

July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005



**State of Connecticut
Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs
Commission
2005
Annual Report**

**M. Jodi Rell
Governor**



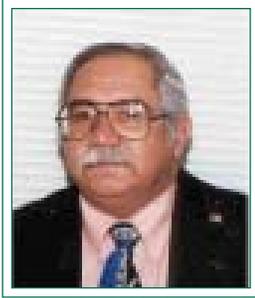
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Mission Statement

**To coordinate and provide
access to resources by
developing and
recommending to the
Governor and the Legislature
policy for the advancement
of the Latino & Puerto Rican
Communities.**

Report of the Chair



Dear Governor Rell:

On behalf of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the projects the LPRAC has been involved in during this fiscal year. We began the year 2005 by hosting a strategic planning retreat at the Water's Edge Conference Center to set the agenda for our upcoming year as well as to improve relations between board members and staff. This retreat was extremely successful as it gave everyone involved a common ground as well as an excellent opportunity to strategize in order to carry out the LPRAC mission effectively. We had quite an interesting year as we advocated on 12 different issues and monitored 15 different legislative proposals that impacted our Latino communities residing in Connecticut. Some of our key accomplishments during the Legislative session were:

- State assistance to legal immigrants
- Establishment of a permanent interagency task force on trafficking of women and children
- Revision of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission annual budget.
- Bilingual education budget
- Needle and syringe exchange program restoration
- Human resource development for Hispanic programs
- English as a second language instruction and service training for teachers and teacher preparation courses.
- An act concerning the costs associated with compliance with the "No Child Left Behind" act.

As you can see it has been an extremely eventful year securing the passage of the bills mentioned above. We also made positive recommendations to Governor M. Jodi Rell urging her not to support a proposal sought by the Mayor of Danbury, which would have deputized state troopers to perform immigration duties in the City of Danbury.

During the year we collaborated with other organizations on issues of common interest such as:

- Leadership Greater Hartford, on the 3rd biennial summit entitled "Impacto Latino, Leading with New Rythm";
- Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, on the first conference on the "Effects of Domestic Violence in the Latino Community of Connecticut"; and

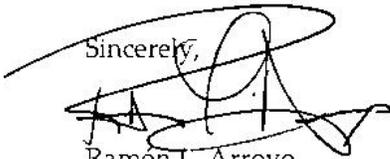
- United States Postal Service, during the Hispanic Heritage month, we held the first Hispanic Postal Stamp Exhibition led by our Public Information Officer at the Legislative Office Building.

Our Seventh Annual Gala Awards Banquet was a tremendous success; it has become the signature event of our Latino community and has reached an attendance of 900 people. This Gala Awards Banquet continues to highlight prominent Latinos who are making a positive difference within our state.

By and large the LPRAC continues to build on its mission, establishing a stronger presence within our state each year. It is important for the LPRAC to continue its mission and to remain committed to its collaboration with various agencies throughout the state. Moreover, in this report you will find a listing of all the special projects as well as the breakdown of our budget and a comprehensive report prepared by our Associate Legislative Analyst. As we look forward to 2006, we are confident that the LPRAC's legislative policy recommendations will continue to address the Latino and Puerto Rican community needs in our state.

I have served on the commission for the past six years, and this has been my second successful term as Chairperson. I hope to continue serving the LPRAC, helping to implement its mission, as we still have more to accomplish. I am grateful for the continued support of the Commissioners, the staff and the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RAMON L. ARROYO', written over a horizontal line.

Ramón L. Arroyo
Chairman

Commissioner Biographies

Ramón L. Arroyo, Chairman



(**Public Citizen**) of Hartford, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut. Mr. Arroyo retired after 23 years of service from the City of Hartford Municipal Government as a Special Assistant to the City Manager. Mr. Arroyo has participated and volunteered in many organizations. He is currently the President of the Puerto Rican and Latino Alliance (PAC) of Connecticut. The following is a list of the memberships he has held:

- Friends of Pope Park, Board of Directors
- Parkville Problem Solving Committee, Board Member
- Hartford's Charter Revision Commission
- Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council, member of Board of Directors
- Hartford Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
- Hogar Crea of Connecticut, state board of directors
- Puerto Rican PAC, President
- Boys Scouts of America
- Long River Council, Volunteer Career Awareness Speaker
- Quirk Middle School PTSA-President
- María Sánchez Baseball Little League, Assistant Coach
- West Middle School, PTA-Vice President
- Neighborhood Legal Services, member of board of directors
- Hartford's Public Access Television, member of board of directors
- Hartford's Democratic Town Committee-Third District, Spokesperson

The **House Majority Leader David Pudlin** appointed Mr. Arroyo to LPRAC in 1999. Mr. Arroyo was re-appointed in 2003 by **Majority Leader James A. Amman**.

Ivette Servera, Past Chairperson



(**Small Business and Economic Development**) of Farmington, works for the State of Connecticut Judicial Department, Adult Probation, at the Bristol office. She attended Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a minor in Sociology. Ms. Servera is a member of many community organizations including: past President of Handicapped Children of Puerto Rico, Bridgeport; La Danza, Bridgeport; Executive Board of Boys Scouts; President of La Casa De Puerto Rico; Leadership Greater Hartford –Marketing and Education Committees; 2nd President of Hartford Lions Club; ASPIRA Hartford effort; Hispanic Journalists Association; Connecticut Probation and Parole Association; and Republican Hispanic Women's Task Force. She volunteers with the American Red Cross on the Disaster Action Team and is a Community Liaison Volunteer. She is currently a board member with the United Way.

Governor John G. Rowland appointed Ms. Servera to LPRAC in 1999 and was reappointed once again in 2003.

Angel Reyes, Commissioner



(Arts and Culture) is a native of the Dominican Republic and has resided in Bridgeport for the past 22 years. He graduated from the University of Bridgeport with a major in Business Administration.

He is the Owner/Operations Manager of TP & CS, LLC in Bridgeport, CT. Mr. Reyes is currently a member of the Red Cross-Greater Bridgeport Relief Committee, a founder of the Dominican Cultural Society, Treasurer of the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce, founder of the Latinos Unidos Bridgeport Dominoes Federation and also a founder of the Dominican Cultural Youth Group of Bridgeport. He was a former President for the Borinquen Softball League (2001-2002) and served as a Bridgeport Zoning Commissioner from (1999-2000).

Senate Minority Leader Louis C. DeLuca appointed Mr. Reyes to LPRAC in 2002.

Eva Maldonado, Commissioner



(Public Safety) Eva A. Maldonado of Stamford was born in Puerto Rico and has resided in Lower Fairfield County since the tender age of six. One of Eva's greatest accomplishments is being the mother of one daughter named Dorian. Eva has a degree in Criminal Justice and earned a Fellow by the Yale Child Study Center, currently working towards a degree in Business Administration. Eva has been an employee of the City of Stamford as a Police Officer since 1988. Eva has been involved in Hispanic organizations since she was fourteen years old, starting with the Connecticut Puerto Rican Parade, where she went on to represent the City of Norwalk as Miss Puerto Rico in 1979, and received the title of Miss Congeniality from the state.

