

July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003



State of Connecticut Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

2003 Annual Report

*John G. Rowland
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



Chairperson
Carlos Vázquez

Dear Governor Rowland:

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission continues to work enthusiastically and aggressively on behalf of the Latino Community in the State of Connecticut.

This has been an extremely difficult and trying year for the Commission due to the deficit that the State of Connecticut faced in its current budget. A bill was introduced by the Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE) that would eliminate public funding for many commissions, including the LPRAC. Due to all the negative implications of the elimination of funding not only for the LPRAC but also for all the established commissions that serve the underrepresented populations in our state, much advocacy was done by our constituents by testifying in our favor. After many months of negotiations these testimonies were taken into account and the proposal was eliminated. The LPRAC is the only Commission that provides our community with a voice in state policy. This commission, as well as the African-American Affairs Commission, Commission on Children, and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women are key for the proper representation of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in the state.

We managed to defy the adversity and continue to focus on our Legislative Agenda and Public Policy influence areas. The Reflecting CT/Reflejando a ConneCTicut initiative to increase diversity within state boards and commissions, as well as in municipal, non-profit and corporate boards has grown to the point where some of its activities will be funded through a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and a website to include in the project, its successes, its collaborators and the 3 talent banks of the 3 commissions that participate - Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, African American Affairs Commission. It is currently in the development stages in collaboration with the Secretary of State's Office and the State Treasurer's Office as well.

In November 2002 we sponsored the first ever Latino Summit on HIV/AIDS in Connecticut. Our mission was to recognize the impact of HIV/AIDS on Latinos, and to address the epidemic of silence by coming together to strategize at the Latino Summit on HIV/AIDS in East Hartford, CT. We had a successful conference with over 200 people in attendance as our community realizes the urgency of this matter, and we to provide education to our consumers as 40% of the individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut are Latinos.

With much help from the Center for Research and Public Policy, along with the Graustein Memorial Fund we were once again successful in securing appropriate funding for the Third Latino Socio-Economic Study that was published on November 15, 2002 and released to the general public in December of that same year. The areas covered within the document are areas that the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission have advocated for at the legislative, local, statewide and national levels.

The LPRAC staff continued collaborating with organizations such as Leadership Greater Hartford and its Latino Leadership Development Network adhoc committee, CT Association of Latinos in Higher Education (CALAHE), The National Society of Hispanic MBA's (NSHMBA), and the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA), in organizing the second biennial Latino Leadership Summit that was held on December 4, 2002 entitled "A Call to Service". At this powerful summit were Latino leaders from across Connecticut. Key issues facing the Latino community were addressed as well as the strategies needed to address them and the leadership qualities required to implement them successfully.

Due to the critical budgetary deficit facing the state, the Commission focused its limited resources on important budgetary issues that included Bilingual Education, Spanish Court Interpreters, as well as the LPRAC budget. We supported legislation in the areas of economic development, democracy, education and environmental issues. We also worked on judicial and health proposals as well.

We shall, however, continue to focus on all socio-economic areas that affect our community and hope to tap on your expertise in any of these fields. Furthermore, we would be honored if you would be willing to testify on behalf of our body of legislation when it becomes available at the beginning of 2004. Please contact either myself or our Associate Legislative Analyst Werner Oyanadel at (860) 240-0097 if you would like to add your name to our Commission's e-mail Testimony List.

Our Toastmasters Club has also been very successful and continues to draw more and more members. Please visit the website for the list of dates for their Distinguished Speakers Series. We made history by attracting 800+ distinguished leaders at our 5th Gala Awards Banquet that was held at the Mohegan Sun Resort, an increase in approximately 150 people in attendance as we highlighted "Latinos in the Media in Connecticut" and their positive contribution to our society. I look forward to greeting many of you at the numerous events we have upcoming and thank-you in advance for your continuous support and participation as this has been a very successful year for me serving as Chairperson at the LPRAC.

Sincerely,



Carlos Vázquez
Chairman

Commissioner Biographies

Ramón L. Arroyo, Commissioner



(**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. Amann**.

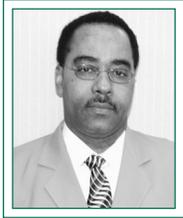
Ivette Servera, Treasurer



(**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.

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 Domino's 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).

He was appointed to the commission in 2002 by **Senate Republican Leader Louis C. DeLuca**.

Efraín Rosado, Commissioner



(Public Citizen) is a 26 year New Britain resident. He attended the Catholic University of Puerto Rico and graduated from Central Connecticut State University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems.

He is employed at Cigna Corporation as a Systems Consultant. He is a former New Britain Parks and Recreation Commissioner; a member of the Saint Ann's Passion Play Cast and Board in New Britain; a member of Region 10, a New Britain Education Diversity Council, and served on the School Choice Commission created by Governor Rowland. Mr. Rosado coaches Little League Baseball and Junior Soccer.

He was appointed to the Commission in 1995, 1997, and re-appointed in 1999 by **House Minority Leader, Robert M. Ward**.

Raúl A. Rodríguez, Commissioner



(**Environment**) resides in Wethersfield and is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut, Attorney General's Office in Hartford. He has previously 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 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. 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 Louis C. DeLuca**.

