledge

has been very instrumental in her academic transformation process. Hailing from the Dominican Republic, Fulbright Humphrey Fellow Riamny Mendez has applied her passion for learning in the subjects of advocacy and immigration as a communications intern at LULAC. With support from his supervisor Elena Segura, education program intern Jose Torres has enriched his experience in program coordination, expanding the scope of his knowledge from the local to the national level. In roundtable discussions, health policy intern Ryann Roberts met with top HHS officials to discuss ACA implementation plans that would provide health care coverage to vulnerable communities, including the nine million Latinos slated to benefit from the law. Declan Kingland health policy intern perceives that,

“The formulation of any piece of legislation - no matter how seemingly simple - always has multiple points of view that Congress must take into account. Some of these views are not always considered or are ignored, which incites civil rights organizations like LULAC into action. As health policy intern, I have witnessed the power of the democratic process in action and learned our system deserves to be applauded.”

LULAC's interns gain skills that lead to top professional careers, some, in fact, meriting a full-time position with LULAC. Over 40% of LULAC's current staff was a former intern or fellow, with Karina Castellanos most recently hired on the programs team. Similarly, Silverio Ramirez who began as an intern became the health fellow as his knowledge of health policy and programs grew.

Candidates interested in the LULAC internship experience should contact Elena Segura at ESegura@LULAC.org, referencing the *LULAC News*.



Interns from Left to Right: Sebastian Belloni, Development Intern; Jose Torres, Education Programs Intern; Ryann Roberts, Health Policy Intern; Declan Kingland, former Health Programs Intern and newly hired Health Programs Coordinator; Jessica Vallejo, Immigration Policy Intern; Shane Smith, Education Policy Intern; J. Camilo Vilaseca, Education Policy Intern; Alfredo Ballón, Federal Relations Intern; Silverio Ramirez, Health Fellow; Riamny Mendez, Communications Intern.



Invest in SNAP

Continued from page 11.

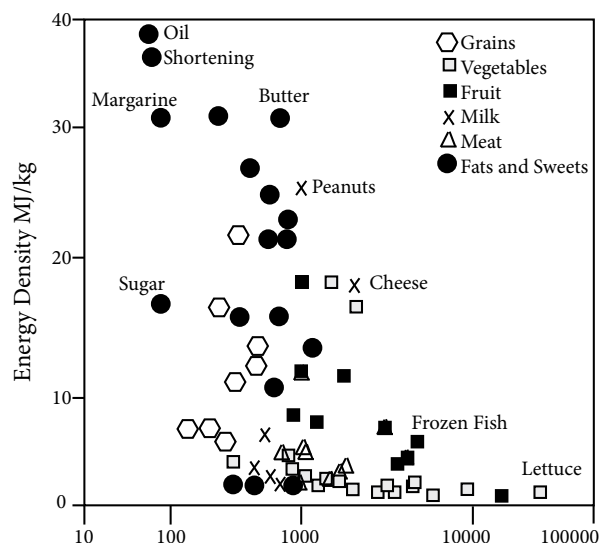


Figure 2: Cost of Food as a Function of Energy Density

Latino families in other areas are left to shop at stores that do not provide the same quality healthful foods. These families – including almost 4 million children – are considered to be “food insecure,” as they are unable to access foods due to physical, geographical or monetary constraints. Impoverished families are also less likely to own cars making it harder for them to reach out of town supermarkets in both rural and urban areas, which can be as far as 14.4 miles away.^{7, 3}

Food insecurity affects the Hispanic community in substantially higher rates than other communities as Hispanic communities are more prevalent in large cities and in the southern and western portions of the country.

SNAP reduces food insecurity in the United States, with 41% of food insecure and 42% of extremely food insecure households receiving SNAP as recently as 2010. The receipt of SNAP lowers the likelihood of being food insecure by almost 30% and reduces the likelihood of being very food insecure by almost 20%.³ The vast majority of stores authorized to accept SNAP benefits are supermarkets, super stores, groceries and convenience stores which provides the best balance between allowing people in all neighborhoods to purchase goods and making available the healthy, nutritious foods these families require. 83% of SNAP benefits are redeemed at supermarkets and superstores, with 96% of SNAP participants shopping at a superstore at least once a month taking advantage of their wider variety of high quality food at lower cost.