Ms. Maldonado has received numerous awards such as; Community Policing Officer in 1997, Youth Worker of the Year in 1999, Hispanic Woman of the Year in 2002 and Hispanic Community Leader of the Year in 2004.

Affiliations/Board Member of:

Community Economic Development Fund	Hartford, CT
Yerwood Center	Stamford, CT
Volunteer Center	Stamford, CT
The Mayor's Youth Initiative	Stamford, CT
Norwalk Board of Education Diversity Task Force	Norwalk, CT
Hispanic Advisory Council of Greater Stamford	Stamford, CT
Events Committee for CT Grand Opera and Orchestra	Stamford, CT

Ms. Maldonado is the President and co-founder of Greater Stamford HISPANIC chamber of Commerce, Inc. where she has started a directory of "Quién es Quién" and a Scholarship/Mentoring program named "Niños con Futuro" and a Commissioner on The Stamford Education Commission. In her spare time Eva enjoys photography, reading and gardening.

Speaker of the House Moira K. Lyons appointed Ms. Maldonado to LPRAC in 2004 .

Raúl A. Rodríguez, Commissioner



(**Environment**) resides in Wethersfield and is an Assitant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut, Attorney General's Office in Hartford. He has practiced public housing/residential summary process eviction law and general civil law for fourteen years at Arnold & Associates in Hartford. He is a member of the Connecticut and New York bars.

Mr . Rodríguez received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Cornell University and received his Juris Doctorate Degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Faculty of Law. He is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, the Hartford County Bar Association, The Hispanic National Bar Association and the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association. Mr. Rodríguez serves on many regional boards and community organizations and is a member of the following: Leadership Greater Hartford, Class of 1999, Salvation Army Advisory Board, ASPIRA Hartford Programs Coordinating Committee. Charter Member, current President for the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission Toastmasters Club #3350, and former B4 Governor for District 53 Toastmasters, former President, Treasurer, and Membership Chairperson of the Hartford Evening Lions Club and the former District 23B Zone 8 Chairman. Mr. Rodríguez is committed to the Town of Wethersfield where he serves as secretary of the Wethersfield Democratic Town Committee, and was elected to the Wethersfield Board of Education for a four year term beginning in November 2003. He was an alternate on the Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission from 1998 to 2003, and a volunteer for the American Heritage Festival. Mr. Rodríguez wrote "*One Strike, You're Out. Evictions in Connecticut*" which was published in the June/July 1998 issue of the Connecticut Lawyer Magazine.

He is a former member of: the United Way of Greater Hartford - Board of Directors, Chair of the Affirmative Action Committee, Member of the Allocations Steering Committee and the Neighborhood Support Collaboration. He was Chairperson of the Hartford Fair Rent Commission; member of the Hartford Commission on the City Plan; Secretary of the Hartford Democratic Party; Secretary of South / Southwest Elderly Housing Corporation Board of Directors; and, the Board of Directors of Southend Community Services Corporation.

He was appointed to the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission in 1997 by **Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads** and elected Chairperson March 1998. He was re-appointed in 2001 by **Senate Majority Leader Leader Louis C. DeLuca**. Mr. Rodríguez was reappointed in 2004 by **Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin B. Sullivan**.

Manuel García, Commissioner



(**Human Services**) was born and raised in Bridgeport. He is an employee for the City of Bridgeport Board of Education as an In-School Suspension Officer. He previously worked as a Controls Supervisor with many years of service in customer relations experience both in the United States and Puerto Rico. He is an active member of the community and is the Pastor of Iglesia Renacer Inc., located in Bridgeport. He provides religious service at the Danbury Federal Correctional Center for Latina inmates. Mr. Garcia has and continues to serve on various boards. He serves on the Board of Directors for Free Forever Prison Ministries in New Haven, CT. Mr. Garcia has served with various organizations including Chaplain with the Fairfield County Sheriffs Department of Connecticut, religious service provider at the New Haven Correctional Center, Associate Minister of Mission Good Shepherd Church, Inc. Milford, CT; a former Vice President of the Third Stone Ridge Co-op Board of Directors, The Bridgeport Republican Town Committee; Justice of the Peace in the City of Bridgeport, a former Vice President of the South End Community Center and a member of the Royal Rangers instructing boys and men in religious and moral values.

He was appointed to the Commission in 1997 by **Governor John G. Rowland** and re-appointed in 1999.

Abner Burgos - Rodriguez, Commissioner



(**Environment**) of Danbury. Born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and raised on the lower east side of Manhattan in New York City, Abner Burgos-Rodríguez has been a resident of Danbury Connecticut for almost nineteen years. He and wife of twenty-nine years, Diana Burgos, raised two children, the late Eulalio Burgos and Maya Burgos. Together, they shepherded their two children through high school and college. He holds a Bachelors Degree from the State University of New York at Old Westbury. Abner has been a marketing professional for over twenty-five years in the Petroleum Industry. He has been at Standard Petroleum Company, a wholesale gasoline distributor based out of Bridgeport, Connecticut for the past fifteen years. He is currently a member of the following organizations: Board of Directors of the Latino Scholarship Fund of Greater Danbury (Current Chair); Concerned Black Men of Action for Youth of Danbury; Corporator of Union Savings Bank, Danbury Connecticut. The following are some of the organizations and activities Mr. Burgos-Rodríguez has been involved in the recent past:

- Member of the Danbury Board of Education
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
- Member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Western Connecticut
- Junior Achievement Counselor
- Co-Chair of the Regional Forum for Improvement of Educational Quality & Diversity
- Danbury Republican Town Committee
- Member of the Land Use Committee of the Danbury Board of Education
- Foster Parent to two children during the 1990's

He was appointed to the Commission by the **Senate Republican Leader Louis C. DeLuca** in December 2003.

Patricia Zuluaga, Commissioner



(**Health**) of Avon, has a M.A. in Human Services Administration from Springfield College, Massachusetts and a degree in Clinical Psychology from Saint Buenaventura University in Medellín, Colombia. She is currently a private consultant conducting community training in her native Spanish language in results accountability. Mrs. Zuluaga has extensive experience in providing strategic direction and leadership in the reduction of infant mortality in the City of Hartford, CT. She has worked for many years for the City of Hartford's Health Department from 1987-2000. During her tenure she began as a Child Development Specialist, Child Development Clinical Supervisor and eventually became the Public Health Program Manager working specifically with the Maternal-Infant Outreach Program. In 2001 Mrs. Zuluaga was selected as 1 of 10 National Fellows for an eleven-month program that included intensive training in fields of organizational development, system reform strategies, as well as results-oriented accountability. In 2001 she did the leading translation for the University of Washington, entitled "Una Guía Práctica Para Su Embarazo". Mrs. Zuluaga has additional training in Strategies and Persuasion, obtained at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mrs. Zuluaga has extensive experience in working with the community by participating on boards such as Annie E. Casey Foundation, Catholic Family Services, Saint Francis Medical Center, Hartford Prenatal Care Providers Network, Community Partnership for Child Protection, Coventry House, Interfaith Refugee Ministry Agency, House of Bread, and the RAMBUH Family Center, all of Hartford, Connecticut.