Manuel García, Vice Chairperson



(**Human Services**) was born and raised in Bridgeport. He is an employee for the City of Bridgeport 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. Mr. Garcia has and continues to serve on various boards. He serves on the Board of Directors for Free Forever Prison Ministries and provides religious services at the Danbury Federal Correctional Center for Latino inmates. Mr. Garcia is a present Justice of the Peace. He served previously as Chaplain with the Fairfield County Sheriffs Department of Connecticut; Vice President of the The Third Stone Ridge Co-op Board of Directors; member of the Bridgeport Republican Town Committee; Vice President of the South End Community Center and a member of the Royal Rangers instructing men and boys in religious and moral values.

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

Ramón A. Serbia, Commissioner



(**Transportation**) of Stamford. Has studied in the areas of Physics and Mathematics at the University of Puerto Rico, Aeronautical Engineering at the University of St. Louis, Architecture at the University of Florida, and Business Administration at the Alexander Hamilton Institute, New York. He is a licensed architect in Connecticut and New York . Currently, he is the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation assigned to the Bureau of Transportation. He was appointed by Governor John G. Rowland as Chief State Building Inspector for the State of Connecticut in June 1995. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of States on Building Codes and Standards (NCSBCS). Mr. Serbia is a speaker and lecturer at colleges, universities and community development organizations in the areas of economic and community development and urban planning. He is a member of the Connecticut Republican Party; the Connecticut Republican Party Finance Committee and NAACP in Stamford. He is Chairman of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly, Connecticut Chapter and former National Assistant Secretary of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly. He is the Co-Chair of Star 51 – Pro Statehood, Puerto Rico National Movement, a former advisor to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico’s Secretary of Housing and former advisor to the President of the Senate in Puerto Rico on Housing and Urban Affairs. He’s been a consultant to the XIV Pan American Games in the Dominican Republic, Office of the President of the Republic, a delegate from Puerto Rico to the Pan American Federation of Architects Congress in Colombia, a former Vice President of the College of Engineers, Architects and Surveyors in Puerto Rico. He is a former member of the San Juan, Puerto Rico, Lions Club and Co-Chair of the New Majority Council of Connecticut. He is a former member of the Stamford Republican Town Committee.

He was appointed to the Commission by the **Minority Leader of the House of Representatives Robert M. Ward** in 1995, 1997 and re-appointed in 1999.

Hector L. Robles, Commissioner



(**Public Safety**) a Police Officer for the City of Hartford.

He was appointed to the commission by **the Speaker of the House Moira K. Lyons** in 2002.

Maritza Tirú, Past Chairperson



(**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. She served as the Commission Chairperson from .

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

Carlos Vázquez, Chairperson



(**Children and Youth Development**) of Bridgeport has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Sacred Heart University. Currently, he is the Director of Government Affairs at United Illuminating Company in New Haven. There, he develops and implements the company's agenda of issues for action before the State of Connecticut General Assembly and the United States Congress.

He has and continues to serve on various boards and is a founding member of the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists, President in 1996-1999 member of Board of Directors of Visiting Nurses Association, President of the Utilities State Government Organization, and former District Chairman of the Eastern Region, Savoy Athletic Club, member of Board of Directors & Sergeant at Arms of the Spanish American Development Agency (SADA), Commissioner and Vice Chairman of the City of Bridgeport's Zoning Board of Appeals. He is a member of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council as well as of the Government Affairs Council, Bridgeport Beardsley Park Lions Club, Bridgeport Jobs Advisory Board – Private Industry Council and its successor organization; Bridgeport Career Resources, Inc. Board of Directors, and Liceo Cubano de Bridgeport. From 1996 to the present he has been Vice Chairman of the Bridgeport Democratic Town Committee.

Mr. Vázquez was appointed to the Commission in 1997 and re-appointed in 1999 by the **Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin B. Sullivan**.

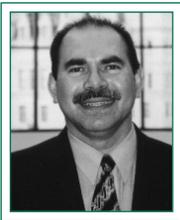
Patricia Zuluaga, Commissioner



(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 Guia 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 in 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.**

Américo Santiago, Secretary



(Public Citizen) of Waterbury, currently working for DemocracyWorks as a consultant. He was the Assistant Secretary of the State of Connecticut and the Legislative Director for the Office of the Secretary of State. He was responsible for voter registration and education along with monitoring and assisting in the development and tracking of legislation. He was elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives for four terms from 1988 to 1995. He was a member of the Bridgeport City Council from 1987 to 1989 and is on the Democratic Town Committee since 1983. Mr. Santiago is a member of the Puerto Rican Parade, Co-Founder of Aspira of Connecticut. Co-Founder of the National Puerto Rican Congress and former Vice-President, and a member of El Congreso in Bridgeport. Former Chairperson of LPRAC from 1997-1998.

He was appointed to the Commission in 1995 and re-appointed in 2001 by **Senate Majority Leader, George Jepsen.**

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, Commissioner



(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, Commissioner

(Public Citizen)



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

Sonia Ayala, Commissioner

(Housing)



Ms. Ayala was appointed to the Commission in 2003 by the **Speaker of the House Moira K. Lyons**.