In recent years SNAP has made Farmers Markets accessible to the program's beneficiaries in an effort to take advantage of their wide variety of fresh produce at reasonable prices. This initiative has been

gaining ground with almost three times more Farmer Markets part of the program and an almost 50% increase in spending at them in recent years.³

SNAP Nutrition Education (Snap-Ed) is a program that runs in tandem with SNAP and is meant to educate SNAP participants so that they can use their benefits to make the healthiest choices possible within their limited budgets. This program has national reach with all fifty states currently operating SNAP-Ed Programs. In this way SNAP helps those it serves get the most out of the funds it provides and their commitment to this endeavor is constantly growing with funding for the project increasing steadily over the years.

SNAP is able to accomplish all of the above in a manner that is highly efficient and effective. A move towards electronic case filings and EBT cards has made the disbursement of funds timely and has severely cut down on the trafficking of SNAP benefits with only one cent of every dollar being trafficked. As SNAP has grown it has been refining its disbursement process leading to a record low over-disbursement percentage of less than 3% and 98% of funds going to eligible households. The administrative costs of the program have also reached an all-time low of less than 10% of total program costs, which are divided almost evenly between state and federal governments.

One's diet has been directly linked to obesity and sadly it is America's most impoverished that are left to subsist off of the unhealthiest foods. SNAP has been a longtime support mechanism for the families with the most need and has allowed millions of families to provide healthier food options for their families and children. Unfortunately with recent federal budgetary constraints the status of SNAP has been called into question. It is important that LULAC's members advocate for the continued funding of the SNAP program.

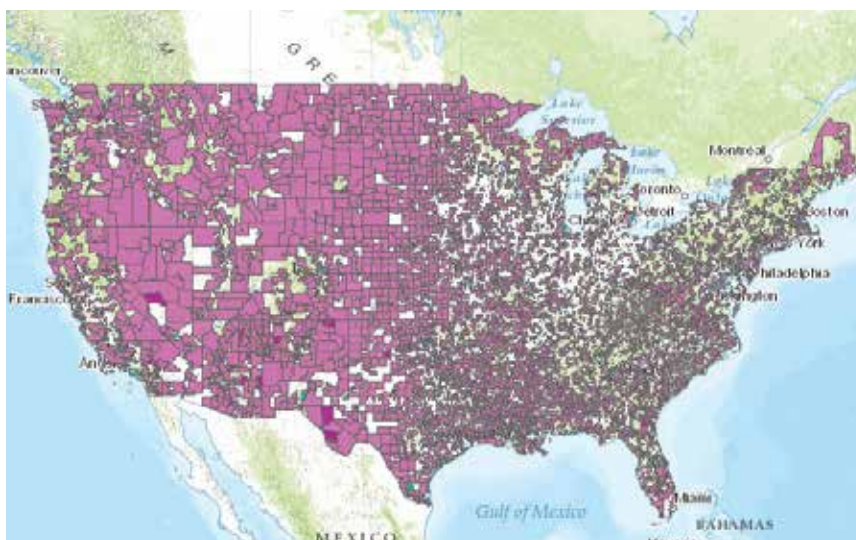


Figure 3: Map of Areas in the Contiguous U.S. with Low Food Access

Solutions to the Financial Literacy Quiz



Pocket Smart Quiz on page 28.