She was appointed to the Commission in 2003 by Senate **President Pro Tempore, Kevin Sullivan**.

Maritza Tirú, Commissioner



(**Education**) of Waterbury, is the Director of Career Development and Placement at Naugatuck Valley Community-Technical College in Waterbury. She has taught English as a Second Language at the college. She has a Master's Degree from the University of Connecticut. Ms. Tirú is well known in the community and is very involved in many local organizations. These include: the Chamber of Commerce – Waterbury Leadership Program, Community Vision for Waterbury, Vice-Chair of the Educational Task Force, Literacy Volunteers of America – Waterbury Chapter, Mayor's Task Force Against Drugs, Spanish Action Council – Past President 1992-1994, School-Based Health Center Planning Committee, American Red Cross – Waterbury Chapter. Waterbury PRIDE-N.A.A.C.P., CT Trails Girls Scout Council, Get Them Off Program (GTOP), Minority Empowerment Coalition – Vice-President, Northwest Collaboration Committee, UCONN Advisory Board, Waterbury Area Services Team, The Displaced Homemaker Program Advisory Board and Youth Advocacy Association of Greater Waterbury. Ms. Tirú was recently selected to serve a two-year term to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She is also the student advisor to the Black Student Union and the Hispanic Student Union at the college.

Ms. Tirú was appointed to the Commission originally in 1995, reappointed in 1996, and reappointed again in 1999 by **Governor John G. Rowland**.

Sonia Ayala, Commissioner



(**Housing**) Commissioner Ayala was originally appointed to the Commission on February 1, 2003 by then Speaker of the House Moria K. Lyons and subsequently by the New Speaker of the House James A. Amann.

Luis A. Menendez, Commissioner



(Transportation) of Hartford, was born in Havana, Cuba. In 1966 Mr. Melendez fled Cuba with other members of his family and was then joined in the United States by his father in 1969. After graduating from Penney High School in East Hartford he continued his education in Manchester Community College and Central Connecticut State University where he received his degree in Business Administration. Mr. Menendez is now employed in his family business, *GLTU Company Cabinet Distributors*. Mr. Menendez plays an active role in the Hartford Community in volunteering for many political functions as well as being a board member of SAMA, The Spanish Merchants Association. He is most proud of his wonderful family, his spouse Gladie and his two lovely daughters Vanessa and Cristina.

He was appointed to the Commission in 2003 by **House Majority Leader Robert M. Ward**.

Alcides Ortiz, Vice Chairperson



(Public Citizen) of Hartford, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He has lived in Hartford for over 30 years. After graduating from Hartford Public High School, he maintained a full time job as a machinist while attending Capitol Community College where he studied Business Management. He is currently the Supervisor of Training at CTTRANSIT. When not at work during the summer months Mr. Ortiz spends most of his time coaching baseball. Mr. Ortiz is a certified Transit Ambassador Facilitator and has been certified as an instructor by the Transportation Safety Institute of the U.S. Transportation Administration.

He was appointed to the Commission in 2003 by **House Majority Leader, Robert M. Ward**.

Norma Rodriguez-Reyes, Secretary



Norma has been a resident of New Haven since the age of 5. Although having very humble beginnings her family always believed that education and hard work is the key to success. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Connecticut with a major in Spanish and a minor in Biology. She has 3 sons: Tomás, a UCONN graduate, Andre a Quinnipiac University graduate, and Juan Carlos, who is in the U.S. Air force currently stationed in New Mexico. For the past 7 years she has owned La Voz Hispana de Connecticut, Connecticut's largest Spanish-language newsweekly circulating throughout the 9 cities with the highest concentration of Latinos. This Spanish newspaper speaks to over 125,000 consumers per publication. She has extensive experience in working with Senior Citizens as she was the Director of the Atwater Senior Center of City of New Haven for approximately 25 years where she planned, organized, directed, and controlled programs and services for over 1,200 Senior Citizens in the Fair Haven area of the City of New Haven. She is a Vice-Chair of the New Haven Democratic Committee and was the first Hispanic as a State Central Committee Member from 1984-1988. She is also a certified moderator and a former Assistant Registrar for the 4th Ward. Norma's community involvement is widespread. From 1995-1997 she served as a member of the Board of Directors for LULAC Headstart, a program that focuses on the educational needs of infants to 4 years old. She served as a Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Latino Youth Development, an organization with programs geared toward Latino youth and their families. She has coordinated fund raising events to give scholarships to students entering colleges and universities through the Star of Jacob Scholarship Fund. Presently Norma mentors an 8th grader from Saint Rose School at Yale New Haven Hospital and serves as a board member for SAMA, the Spanish American Merchants Association.

Ms. Rodríguez-Reyes was appointed to the Commission in 2003 by **Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney**.

Ann E. Negron, Commissioner



(Children and Youth Development) - Ann is a resident of Willimantic, CT. She is a 1982 graduate of the University of Connecticut with a BA in Education. She has extensive experience in working with the community in Willimantic, first as an educator teaching various courses from the GED Exam preparation to ESL in middle school and to Spanish as a Foreign Language for the Windham Public School system. For the past 12 years she has worked for the State Department of Children and Families in various capacities such as an Investigations Social Worker, Child Protective Services Social Worker, and a Social Work Supervisor. Ann is highly skilled as an interpreter/translator in English/Spanish, knowledge of community and statewide resources, special education programs, and counsels' families, children and youth. In 1998 she received the University of Connecticut's Outstanding Alumni Award and in 1999 the State of Connecticut's Governor's Service Award. Ann is also the proud mother of her ten year-old son Joshua.

President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams appointed Ms. Negron to the Commission in 2005.

Awilda (Saavedra) Reasco, Commissioner



(Health Development) - a native of San Germán Puerto Rico, has a B.A. in Psychology, CCSU and an M.S.W. from UCONN. She currently serves as director for Pre-Collegiate and Access Services, PAS at Central Connecticut State University. PAS houses Educational Opportunity Program and Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program. She was the first Hispanic woman to serve as the Site-Coordinator of the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness Preparation Program. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Reasco serves as an advisor to the Latino Association Student Organization and was the first Hispanic woman to become a moderator to register voters in the City of New Britain. She frequently speaks at schools, universities, churches and community organizations on career topics and risk diversity issues. Ms. Reasco has received several awards including Outstanding Club Advisor Awards, Youth Service Award for the Diocese of Hartford, YWCA Women in Leadership Award, CONNCAP and EOP Service Award and the Young alumni at Central Connecticut State University.

She was appointed to the Commission in February 2005 by **President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Jr.**

Carlos Alvarez, Commissioner



(Arts and Culture) - a native of Cuba has a long successful history as an entrepreneur and manager of two medical based businesses that provide financial success and employment in the community. Carlos has solid skills in financial management, general business operations and human resources. Carlos has a long history of community involvement. He is fully Bilingual in Spanish and English and has strong negotiation skills and strengths in organizational management. He is the current owner and Chief Operating Officer of Evis Respiratory Services and Medical Equipment based in Hartford, CT. Carlos is an executive board member of the Spanish American Merchants Association as well as a Director for Hartford Youth's Scholars Foundation. He resides in West Hartford with his wife and two children.