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 and the General Assembly on the state's policies concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican communities;
3. Advise the Governor and the General Assembly 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 Letter



Executive Director
Fernando Betancourt

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission has continued to build a solid platform of accomplishments over the last years. The year 2003 proved to be the most challenging for our organization. We suffered from cuts in our budget due to the budget crisis phased by the state. However, and perhaps as a result of our increased advocacy LPRAC saw an increase in public support witnessed by the General Assembly during multiple public hearings that discussed the future of all Legislative commissions. We are grateful for the demonstrations of support as well as the support from the Legislative and Executive branch of government.

Among the many accomplishments during that difficult period I would like to highlight the support given to us by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving who understood the value of our “Reflecting Connecticut” project to increase the diversity on state boards and commissions. The series of State Public Forums that came as a result of our first Latino Summit on HIV/AIDS allowed us to disseminate public policy recommendations in towns and cities such as; Norwalk, Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford and Meriden. Our socio-economic study produced by The Center for Research & Public Policy and supported by The Graustein Memorial Fund continues to provide policy makers with a comparative synopsis of the socio-economic status of Latinos in the state. The study has become a resourceful tool among state universities when doing research studies on Latinos living in the state of Connecticut.

We continue to develop public policy recommendations in an increasing number of areas such as, housing, health, education, economic development and civic engagement just to mention a few. I am convinced that with the support and collaboration of elected officials the commission and the Latino community is going to be blessed with a bright future. We are proud of our contributions to the welfare of this state. We look forward to building upon our contingent success.

Sincerely,

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

Fernando Betancourt
Executive Director

SPECIAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

Third Annual Dual Language Institute

The Hartford Public Schools Bilingual/Bicultural Education Department, in collaboration with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission of the State of Connecticut, held yet again a very successful two day Third Annual Dual Language Education Institute on Friday and Saturday, June 27 and 28, 2003. The event was held at the Hastings Hotel and Conference Center in Hartford. The two day institute was advertised nationally and, as a result, both days were well-attended and the conference rooms were filled to capacity.

This institute offered a wide variety of formats to discuss and explore the unique challenges and opportunities in dual language education. This two-day conference had nationally-recognized researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, as well as administrators from school systems throughout the country. The key presenters were outstanding in their wide-ranging knowledge of what a successful dual language program entails as well as in the manner in which they presented their information. Concurrent sessions were held offering choices for elementary and secondary educators and administrators.

The keynote presenters were: Dr. Margarita Calderón, Research Scientist with Johns Hopkins University; Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Research Associate with the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C., Nancy Cloud, with Rhode Island College, Virginia Collier with George Mason University, Lynda Franco from the Center for Applied Linguistics, Gil García with the OERI/US Department of Education, Else Hamayan from the Illinois Resource Center, Myriam Met with the National Foreign Language Center and Wayne Thomas from George Mason University.

Our Executive Director Fernando Betancourt received an award from Hartford Superintendent of Schools Robert Henry, on behalf of Mr. Betancourt's contribution to Bilingual and Dual Language Education and his ongoing contributions to the community. The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is pleased to have helped sponsor such a successful event. We look forward to continued collaborations with the outstanding staff of the Hartford Public Schools.

Connecticut Latino Leadership Summit 2002 “A Call to Service”

On December 4, 2002 together with the Latino Leadership Development Network, Leadership Greater Hartford, CALAHE, NSHMBA, and the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, we held the second biennial summit of Latino leaders from across Connecticut. This was a momentous occasion as we had over 400 participants in our audience as we did when hosting our first Summit in 2000. One of the major goals was to have our community better informed about the key issues facing the Latino community, the strategies needed to address these issues and the leadership qualities required to implement them successfully. Our morning keynote speaker was Isabel O. Lopez of Lopez Leadership Services based in Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Lopez was a very inspirational speaker as she and the wisdom behind it, quality that is more and more times. Ms. Lopez’s wisdom way to begin the day as intro-participants chose work-series of workshops each with the Latino community: Educational Development, A World of Work, and Women’s



Marilyn Alverio, Fernando Betancourt, Isabel Lopez, Lillian Cruz, & Ted Carroll

discussed leadership today she believes that wisdom is needed in today’s changing and reflections was a perfect ductions were made and shops. The day featured a its own topic of interest to cation, Health Disparities, Call to Public Service, The s Ways of Leading.

We had participants such as Congressman John Larson, the Honorable Richard Blumenthal, and the Honorable Evelyn Mantilla. The Honorable State Representative Evelyn Mantilla was also given an award for her dedication to the Latino community in Hartford, CT. Our afternoon became quite intense as the Honorable Christopher J. Dodd, our U.S. Senator from Connecticut took the podium and addressed “Latino Leadership: A View from the U.S. Capitol. This daylong event generated enormous energy and resulted in important personal and professional connections and deepened the commitment of Latinos to serve as community leaders. The 2002 summit built on this momentum and will lead to a stronger, more permanent vehicle for addressing the goals and initiatives identified by conference attendees.

We had fabulous sponsors such as ConnectiCare, Career Beginnings, FLEET Bank, AARP, The Hartford, CIGNA Foundation, CL&P, The Hartford Foundation, The Hartford Courant, Southern Connecticut State University, and the Jubilee Gallery as well as many donors for the Silent

Auction. This summit was yet again a huge success and we continue to work on building a common agenda and working relationships among diverse interests so that Summit 2004 can further strengthen the leadership of our young people.