1. **E:** Unusually high rates of return should be viewed as a cause for concern about an investment and would indicate a high-risk investment. Investigate all risk-free promises. Guarantees should also raise concern. Legitimate investments are not guaranteed against loss. Suggesting that you must invest “now” is generally a high-pressure tactic used by swindlers to get the money before investors can change their minds or obtain more information.
2. **B:** Securities regulation is based on a disclosure system - laws requiring companies to provide investors with specific information. This ensures that investors have access to the information they need in order to make sound investment decisions. Companies do not have to show profits nor pay dividends in order to sell stock to investors. Also, companies are not required to repay investors who have lost money by investing in their shares.
3. **A:** Buying a CD or GIC is low risk, but you should investigate insurance levels in the event of the bank’s failure. You should also consider inflation risk when dealing with low return investments. If you are going to invest with someone you know through your church or community association, you should ensure that both the person and the investment are properly licensed/registered with your securities regulator. You should thoroughly investigate before investing your hard-earned money. Investing offshore is not a guarantee of tax benefits. In addition, when you invest offshore, you are giving up some of the protections provided by your securities regulator. Investing with someone who calls you with an investment opportunity is also very risky. You should always be skeptical of telephone pitches.
4. **D:** You should never make an investment based simply on word-of-mouth, even if the recommendation comes from a family member, friend or acquaintance. Fraudulent schemes are frequently perpetuated this way. The promise of quick, high returns should also alert you to a possible scam. As a general rule, risk and return are proportional; the higher the return, the higher the risk. Even if a company looks and sounds legitimate, you should always check it out. Therefore, ask for more information about the investment and call your securities regulator to see if the investment has been registered or exempted for sale.
5. **D:** Information filed on an investment with your securities regulator can include disclosure documents, such as a prospectus or offering memorandum, and is meant to provide you with valuable information in order for you to make a wise investment decision. This is your best source of information about the history of the company and the risks associated with the investment.
6. **E:** Before making an investment, do your research and ensure that you understand what you are buying, the risks involved and if it is suitable for your personal financial situation. You can obtain written materials from your salesperson, go to the library, use the Internet, and/or get an opinion from another professional. Contact your securities regulator to ask about the salesperson’s background and to verify proper licensing or registration of the investment and salesperson. Never transfer money in the name of a salesperson. Your check/cheque or fund transfer should always be directed to the company in which you are investing or to your brokerage/investment firm to settle your account.
7. **D:** Registered/licensed securities salespeople and their administrative staff can and do make errors. These errors and mistakes can be costly and need to be caught and corrected as soon as possible. More importantly, there have been instances where salespeople have intentionally abused their clients’ trust through excessive trading in their accounts, selling them inappropriate financial products and outright fraud. Generally speaking, your salesperson should never buy or sell a security without first getting your approval.
8. **E:** With the presence of con artists and the ever-increasing complexity of financial products and markets, today’s investors need to be well informed. The above-mentioned items are all “scams” but represent only a small number of fraudulent investments that are currently being sold to unwitting investors. NASAA provides a current list of these scams that you can review at www.nasaa.org. Consumers need to maintain a heightened sense of caution when investing. Additionally, if the investment is something you are not familiar with, be sure to gather information and understand the product prior to investing. Consult with your securities regulator and review its website for additional investor education materials and information on scams.
9. **F:** It is important to ask for and obtain written details of the investment recommendations you receive before you make any decisions. This could include a prospectus, an offering memorandum, research reports and other information. You should also contact your securities regulators for information relating to the registration or exemption status of the securities product in addition to checking to see if your salesperson is registered/licensed to sell the investment product. You should always assess your investment objectives before making an investment in this, or any other product, to determine the risks involved, even if the recommendation comes from someone that you have done business with for many years.
10. **E:** You should not judge the legitimacy of an investment by the following: the look of the written promotional materials you receive; where the company’s office is located; its website whether other investors received quick up-front returns; or the name of the company. All of these things may be done to lure investors into a scheme. Do your homework. Obtain information about the company from reputable sources such as the SEDAR website for Canadian publicly traded companies (www.sedar.com) or the EDGAR website for U.S. public securities filings (www.sec.gov/edgar) and call your securities regulator before you invest.

Source: <http://www.nasaa.org/3246/investment-fraud-quiz/>

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SE PELEAN POR TI.**



CHEVROLET MALIBU Y MYLINK.
El Chevrolet Malibu te puede dar una lista de precios de combustible competitivos de las gasolineras más cercanas cuando combinas los disponibles sistemas de MyLink¹ y SiriusXM Travel Link².

¹ La funcionalidad MyLink varía según el modelo. La funcionalidad completa requiere un smartphone y Bluetooth compatibles, y algunos dispositivos requieren conexión USB. ² Si te suscribes después de tu período de prueba, las suscripciones son continuas hasta que llames a SiriusXM para cancelar. Consulta el Acuerdo del Cliente de SiriusXM para ver los términos completos en www.siriusxm.com. Aplicarán otras tarifas e impuestos. Todas las tarifas y programación están sujetas a cambios. Para más información acerca de Travel Link, visita www.siriusxm.com/travellink. ©2013 General Motors. Todos los derechos reservados. Chevrolet Malibu.