He was appointed to the Commission by the **Senate Minority Leader Louis C. DeLuca** in March of 2005.

The Commission Shall:

Legislative Mandates

1. Review and comment on any proposed state legislation and regulations that would affect the Latino and Puerto Rican populations in the state and provide to the members of the General Assembly copies of any such comments;
2. Advise and provide information to the Governor on the state's policies concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican communities;
3. Advise the Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving the Latino and Puerto Rican populations;
4. Maintain a liaison between the Latino and Puerto Rican communities and governmental entities, including, but not limited to, the General Assembly;
5. Encourage Latino and Puerto Rican representation at all levels of state government, including state boards and commissions, and maintain an accessible list of prospective appointees who are members of the Latino or Puerto Rican community;
6. Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state;
7. Work in consultation with the joint committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management for the purpose of establishing a plan of short-term and long-term initiatives based on the needs of the Latino and Puerto Rican community and;
8. Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning its activities with any appropriate recommendations concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state and submit a copy of the report to the joint committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management, which committee shall distribute a copy of the report to each member of the General Assembly.

*(Excerpt from Section 2-120(c). Chapter 23d
of the Connecticut General Statutes.)*

Executive Director's Report



Executive Director
Fernando Betancourt

Dear Governor Rell:

In another successful year the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission was able to increase its presence statewide by sponsoring several forums, highlighting issues of local importance in cities and towns such as Bridgeport, Willimantic and Danbury. Our commission has taken special interest in researching issues that deal with immigration in the state. More and more we are approached by hundreds of individuals seeking information and guidance in regards to their immigration status. We have also seen an increase in the requests from elected officials across the state on this same topic. We have continued to advocate for a comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level while keeping systems that are humane and fair in treating these individuals with dignity at the state level.

Our Legislative Agenda continues to expand in breadth and scope. LPRAC has continued to build on the strategic alliances that we have cultivated over the years to leverage our resources with those entities that have expertise in areas such as education, housing, and economic development. The Commission has also embarked in a strategic planning process that will allow us to be more productive in future years. I'm grateful to our dedicated staff as well as members of the public who year after year continues to support our institution. The year 2006 looks promising and I'm looking forward to strengthening our values and our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fernando Betancourt".

Fernando Betancourt,
Executive Director

VISTA program by Connecticut Public Television

The Associate Legislative Analyst of the LPRAC, Werner Oyanadel participated in a pilot program called “Vista” about the Latino experience in Connecticut. Vista is a 30-minute Pilot, produced by CPTV in association with American View Productions, LLC. This program conducted interviews with prominent Connecticut Latinos, the immigration experience in a major Connecticut city and how one big business is marketing its products to Latinos. Vista premiered on Connecticut Public Television on June 30th, 2005. The show is co-hosted by Frank Borres, president of American View Productions of Bridgeport, and Diane Alverio, President of Alverio Media Marketing in Hartford. The Aetna Foundation sponsored the program. In a segment focusing on immigration, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton discussed municipal issues related to immigration, while Werner Oyanadel, described the issues faced by people who have just arrived in the United States. The Vista program included interviews with Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez, who discussed his history, Latino leadership and issues facing his community, and with judges Carmen Lopez and Dale Radcliffe, a married couple who discussed about law, justice, race and ideological differences. The shows’ purpose was to provide a television viewing option to Connecticut Latinos on topics and issues of relevance to them.

Danbury Issue on Deputizing State Police

In April of 2005 Mayor Mark Boughton of Danbury requested that state police be deputized to enforce federal immigration laws. Mayor Boughton made this request because he felt that city services were being drained by thousands of illegal immigrants from Central and South America. This request set off a firestorm throughout the state. Immigrant groups such as the Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury and the Ecuadorian Civic Center came out against the proposal, saying it would make all immigrants – documented and undocumented – afraid of anyone in a police uniform. State union leaders and the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut said the mayor was fueling anti-immigrant sentiment in Danbury. The LPRAC arranged a meeting w/Mayor Boughton alongside several other civil leaders that are in support of immigrant rights. This delegation successfully made recommendations that were taken into consideration.

- *The development of an education forum on immigration issues in Danbury.*
- *Work with the congressional delegation on the need to introduce a bill on comprehensive immigration reform.*
- *Provide the Mayor with expertise on the complexity of immigration issues.*
- *Offer public policy recommendations on how to improve services to immigrants in Danbury on issues of housing, education, underemployment & public safety.*

Governor M. Jodi Rell asked Commissioner Len Boyle of the State Department of Public Safety to review this matter after being requested to do so by Mayor Mark Boughton. Commissioner Boyle concluded that the deputizing of State Troopers would not have been a good use of existing resources and that similar programs set forth in other states have not proved to be fruitful. Governor Rell supported Commissioner Boyle’s findings and ultimately rejected the proposal from Mayor Boughton.

Hispanic People and Events on United States Postal Stamps

The LPRAC, along with the United States Postal Service presented a historic exhibit at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, CT featuring Hispanic people and events on U.S. postage stamps during Hispanic Heritage month, September 2004. Our Public Information Officer, Moraima Gutierrez, spear headed this project along with Juan Luis Cruz, Hispanic Programs Specialist for the U.S.P.S. This was the first exhibit of its kind done in the United States and we were delighted to have taken the lead in honoring and celebrating Hispanic people and events on U.S. postage stamps.

The 10 stamps exhibited were:

- Desi Arnaz
- Panama Canal
- Hispanic Americans • Roberto Clemente
- Cesar Chavez
- Frida Kahlo
- Spanish American War
- Southwest Settlement
- Padre Felix Varela
- Cinco de Mayo



Juan L. Cruz & Moraima Gutierrez

Since pre-colonial times, Hispanic people have contributed to the history and development of the Americas. When the Pilgrims were disembarking from the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, established cities were expanding in Florida, the Southwest, and the Caribbean. Today, Hispanic people continue to influence every aspect of our society, it is for this reason that we highlight them, as unfortunately there are stories that are not taught to us in our schools therefore we as a whole have the responsibility of educating our community. We will continue to highlight Hispanic people that have made a difference to our culture and to our history. Once more, this exhibit was the first of its kind and moving forward we will continue bringing the legacy of our people alive by exhibiting and adding more stamps to our collection for all of Connecticut to view during Hispanic Heritage month at the Legislative Office Building

5th ESCUCHENOS CONFERENCE

On December 10, 2004 Connecticut Unido Para Niños/as Latinos/as (CUPLN) and its ESCUCHENOS Planning Committee with LPRAC staff member Werner Oyanadel held their 5th annual Escuchenos conference. This conference brought together Latino/a youth in the Department of Children and Families (DCF) system, DCF staff, and staff members of Latino and organizations. The purpose of this recommendations for addressing their this initiative as we want to provide make changes in their lives and promote conference included activities that rights and opportunities in three areas, system. This conference was instituted of Latino and Latina youth in the care of (DCF). This conference has a non-Latino/a youth have major participation listening to the issues and needs they ESCUCHENOS which in English means: *Listen to us*. Every year about 175 people attend the ESCUCHENOS conference including Latino/a adolescents, social work faculty and students, DCF administrators, judges, lawyers, probation officers, caseworkers, community leaders and others from child welfare-related community based organizations. The recommendations made in the previous ESCUCHENOS conferences have been forwarded to DCF for their use in policy, program and services improvement and development. As a result of youth's input DCF has already adopted policies on the use of language and on sibling's placement.