Gil Martinez of HPN & students from local Universities (Central Connecticut State University being one of them)



U.S. Senator Chris Dodd
D - Connecticut

Latino Summit on HIV/AIDS

On November 15, 2002 the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, The Foundation for Educational Advancement, Inc., Hispanos Unidos Contra El Sida, the Latino HIV/AIDS Strategy and Ryan White HIV Consortium hosted the first Latino Summit on HIV/AIDS in the State of Connecticut. This was the first time that the epidemic of AIDS and the impact it has on Latinos was addressed publicly in a conference solely dedicated to Latinos. The epidemic of silence among health providers, members of communities, etc.) convened. Their unified leadership partnerships address the serious issue of HIV/AIDS in Connecticut. A unified statementers from Latino-serving communities, churches, businesses as well as governmental agencies was established. Jane L. Delgado, President and CEO of The National Alliance for Hispanic Health was the keynote speaker for the day, she gave a most informative presentation on quality health services for Hispanics. Afterwards she hosted a book signing for her book entitled "Salud, A Latina's Guide to



Dr. Galo Rodriguez, Fernando Betancourt, Representative Evelyn Mantilla & Luz Gonzalez

Latinos was broken on this historical day when 200 members of our community (of those faith-based organizations, congoal was to build broad based to champion strategies to address AIDS in Connecticut wide strategic plan among leadnity based organizations, nonwell as municipal and state gov- nished to address this issue. Dr. CEO of The National Alliance for note speaker for the day, she gave on cultural proficiency towards panics living with the HIV/AIDS book signing for her book entitled "Good Health".

Dr. Richard Torres, MD, MPH, FACP, CHES of the Bridgeport Community Health Center prepared a Summary Report regarding the findings and the statement of the problem. This summary articulates the crisis in public health that Latinos in Connecticut face. Alarming evidence exists that Latinos in Connecticut are acquiring HIV as a result of behaviors that may be prevented or modified.

In conclusion, this Latino HIV/AIDS Summit is a positive and productive step toward a strategic and collaborative effort to address this health crisis. Positive strategies were developed by the participants to implement the following recommendations:

- 1). Conduct an Annual Statewide Summit on Latino HIV/AIDS.
- 2). Rotate the summits to a different location of the state each year.
- 3). Stabilize and increase state and federal funding, and utilize funding creatively.
- 4). Create a statewide Latino HIV/AIDS Advisory Board.
- 5). Target the Over-Age 50 population.
- 6). Create more effective networking and collaboration.
- 7). Best practices in state funded programs.
- 8). Increase capacity of Latino HIV/AIDS service organizations.
- 9). Involve youth as active participants and presenters.

These recommendations and strategies identified and developed by Summit participants are the first step in addressing the needs of Latinos in Connecticut. LPRAC realizes the importance in participating in this project and addressing this "Epidemic of Silence". We will continue collaborating with the organizations mentioned above, by building upon the momentum and becoming an agent of change.

Fifth Annual Gala Awards Banquet



Commissioner Maritza Tiru & Gilberto Rosario

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission held its fifth annual Awards Gala at the Mohegan Sun Resort. The Banquet was well-attended drawing over 800 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/a Citizens of the Year:

Alma Maya

Attorney Rafael Santiago

Promesa Youth Award:

**Shakira Ramos
Gilberto Rosario**

Community Service Award:

Hogar Crea

This was our largest gathering ever with 800+ attendees! By recognizing these outstanding individuals and organizations, we were able to meet one of our State mandates to promote awareness of the accomplishments of our community.



Attorney Rafael Santiago & Commissioner Manuel Garcia



Alma Maya & Commissioner Americo Santiago

***Disclaimer: All costs associated with this event were privately fund raised.*

Nuestras Historias - Our Histories



Edna Negron, Juan Gonzalez, Fernando Betancourt & Werner Oyanadel



Juan Gonzalez & Fernando Betancourt



Members of the audience

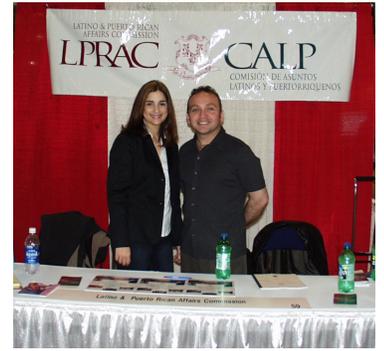
On October 8th 2002, The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission co-sponsored along with the Connecticut Historical Society the inauguration of a new website dedicated to the stories and experiences of Hartford's Puerto Rican community over the past 50 years that also included a gallery of photographs by Hartford's beloved Juan Fuentes-Vizcarrondo. Puerto Ricans have had a presence in Connecticut as early as the 19th century, the largest numbers began arriving in the mid-1940's during World War II. This history was documented in newspapers, diaries, and letters, for this Nuestras Historias project oral history was used as a way to record a living person's spoken story. This documents a perspective that has not appeared in most of the typical historic records from that time. At the unveiling of Nuestras Historias was featured an interview with Juan González, a columnist with New York's Daily News and author on the book "Harvest of Empire; A History of Latinos in America" by our Executive Director, Fernando Betancourt. This interview preceded an on-line walk through of the website. For more information on Nuestras Historias please log onto the website: www.chs.org/nuestras_historias.main.htm. The LPRAC is more than pleased to co-sponsor such a historical event in our State of Connecticut.

Todo Puerto Rico Con Vieques - A Victory of Grass-Roots Activism

In keeping with the resolution to attempt to stop the bombing, the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission had participated in rallies in late June 2001 in front of the Immigration and Naturalization Services building on Pearl Street in Hartford along with The Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, Latino legislators, and other prominent Latino leaders. The Navy's withdrawal in May of 2003 was finally accomplished, in part, by the first successful effort to link an island injustice with statewide local grass-roots activism and the Puerto Rican/Latino leadership residing here in Connecticut. "Todo Puerto Rico Con Vieques" is the broad-based island coalition that brings together all Puerto Ricans in general no matter what political affiliation, to seek an end to the bombing of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. This effort was being replicated in other states, in places with high concentrations of Puerto Ricans such as Connecticut. These coalitions were key in providing effective grass-roots activism, mobilizing hundreds of thousands of people who, in turn, were very successful at educating the press, politicians, and key allies in the states.

Latino Expo 2003

In March of 2003 the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission participated in the 2nd Annual Latino Expo at the CT Expo Center in Hartford, CT. This is the only event of its kind done in the state of Connecticut that showcases Latino businesses. This free event is a festival of Hispanic culture, business and entertainment, with a special emphasis on jobs, education, business opportunities and healthcare. The LPRAC staff was there both days giving out important information about our commission and its work in the public policy arena. Events such as the Latino Expo are a fun family event that helps give organizations such as the LPRAC more visibility statewide. We look forward in participating in many others in the future years to come as this is a great way in which businesses and the Hispanic community can effectively connect cultures.



Moraima Gutierrez & Werner Oyanadel

Immigrant and Refugee Women Roundtable

The Federal Department of Labor's Women's Bureau in collaboration with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission sponsored a follow-up to the workshop that was held on June 12, 2002. This follow-up workshop included an exhibition in the concourse that connects the State Capitol to the Legislative Office Building along with a variety of presentations by service providers in all areas of need including health, education, job training, social security, child immunization, money management and much more. Again we had federal representatives from Boston and Washington, D.C. were present to discuss outcomes as well as solutions in accessing funding for supporting the needs of these women. Due to the outstanding outcomes of this roundtable a model is now being replicated throughout the United States.

A Tribute to the late State Representative John S. Martínez

On October 11, 2002 the Latino Community in the State of Connecticut received news that we had lost a great leader, State Representative John S. Martínez. We were very saddened by this news as Representative Martínez was a constant advocate on behalf of not only the Latino community but of the people that needed advocacy the most. Representative Martínez distinguished himself for his work on issues such as children's rights, the fatherhood initiative, affordable housing, equitable treatment in the justice system and political participation of Latinos in the state and in the country.

Some knew him as the Democratic State Representative from New Haven, CT, others knew him as a champion for the rights of fathers. Others just plain but, it seems that no the impression was the everyone and everyone always be remembered dedication, and willingness to give time to help so particularly the Latino cut has suffered a great The Connecticut Legislature passed, and Governor Rowland signed Public Act 03-258 officially renaming the Fatherhood Initiative of former State Representative with gratitude for his and his consistent support to the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission that we will continue to work towards a better, more inclusive and compassionate Connecticut.



The Honorable Antonio J. Fas Alzamora, Senate President of Puerto Rico and State Representative John S. Martínez

matter the relationship, same: "Johnny loved Johnny." He will for his sense of humor, loss.

lature passed, and Gov- into law on July 9, 2003, cially renaming the Fa- Connecticut in honor of tative John Martínez. It years of public service port to the Latino and Commission that we towards a better, more sionate Connecticut.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Werner Oyanadel
Associate Legislative Analyst

Introduction

The following report is a summary of the outcome of legislative proposals that the Commission has monitored during the 2003 Regular and Special Session of the Connecticut General Assembly. For the record, the Connecticut General Assembly 2003 Regular Session convened on January 8 and adjourned on June 4th, 2003 without a budget agreement. The State legislature assembled a “*Special Session*” to finish the biennium budget, which includes funds for services directed at the Latino community. It is also crucial to keep in mind that there were 3,302 bills introduced in 2003 out of which 274 passed the legislative process with 12 vetoes by the Governor in just 106 legislative days.

The Commission, due to the critical state budgetary deficit and the short length of the Legislative process focused its limited resources on important budgetary issues that included bilingual education, Spanish court interpreters, the Human Resource Development for Hispanic programs within the Department of Social Services, Healthcare of Uninsured Kids & Youth known as HUSKY, State-Administered General Assistance (SAGA), Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), affordable housing programs such as tax credit programs, housing bond-

ing, urban homeownership and rental assistance.

In addition, the Commission focused its resources on informing Legislators about the negative impact of Legislative proposals that aimed at the elimination or consolidation of all legislative commissions such as the *Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, African American Affairs Commission, the Commission on Children and the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission*. We are happy to report that the administration abandoned the idea after receiving our public testimony as well as receiving political pressure from the general public. In addition, we spent considerable time preparing for and testifying before several legislative hearings on a proposal that required the commission to amend the Commission’s Legislative mandate.