L to R: Mr. Betancourt & Francis Davila

Seventh Annual Gala Awards Banquet



The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission held its seventh annual Awards Gala at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Uncasville. The Banquet was well-attended drawing over 900+ prominent Latino and non-Latino individuals from throughout the state.

We recognized the following individuals and organization for their outstanding achievements on behalf of the Latino community:

Latino Citizens of the Year:

Judge Carmen Lopez

Deputy Chief and Commander, Carlos M. Huertas

Promesa Youth Award:

**Katherine Vasquez
Miguel A. Padilla**

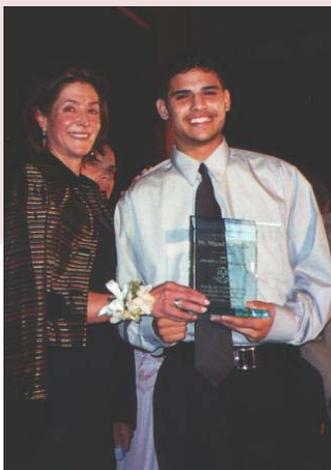
Community Service Award:

Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA)

Keynote Speaker:

Magda Irizarry, Verizon

By recognizing these outstanding individuals and organizations, we were able to meet one of our State mandates to promote awareness and secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of our community.



Latino Leadership Summit 2004 “Impacto Latino: Leading with New Rhythm”

At the 2004 conference, held on December 3rd at the Farmington Marriott, more than 300 Latino leaders convened for the biennial summit, *“Impacto Latino: Leading with New Rhythm”*. This summit was initiated in 2000 with the LPRAC participation as well as key organizations such as Leadership Greater Hartford, the Latino Development Network, and the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education. The Latino Leadership summit is designed to broaden and deepen the base of leadership in the Latino community. This summit allows Latinos to be better informed about the key issues facing our community, the strategies needed to address these issues and the leadership qualities required to implement them successfully. Key people from the public and private sectors in Connecticut were present to discuss issues and service opportunities in the areas of Health, Economic Development, Education, Leadership, Public Service and other important issues confronting our communities. Keynote speakers Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and Rossanna Rosado of *El Diario La Prensa* were thought-provoking and the four recipients of this year’s Leadership Awards were inspiring. This summit would not have been possible without the volunteer efforts of dozens of people associated with the above mentioned organizations as well the generosity of our key sponsors, The Phoenix Companies, Bank of America, United Healthcare Corporation, and the Aetna.

“Effects of Domestic Violence in the Latino Community of Connecticut”

The LPRAC joined forces with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) in February of 2005 and held a public forum at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, CT addressing the *“Effects of Domestic Violence in the Latino Community of Connecticut”*. In the past year the CCADV has served close to 4,000 Latina women. This number is estimated to be much larger due in part of the lack of awareness of services rendered to people going through these types of crisis. CCADV and LPRAC are concerned about the access to services for victims and their families. In response to this concern a panel was assembled to address this issue of family violence in the Latino communities of Connecticut. Panelists included Judge Carmen L. Lopez, Hartford Legal Aid Attorney Kara Walsh Hart, Hartford Police Dept. Lt. Jose L. Lopez, Sr., Rev. Damaris De Leon, Rev. Ana M. Falcon-Garcia, Victim advocate Angel L. Ortiz, and Jacqueline Torres of CCADV. The forum was conducted in Spanish with translations made in English.

Increasing Civic Involvement of Hispanics

A Latino summit hosted by our Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz in September of 2004 took place at the Hartford Financial Services Group. This summit was done primarily to look at ways in which we can increase Hispanic participation in the election process. Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the LPRAC was part of the expert panelists that took part in the discussion on overcoming obstacles in engaging the fastest growing minority population in the democratic process.



L to R: Vanessa Burns, Scott Exdaile, Mr. Betancourt, Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, Joyce Hamilton,

Puerto Rico Social Work Interns’ Site Visit

The LPRAC, in collaboration with Dr. Antonia Cordero and Dr. Lirio Negroni from the University of Connecticut’s School of Social Work hosted a site visit by Social Work Interns from the University of Puerto Rico. The students met with Fernando Betancourt, the Executive Director as well as staff and discussed issues on Public Policy, the mission of our agency and the types of services we provide the Latino community here in Connecticut. Staff of the LPRAC arranged for a tour of the State Capitol and the Legislative Office Building for the visiting students along with an opportunity to meet with the six Latino Legislators serving in Connecticut’s legislature.



Mr. Betancourt with University of Puerto Rico Interns

Reflecting CT – Reflejando A Connecticut

Democracy Works has partnered with three State Commissions: Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, African American Affairs Commission, and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the National Conference for Community & Justice to launch the Reflecting Connecticut/Reflejando a Connecticut project. More than 20 statewide organizations are working in support of this initiative to increase diversity in leadership roles. It is for this reason that forums were held in towns throughout the State of Connecticut. Meeting with appointing authorities such as Senator Williams and Senator DeLuca as well as Representative Chris Donovan took place in order to ensure more appointments within our respective communities on the state's boards and commissions. These representatives were very receptive to us and are willing to work with us in achieving balance on those boards. With the demographic shift of many towns in Connecticut and the growth of minority residents, there is a heightened sense of awareness among mayors, policymakers and community leaders about the need for greater diversity and representation on Boards and Commissions. By focusing on inclusion, equality and opportunity on a state, municipal and non-profit level, the Reflecting Connecticut – Reflejando a Connecticut initiative addresses the intersection of civic engagement and institutional racism.

Public Forum – Public Education within the Latino Community

The LPRAC is hosting a series of Public Forums throughout the state of Connecticut to address different issues affecting the Latino communities. In late April, 2005 the LPRAC invited members of the general public to share their opinions and suggestions in reference to the lack of representation in public education within the Latino community in Bridgeport, beneficial as we had outstanding Lopez, Vice Chancellor for the CT Maya, former Executive Director Councilman Andres Ayala also of public took the podium and well as their concerns. The members of the public to tell us needs in making public policy concerning the Latino depth at this forum in order to



L to R: Mr. Betancourt, Commissioner Rodriguez-Reyes, Councilman Ayala, Chairman Arroyo, & Alma Maya

CT. This forum proved to be very panel members such as Estela State Education System, Alma of ASPIRA in Bridgeport and Bridgeport, CT. Members of the addressed their experiences as LPRAC encourages concerned how we can better serve their recommendations. Laws community were also discussed in inform better our general public.

LPRAC Commissioner / Staff Strategic Planning Retreat

In February of 2005 Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs planning retreat at the Water's Westbrook, CT. Two of the major retreat were to improve relations and staff as well as to develop a facilitator, Maria Martha Chavez Chavez Associates was hired to issues and/or challenges. This allowed Commissioners and Staff relationship building as well as year.