Finally, it was of extreme importance our Commission’s involvement in advising the Legislature of the negative impact of adopting legislation that would link someone’s visa expiration date to the expiration date of a driver’s license.

In total we initiated one public policy proposal, tracked twelve important pieces of Legislation, which included research and

testimony preparation, as well as the testimonies presented before different Legislative committees of the Connecticut General Assembly.

The following report also includes the commission's support or opposition on legislation according to our commission's 2003 Legislative Agenda, which, was prepared by The *Priorities and Legislation Committee* with the assistance of the staff and the approval of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs board of Commissioners.

This agenda was divided onto 6 major areas that include Democracy, Economic Development, Education, Health Disparities, Judicial and Housing issues with 11 specific policy statements specifically designed to respond to our mission mandate, which states that we are to develop policy for the advancement of the Latino and Puerto Rican communities. The agenda is as follows:

Democracy Issues

An Act Concerning State Boards and Commissions

To ensure notification of openings on state appointive boards, commissions, committees and councils.

Election Day Registration

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

An Act Concerning the Collection of Data on the Ethnicity and Race of Voter Registration Applicants

To better quantify & assess voting registration efforts.

Economic Development

Pay Equity

We will support efforts to correct pay inequities due to gender, race, ethnicity, and national origin

State Budget Deficit

Re-examine the state budget process to assure all spending – through appropriations and through the tax code – is reviewed so current budget choices reflect current needs

Legal immigrants benefits

Eliminate sunset provision from the Connecticut General Statutes to help Latino immigrant families in time of crisis.

Education Issues

Bilingual Education

Supports the creation of a statewide movement in support of bilingual education.

Health Disparity Issues

Latino HIV/Aids, Asthma Lead Poisoning, and Mental Health

Preserve & enhance state investments in health care

Tobacco Secession Regulation

Urge the Connecticut General Assembly to recognize the dangers of second-hand smoke by repealing the preemption language from the Connecticut General Assembly

Judicial Issues

Court & Hospital Interpreters

Review funding and needs for greater amount of interpreters throughout the state in both courtrooms and emergency rooms in hospitals.

Housing Issues

Rental Assistance Programs

Expand Rental Assistance Programs to low-income families.

Legislative Results 2003

1. The Collection of Data on the Ethnicity and Race of Voter Registration Applicants (FAILED)

House Bill Number 5829 would have created a new voluntary category on voter registration forms to identify the voter's race and ethnicity based upon the same classifications used by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The intent of this technical change was to better quantify and assess voting registration efforts within the Latino community of the State of Connecticut. LPRAC is concerned that the current system used to track voter registration patterns are not accurate. The bill received the approval of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

2. An Act Concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (PASSED)

Substitute House Bill No. 6657 (Public Act No. 03-229) as amended, requires the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission to submit copies of certain information submitted to the Governor to also be submitted to the General Assembly as well, which result in no fiscal impact to the agency. Additionally, the bill requires the commission to work in consultation with the Legislative Management Committee to develop long and short term initiatives, which results in no fiscal impact to the agency.

3. An Act Concerning State Assistance to Legal Immigrants (FAILED)

The Senate referred raised Senate Bill No. 1010, "*An Act Concerning State Assistance to Legal Immigrants.*" on April 15th, 2003 to the Appropriations Committee where it died on Thursday, May 1, 2003.

The Appropriations Committee placed 2 million dollars in their budget recommendations to continue assistance to Legal Immigrants for the next two years (i.e., State Food Stamps, Medicaid, Temporary Family Assistance, and State Administered General Assistance programs.) but unfortunately did not make it to the final report approved by the Legislature.

This issue is of extreme importance to the commission since the immigration patterns in the past decade indicate that the greater part of the 100,000 legal immigrants that settled in the state were Latino, which is the state's largest minority group.

4. Court Interpreters (FAILED)

Although House Bill No. 6139, "*An Act Concerning Court Interpreters*" did not come out of the Judiciary Committee before its deadline, the Appropriations Committee added \$200,000.00 to the biennial state budget for additional contractual court interpreters. The final budgetary report failed to include the Appropriations Committee recommendations.

LPRAC is concerned that the current amount of interpreters is not adequate to deal with the projected Latino growth in the next decade, which due in large part to the lack of access to resources will trigger more Latinos going through the judicial system – a system already faced with minority overrepresentation. Note: the amount of court interpreters has remained in the twenties since mid 90's.

5. Secondhand Smoking Cessation – Asthma (PASSED)

Substitute for Raised Senate Bill No. 908, (Public Act 03-45) tightens restrictions on smoking in workplaces and public buildings. It bans smoking in workplaces where more than 10 people work; restaurants, cafés, and taverns; state and municipal buildings; and health care institutions, except in designated smoking rooms. It also extends the current ban on smoking in public areas of retail food stores to the entire store. Smoking rooms, under the new law, must be completely separated from nonsmoking areas by floor-to-ceiling walls and a door and ventilated in way that prevents smoke from entering nonsmoking areas. Food and beverages may not be served or distributed in them.