L to R: Commissioners Reyes, Ayala, Negrón, Servera, Arroyo, Staff members Cardone, Betancourt, Oyanadel, Commissioner Rodriguez-Reyes, and staff Gutierrez

Commissioners and staff of the Commission attended a strategic Edge Conference Center in goals of the strategic planning between LPRAC Commissioners strategic plan for LPRAC. A Brumell, consultant with Brumell help the Commission identify its retreat was highly effective as it quality time to discuss setting agenda for the current

End of Session Report

Connecticut General Assembly

2005 Regular & Special Session

By Werner Oyanadel
Associate Legislative Analyst

This document provides a summary of significant public policy and budgetary issues affecting the Latino community in Connecticut based on information gathered from the 2005 Connecticut Legislative Session – In compliance with the Commission’s legislative mandate stipulated in Section 2-120 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

In general terms the Connecticut legislature’s most significant achievements this year, included proposals of historic proportions, such as the endorsement by the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) of a potential lawsuit against the Federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, the passage of civil unions, and the creation of a multi-million *housing trust fund*. The CGA also approved the Governor’s \$1.3 billion plan to improve the highways in the state, funded stem cell research, and reformed the process for awarding state contracts among others.

It is also important to mention that the CGA debated several issues with significant implications for Latino immigrant families such as the newly introduced *Access to Post-Secondary Education* bill, which would have provided in-state tuition fees to the sons or daughters of undocumented immigrants. Although this bill did not pass, it is expected that it will be re-introduced in 2006. The CGA with the support of the Commission¹ successfully stopped several legislative proposals, which attempted to create stricter restrictions on eligibility requirements for driver’s licenses for immigrants. Furthermore, the CGA provided seven million dollars in funds for legal immigrants safety net programs. Also, it is important to note that the Governor of Connecticut agreed with the Commission’s recommendations not to support the proposal sought after by the Mayor of Danbury, which would have deputized state troopers to perform immigration duties in the City of Danbury.

The Connecticut Legislature moved in the right direction when it changed the deadline for Election Day Registration from 14 days prior to an election down to 7 days. The commission endorsed *Election Day Registration*, which is currently being challenged in court.

Legislative committees at the request of several legislators such as State Representatives Candelaria, Pawelkiewicz, Feltman, Aldarondo, and Mantilla introduced legislation to help fund community organizations such as the Casa Otoñal, Spanish Action Council, and United for Spanish Action (CAUSA), La Casa Bienvenida, the Institute of the Hispanic Family in Hartford, Spanish-American Merchants Association, and the Hispanic Family in Hartford. All these proposals did not pass but in the budget approved by the CGA funds were provided for Hispanic programs administered by the Department of Social Services, which may include funding for some of the organizations mentioned above.

One of the most interesting developments that occurred this session was the resurrection of *campaign finance reform* – An issue of great importance to LPRAC. Although both chambers debated the bill none of these bills were adopted into law before the end of session.

End of Session Report ...Continued from page 19

FY 06-07 Budget Analysis

The following list provides a preliminary analysis of state funds provided by the CGA to state agencies for the Fiscal Year 06-07, which may have a positive effect on Latinos living in Connecticut.

1. State Budget – Impact on Latino Agencies or Latino Immigrants – (Substitute for House Bill No. 6940)

- Legislative Management – LPRAC Biennium Budget

FY 06 = **\$459,823** & FY 07 = **\$486,246**

- Department of Social Services – Human Services line items for Latino Agencies

- HRD – Hispanic Programs FY 06 **\$797,758** & FY 07 **\$791,834**
- HRD – Hispanic Programs FY 06 **\$5,068** & FY 07 **\$4,987**

- Department of Social Services – Human Services line items for Legal Immigrants

- FY 06 = **\$7.3 Million** & FY 07 = **\$ 7.9 Million**

- Department of Education – Bilingual Education

- FY 06 = **\$ 2,129,033** & FY 07 = **\$ 2,129,033**

2. State funds for programs that substantially impact the Latino community – (Substitute for House Bill No. 6940) – Partial List)

STATE PROGRAMS	FY 2005-2006	FY 2006-2007
HUSKY Program	\$24,250,000	\$27,250,000
Employment Services	\$16,188,098	\$16,188,098
Safety Net Services	\$1,518,870	\$1,545,000
Housing/Homeless Services	\$25,880,544	\$26,735,627
Minority Advancement	\$2,267,021	\$2,267,021
Minority Teacher Incentive	\$431,374	\$481,374
Early Reading Success	\$2,194,289	\$2,194,289
After School Programs	\$100,000	\$100,000
Adult Education	\$19,596,400	\$19,596,400
Priority School District Funds	\$102,177,487	\$105,278,112
Teen Pregnancy Prevention1	\$1,388,252	\$1,358,832
Teen Pregnancy Prevention2	\$839,946	\$831,679
State Food Stamp Supplement	\$202,148	\$237,287

2005 Legislative Agenda

The 2005 Legislative Agenda was prepared by the *Priorities and Legislation Committee* and the staff of LPRAC with the approval of the board of the LPRAC. The commission, furthermore, heard from several legislators about their own legislative initiatives at the commission’s **2004 Legislative Reception** held at the Old Judiciary room of the State Capitol in Hartford, December 8th, 2004. The objective of this exercise was to create a vivid exchange of ideas aimed at the development of an inclusive and feasible 2005 Legislative Agenda. The meeting included a powerful presentation prepared by Fernando Muñoz, Executive Director of the *Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance* regarding the overrepresentation of adolescent Latinos within the judicial system in Connecticut and the need for legislative action.

The list that follows is the actual Legislative Agenda approved by the Board on February 16th, 2005.

2005 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA LIST 2005

Democracy Issues

Election Day Registration

To allow for wider participation from the Latino community in exercising the right to vote

Economic Development

State Earned Income Tax

To establish a state income tax credit for the working low-wage worker

Education Issues

In-State Tuition for Immigrants

To provide in-state tuition rates to immigrant students who have attended high schools for at least two years

Standardized testing in Spanish

Amend state law to provide the Connecticut Mastery Test in the students' native language

Latino Dropouts and graduation rates

Decrease the number of Latino students dropping out from school

Health Disparity Issues

HIV/Aids

Preserve & enhance state investments in health care

Access to Health Care

Preserve & enhance state investments in health care

Judicial Issues

Court Interpreters

Review funding of interpreters throughout the state

Juvenile Justice System

Decrease over-representation of Latinos in the juvenile justice System

Housing Issues

Homeownership, Affordable Housing & Rental Assistance Programs

Expand homeownership, affordable housing & rental assistance programs to low & middle-income families

The following list is a summary of bills that correlate to issues that the Commission endorsed in the latest legislative agenda with narrative and bill number information.