The Commission is pleased with this mandate. This has been one of our priorities to defend our community of the negative effects of smoking and tobacco products. This is a first step in creating conscience of the large number of Latinos that have been affected by secondhand smoke. The majority of Latinos in Connecticut reside in urban areas where the relation between secondhand smoke and asthma during childhood has been thoroughly documented. Even

more alarming is the fact that we represent 9.4% of the population of the state, yet 1/3 of this population is addicted to nicotine.

6. Election Day Registration (EDR) – (Vetoed)

Substitute House Bill No. 6370, (Public Act No. 03-204) would have allowed people to register to vote on the registrars of voters' offices on the day of an election, primary, or presidential preference primary during the hours of voting. It would have established the procedures applicants and registrars must follow for registration on Election Day.

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission advocated toward the passage of this legislation on the premise that it would expand opportunities for participation without discrimination or unnecessary barriers, while balancing the concerns for the integrity of the process. This was another of our legislative priorities highlighted in our 2003 Legislative Agenda.

7. Driver's License for Legal Immigrants (FAILED)

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission opposed Senate Bill No. 926, "*An Act Concerning the Lawful Residence of Applicants for Motor Vehicle Operator's Licenses and Identity Cards*" because we strongly believe that the state should not be tying driver's license expiration to the expiration of immigrant visas. The State Senate referred the bill to the Finance Committee, where it died in the agenda due to "no action" on the proposal. The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) quickly amended several of their bills with amendments that brought the issue back.

The Commission informed the Legislature of flaws of this proposal as well as prior regulation bills introduced by the DMV earlier in the year. We were successful in advising state authorities of the shortfall of these amendments due in large part to the fact that placing restrictions on immigrants' driver's licenses is a highly ineffective method to ensure public safety on the roads of the state. The primary purpose of the state is to ensure that only qualified drivers are licensed to drive. However, one's immigration status bears no rational relationship to whether one is qualified to drive. Immigration related issues should be regulated by the *U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services* (BCIS) where verification of nonimmigrant status should take place and is an area preempted by Federal Law.

The amendment was approved by the State Senate but died in the House of Representatives in the last minutes of the regular session.

8. Boards and Commissions (FAILED)

Substitute for H.B. No. 6089 (COMM) (File No. 440) "*An Act Concerning Membership on State Boards and Commissions*" died in the Joint Committee on Legislative Management Agenda because this committee took "No Action" on this bill. The language left on this Legislative proposal was only technical in nature since the main idea behind it was to create a web site to maintain current listings of all openings of boards, commissions, committees and councils within the Secretary of the State's main web site. This web site would have included a search engine to identify specific boards by name, name of appointive authority, term limit, and contact information.

Unfortunately the language to create this site was taken out of the bill and the section left behind was only technical in nature. A brief summary of it follows:

The bill would have added ethnicity to the criteria that appointing authorities must try to consider when making appointments to state boards and commissions with gubernatorial and legislative appointees. Current law requires the appointing authorities, when making appointments, to make a good faith effort to ensure that, to the extent possible, members' gender and race reflect their representation in the state.

The bill's intention was to make the technical distinction between race and ethnicity and accomplish the same of what is currently being asked from the executive officer or chairman of each state appointive board or commission, which is to include members' ethnicity/race and gender in the biennial report that by law goes to the Office of the Secretary of the State on the composition of the body. Current law requires the report to include the number of members, their gender, and race.

9. Racial Profiling (PASSED)

This bill requires local police departments and the State Police to give annual traffic stop reports to the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) pursuant to the racial profiling law. It also reinstates the requirement (which was in effect until January 1, 2003) to give annual reports to the chief state's attorney. It requires the AAAC to (1) review the traffic stop data and (2) annually, beginning January 1, 2004, report its review results and recommendations to the governor, legislature, and other entities it deems appropriate.

The bill does not affect the recording of non-personally identifying characteristics such as age, race, color, ethnicity, and gender, which current law requires.

10. A Study of HIV and AIDS Programs — (PASSED)

Based on this new law, the Commissioner of Public Health is mandated to conduct an evaluation of the current system of HIV and AIDS programs, and shall develop a plan for improvements to such system. The commissioner, according to the law, shall assemble all interested parties for purposes of the evaluation and recommendations. (Note: Our commission will look into the possibility of participating in this study)

11. Prison Overcrowding – Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment (FAILED)

The commission supported this legislation because of the overall inequality of incarceration rates between whites, blacks and Latinos in the state. For example, the incarceration for whites is among the lowest in the US, while the black incarceration rate is above the national average and the Latino rate is twice that of the national level.

The commission believed the public policy initiatives within the bill were sound, and recommended that any savings from the implementation of these policies be reinvested into a separate "budget line item" in order to create an employment, substance abuse, and mental health program, which an ex-offender can utilize to re-integrate him/herself into society.

12. Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Juvenile Justice System (FAILED)

This bill would have required the Judicial Department to:

- Establish, jointly with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), a community mapping system to track children who come into contact with the juvenile justice system and objective criteria for juvenile justice decisions;
- Develop a cultural competency plan for each of its courts, divisions, and juvenile justice system offices;
- Develop, with DCF, alternatives to incarceration for children and track participation by race and ethnicity; and
- Develop a continuum of court-approved administrative sanctions for 16- and 17-year olds under juvenile probation officers' supervision.