1. Election Day Registration

The Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) passed Substitute for Raised H.B. No. 6669 an omnibus bill with several election reform language, which included *Election Day Registration* (EDR). Although the bill adopted by the CGA and signed by the Governor did not include actual EDR, it did amend the current 14-day voter registration deadline to seven days before Election Day. LPRAC has been researching this issue for the past four years and strongly believes in the adoption of legislation, which would allow Connecticut citizens to register and vote on the day of any municipal, statewide, or national election. The commission's research has found that there is no reason why Election Day registration cannot be adopted into law. In the past, states had a valid rationale to request time before the elections – such as the preparation of voter lists that election officials need to have on Election Day. However, due to technological advances that is no longer the case. In Connecticut all cities and towns have a computerized database that allow the registrar of voters complete control of all matters relating to the registration of voters – such as quick corrections or administrative changes, printing of lists, voter registration, removal of names and crisscross check verifications between cities and towns to verify if names are listed in more than one place at the same time. The disenfranchisement of Latino voters because of outdated registration barriers before Election Day is the main reason why LPRAC supports the adoption EDR.

2. Juvenile Justice System Reform

It is the Commission belief that the CGA should develop and recommend policies and interventions to reduce the number of Latinos in the Juvenile Justice System. LPRAC testified in support of Raised H.B. No. 6848, *An Act Concerning the Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System*. Although the bill ultimately died, the Commission is on the record in support of viable programs that aim to develop alternatives for youth in probation, culturally competent alternatives to incarceration programs or the development of a mapping system to mention a few of the ideas highlighted on H.B. No. 6848 that the Commission believes may significantly decrease racial and ethnic representation in the juvenile justice system. LPRAC informed the CGA that similar provisions listed on this bill have already helped reduce disproportionate minority contact in a variety of places including California, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

The CGA also amended how the court system handles juvenile cases of teenagers between the ages of 16 and 17. In the past youthful offenders between the previously mentioned ages were treated in adult courts and given adult criminal records. Although everyone 16 and older is still handled in the adult court system, the new law will allow judges treat most teens as youthful offenders. In specific, that means that if the sixteen or seventeen-year-old offender successfully completes a sentence, their criminal record is completely wiped off their permanent record — the only exceptions are in the case of murder or rape. (Substitute for H.B. No. 5215 as amended by both chambers by Schedule A LCO # 7426)

3. Child Poverty Council

This new council that was created by the CGA on the last day of session shall meet twice a year and will be required to measure the progress of the reduction of child poverty in Connecticut. (Substitute for H.B. No. 5482 – Public Act No. 05-244)

4. Housing Trust Fund

The State Treasurer Denise Nappier proposed the establishment of a \$100 million Housing Trust Fund for Economic Growth and Opportunity. With these resources, The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) would establish a new program of loans and grants to finance affordable homeownership and rental housing. It has been reported that this proposal would be able to generate 750 new housing units, additional jobs, and nearly \$42 million in wages paid. Although the CGA did not pass substitute for raised bill number 6785 the CGA and the Governor approved a similar bill (Senate Bill No. 410) during the Special Session in June, which created the Housing Trust Fund. This newly created fund will provide \$20 million dollars in bonds funds annually for the next five years, inclusion of \$36 million in the bond bill over the next biennium for housing projects and restoration, and the financing of 500 new units of supportive housing. (Public Act 05-228)

5. Driver's License Restrictions for Legal Immigrants

The Commission successfully recommended to the General Assembly and the Governor's office of the negative aspects of the proposals that would have required that the driver's license of immigrants expire on the same date that their visas. The Commission successfully advised the legislature and the Governor's office that these restrictive policies can potentially affect many legal residents because of a lack of significant training on immigration law for DMV workers, poorly conceived policies that deny licenses to lawful resident immigrants and the potential of generating discriminatory driver's license issuance procedures against lawful immigrants as a potential violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution among other recommendations. (Proposed Bill No. 5470 & Senate Bill No. 189)

6. Re-nomination of the Honorable Carmen L. Lopez of Bridgeport

The Commission successfully advocated in support of the re-nomination of the Honorable Carmen L. Lopez of Bridgeport to be a judge of the Connecticut Superior Court for an additional term of eight years. The Commission staff along side several commissioners, Latino Legislators, and Latino advocates testified in support of Judge Lopez at very contended public hearings that lasted for several hours per hearing and adjourned for breaks very late at night & in the morning. These serious negative allegations included testimony by other judges and comments made by several committee members of the Judiciary Committee of the CGA. The Commission, for the record, pointed out at her excellent record in an innovative child protection judicial pre-trial program, her academic credentials, community awards recently received – including the highest and most prestigious award given to a Latina woman in Connecticut by LPRAC in October 2004 before an audience of almost 1,000 people, and most importantly the work Judge Lopez has spearheaded on behalf of the Hispanic community throughout the state for many years. (Joint Resolution No. 18)

7. Certification Requirements for Bilingual Educators

This new law amended the requirements to become certified to teach bilingual education by requiring the educator to be certified in bilingual education and to have successfully completed a state assessment for elementary and secondary education in order to teach in grades Kindergarten through eight. (Substitute for Raised bill Number 6785)

8. Connecticut Mastery Test in a Student's Native Language

This bill would have allowed students to take the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) in their native language. The Commission believes that the CGA should support giving the Connecticut Mastery Test in other languages to Limited English Proficient students (LEP) in order to create a more appropriate and accurate measure of a student's academic achievement. New York for instance, offers three of its four-core subject's examinations in five languages in addition to English. (H.B. No. 5516)

9. Access To Post Secondary Education

The in-state tuition bill would allow students access to in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities provided they have attended at least three years at a Connecticut high school and have graduated. If a student is not a legal permanent resident of the United States, the student shall provide the college or university with an affidavit stating that he or she has filed an application to become a legal permanent resident, or will file an application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

This legislation would affect less than 150 students per year, which is significantly less than one percent of the total number of students enrolled in institutions of higher education across the state. There will be negligible loss of revenues from students currently attending college at out-of-state rates because these students are not currently paying out-of-state tuition rates – these rates are unaffordable to these students because they do not qualify for federal or state scholarships or financial aid. It is important to point out that this legislative proposal is consistent with federal law and nine other states have enacted similar laws since 2001. (Substitute House Bill No. 6793)

Participation, Speaking Engagements & Presentations

The following is a list of major presentations or participation by the Executive Director on behalf of the LPRAC

Participated with El Grupo, United on Behalf of Latino Youth and Families in Connecticut

Toastmasters Annual Distinguished Speakers Series

Participated with the Women of Color on the Move, Empowering and Networking (W.O.M.E.N.) 2nd Anniversary Celebration at the L.O.B.

Keynote Speaker for the Latino Roundtable of Greater Danbury “Defining Our Destiny”

Speaker for Reflecting Connecticut - Reflejando A Connecticut: Boards & Commissions Breakfast, An Informational Session to Increase Diversity on Boards and Commissions.

Presented at the Fifth Annual Escuchenos Conference - Connecticut United for Latino Children

Speaker for the Public Forum addressing the “Effects of Domestic Violence in the Latino Community of Connecticut”.

Participated in the Fifth Annual, Dual Language Two-Day Institute

Presented at the LPRAC Public Forum held in Bridgeport, CT, discussing the lack of representation in Public Education within the Latino Community.