13. Early Childhood Education – (FAILED)

This bill would have made several changes to the school readiness laws. It would have required the state's school readiness network to ensure that school readiness programs are properly reimbursed for providing special education to eligible children. It would have broadened the types of credentials that a person could hold to teach in a school readiness classroom. The bill would have allowed towns to use a portion of the school readiness program grants allocated to them for coordination, program evaluation, and administration. And it would have allowed the State Department of Education (SDE) to reallocate all of the grants that priority districts fail to earmark by January 1 and use them for other purposes, including professional development for educators working in state-funded school readiness programs.

Latinos are the youngest and fastest growing population group in the state and the commission believed that the adoption of legislative proposals such as SB 893 would help improve current school readiness programs in Connecticut, enhance access to quality childhood education, teacher training and at the same time provide fair wages for those teachers who decide to follow this career path.

14. Funding & Technical Assistance to Low and Moderate Income Individuals to Establish Businesses in the State. (PASSED)

This law allows the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) to provide financing to low – and moderate — income people statewide for establishing, maintaining, and expanding businesses. CEDF is a nonprofit organization created under the statutes to help economically distressed neighborhoods develop businesses and create jobs. Under the bill, people qualify for financial assistance if they earn no more than the median income for the state (currently \$75, 400), as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Current law allows CEDF to provide this and other types of financing to anyone regardless of income, but only in the state's it designated targeted investment communities (TICs) and its 42 public investment communities (PICs). These designations serve to target state development dollars at economically distressed areas. While the bill allows CEDF to extend financial assistance to low- and moderate-income people statewide, 70% of the total must still go to projects in TICs.

Participation, speaking engagements & presentations

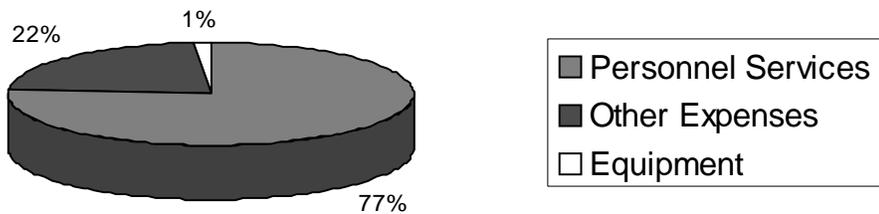
The following is a list of major presentations or participation by the Executive Director on behalf of the LPRAC

- Participated in the Judicial Branch's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration
- Participated in the Annual Park Street Festival Booth Exhibition
- Toastmasters Distinguished Series Speakers
- Presented at UCONN about Puerto Rican & Latino policies in Hartford, CT
- Interview w/author Juan González at the Connecticut Historical Society
- Panelist at the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development for Hispanic Heritage Month
- Keynote Speaker at New Haven's City Hall honoring diversity
- Principal for a Day at Dwight Elementary School, in Hartford, CT
- Presentation for the Youth Leadership Institute at the Marriott, Farmington, CT
- Presentation at the Sexual Assault Crisis-Laws of the State Conference
- Panelist to discuss the Social State of Connecticut Report sponsored by the State's Commission on Children
- Co-Chair for the 2nd Latino Leadership Summit at the Marriott, Farmington, CT
- Panelist for conference on "Breaking the Cycle, Protecting Hartford's Teens: A Summit on Health Care Interventions to Reduce Teen Pregnancy"
- Workshop panelist on Election Day Voter Registration
- Reflecting ConneCTicut/Reflejando a ConneCTicut forums held statewide
- Keynote Speaker for NSHMBA at CIGNA in Bloomfield, CT
- Panelist for the Affirmative Action Forum at The Phoenix
- Flag Raising of Puerto Rico at the State Capitol
- Panelist for the Hispanic Advisory Group on Spanish Translations formed by our Secretary of the State, Susan Bysiewicz
- Invited to Serve on the Advisory Board of Fellows of the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education.

The Budget 2002 - 2003

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>APPROPRIATED</u>
<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$ 291,627.00</i>
<i>Other Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 57,131.00</i>
<i>Equipment</i>	<i>\$ 524.00</i>
TOTAL	\$ 349,282.00

Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission Budget FY 03



* **Other expenses** includes contracted services as well as staff development & printing costs.

The Staff

Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director, Moraima Gutiérrez, Media Specialist,
Lucy Goicoechea-Hernández, Special Projects Director,
Werner Oyanadel, Legislative Analyst and our Legislative Secretary.

*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:

Moraima Gutiérrez

Graphic Design: Werner Oyanadel

Photography: Werner Oyanadel, Moraima Gutiérrez and Commissioners

Editing: Fernando Betancourt & Werner Oyanadel

Thank You

Thank you to the many agencies and organizations who collaborated with LPRAC this past year.

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.

Procedures & Personnel

Article IX (e) of the By Laws
Meets as related issues arise.

Priorities & Legislation

Article IX (g) of the By Laws
Meets on a monthly basis.

Budget

Article IX (f) of the By Laws
This committee meets every month.

Affirmative Action & Talent Bank

Article IX (h) of the By Laws
Meets as related issues arise.

Public Information & Education

Article IX (l) of the By Laws
Meets as related issues arise.

Special Projects

Article IX (j) 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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