Presented at the Forum on Voting Rights at the Old Judiciary, State Capitol

Presented with the Advocacy Institute on various occasions

Participated at the Latino Expo at the Hartford Civic Center

Active participant on the Connecticut Task Force for Trafficking of Women and Children

Judge for Mr. & Mrs. Puerto Rico Pageant, Bridgeport, CT

Speaker at the annual CALAHE Scholarship reception

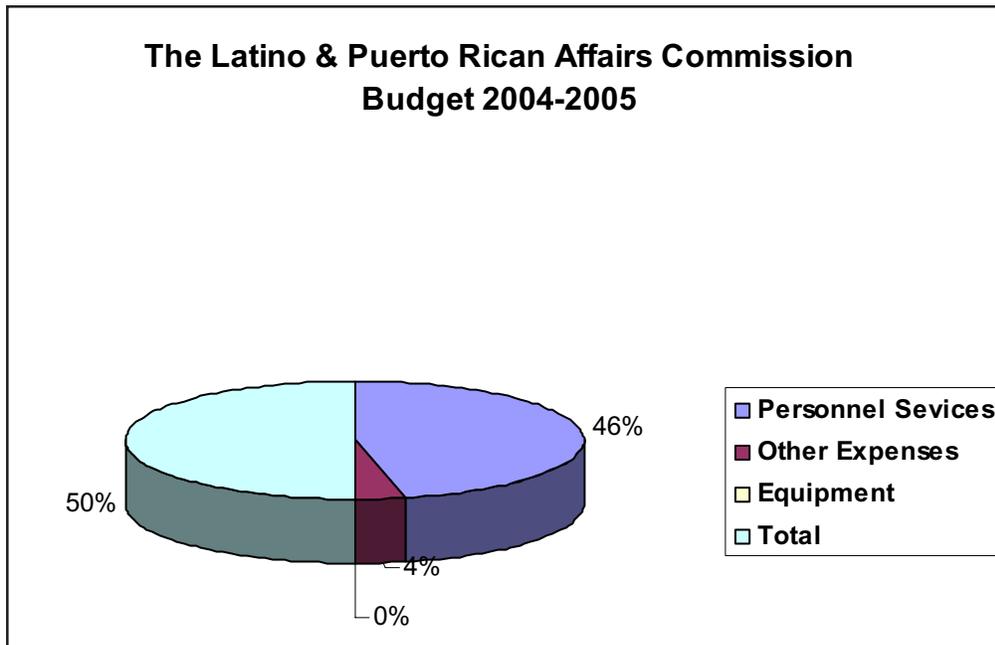
Presented to students from the University of Puerto Rico, P.R.

Participated with the Annual Latino Leadership Development Network

Speaker for radio program “Hablando en Serio” on public policy issues.

The Budget 2004 - 2005

ITEM	APPROPRIATED
Personnel Services	\$ 314,035.00
Other Expenses	\$ 24,244.00
Equipment	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 338,279.00



** Other Expenses includes contracted services as well as staff development and printing costs.*

2004 Connecticut Latino Leadership Summit

Impacto Latino: Leading with New Rhythm

*In Collaboration with
The Latino Leadership Network and
Leadership Greater Hartford*

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC) was delighted once again to co-host the 3rd biennial summit of Latino leaders from across Connecticut. The Latino Leadership Summit 2004 was designed to broaden and deepen the base of leadership in the Latino community. This biennial event, a sequel to gatherings in December 2000 and 2002, provided another opportunity to increase our awareness, our skills, our connections and goals of this summit was to better inform our commitment. One of the primary fellow Latinos about the key issues strategies needed to address these to implement them successfully.

Over 400 established and emerging throughout the State engaged in this opportunities and public policy where the population continues to participated as the morning keynote involvement with our communities Latinos as a change agent in the U.S. and our impact on the market place, culture, etc., and educational opportunities were also main points of discussion with an opportunity for questions and answers from our lively audience members.



Mayor Eddie Perez

2000 and 2002, provided another awareness, our skills, our connections and goals of this summit was to better inform that face our communities as well as issues and the leadership qualities required

Latino leaders, including 40-50 students from summit. We exchanged ideas on the economic implications in the state of Connecticut grow. Congresswoman Nancy Johnson speaker and spoke to us regarding her in her heavy populated Latino districts.



L to R: Marilda Gandara, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, Margarita Torres, Lillian Ruiz, Marilyn Alverio, Rachel Kennedy, Rep. Evelyn Mantilla, Diane Alverio, Moraima Gutierrez.

The workshops were very diverse as usual, the most popular was the Latina Roundtable which turned out to be a spin off of "Woman's Ways of Leading", a popular workshop held at the 2002 summit. Key people from the public and private sectors in Connecticut were also present to discuss issues and service opportunities in the areas of Health Disparities, Economic Development, Access to Higher Education, Leadership/Skill Development, Civic Participation, Mentoring and other key issues confronting Connecticut's Latino community. Our keynote presentation was given by *Rossana Rosado, Publisher & CEO of El Diario/La Prensa*. One of the new additions was the awards that were given to recognize Connecticut's Latino/a leaders in four categories:

- Community & Economic Development (*Reverend Edwin O. Ayala*)
- Education (*Sonia Diaz-Salcedo*)
- Health and Human Services (*Dr. Luis Diez*)
- Youth/Student Award (*Alejandro Martinez*)



L to R: Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Mr. Betancourt, Dr. Luis Diez, Rep. Mantilla

This summit was a huge success and we look forward to collaborating with LLDN and LGH on the next one scheduled for December 2006. The summit is now a tradition and we will continue to host it to our best abilities for many more years to come.



State Representative Mantilla & Superintendent Sonia Diaz-Salcedo

The Staff



L to R: Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary, Werner Oyanadel, Associate Legislative Analyst, Moraima Gutierrez, Public Information Officer, Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director, Lucy Goicoechea Hernandez, Special Projects Coordinator/Grant Writer.

LATINO & PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Invites you to attend the only bilingual communications skills building organization in the state.

The Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission Toastmasters Club will help you develop your bilingual communications skills in either English or Spanish through multiple roles, speeches and competitions.

For further information, please call us at:
(860) 240-8330.

This report was prepared by:

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*Thank you to the many agencies and organizations who collaborated with LPRAC
and to those who have made our progress possible.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COMMISSION MEETINGS
ARE HELD EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH AT THE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING,
ROOM 2600
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

5:30 PM -- 8:00 PM

We are always looking to add to our talent bank and we ask that if you are not already listed, please contact our office to find out how your name can be part of our list. This database is helpful in generating candidates to serve on State Boards and Commissions.

Committees of the Commission

The following committees meet at least quarterly in order to undertake the various assignments that culminate in the accomplishment of the work of the Agency:

Executive

Article VIII of the By Laws

This committee meets monthly.

Budget

Article IX (e) of the By Laws

This committee meets every month.

Procedures & Personnel

Article IX (d) of the By Laws

Meets as related issues arise.

Talent Bank

Article IX (b) of the By Laws

Meets as related issues arise.

Priorities & Legislation

Article IX (a) of the By Laws

Meets on a monthly basis.

Public Information & Education

Article IX (c) of the By Laws

Meets as related issues arise.

Special Projects

Article IX (f) of the By Laws

Meets on a monthly basis.



The Commission meets on the third Wednesday of every month except in August.

**Connecticut General Assembly's
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