

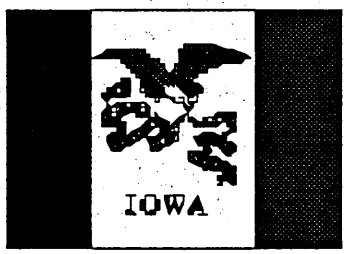
Division of

LATINO AFFAIRS

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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

March 24, 1997



DAVENPORT AREA STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Community Project Consultant Perry Ramirez from the American Institute of Commerce, together with representatives from LULAC of Davenport, sponsored a Diversity Leadership Conference for students from the Davenport Community School District and Muscatine High School. The conference, entitled "School and Community Values Are Necessary for Success" and "Making a Difference in Our Community" was held in two parts, the first on December 6, and the second on March 7. Approximately fifty high school students were selected by their counselors to participate in this event. At the December workshop, the students divided into teams of five or more students. Each group had to focus on one concern or problem in their school. Some issues identified by student groups in-

cluded increasing minority involvement in extra-curricular activities, "red tape" and teacher discrimination, interracial mixing-dating, and uniting cultures in the schools. Groups were to create an action plan for each issue identified. During the March workshop, the groups presented their solutions to a panel of professionals, which included Administrator Sylvia Tijerina from the Division of Latino Affairs. Some of the activities as a result of this conference include painting a "Diversity Mural", planning a College/Career Activity Day, presenting poems, forums, plays and other events which emphasize respect for different cultures, and planning a cross-cultural dance with all high schools in the Davenport area.



Mark your calendar for October 17-18! "Building Partnerships among Latino Communities for the 21st Century" Conference will be held at Grinnell College. More information soon to come!

Editor: Marilyn Murphy
 Division of Latino Affairs
 Phone: 242-6534 or 281-4070.

Do you have news articles, upcoming events, or interesting information to share with us? Send to: Division of Latino Affairs, Department of Human Rights, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319 or FAX: 242-6119.

"Justice will only be achieved when those who are not injured by crime feel as indignant as those who are." Solomon (635-577 B.C.)

The mission of the Commission on Latino Affairs is to improve the quality of life of all Iowans by increasing statewide understanding of the social, cultural and economic contributions Latinos make in Iowa.

Additionally, our mission is to serve as a resource center which promotes positive change by assessing the issues and making recommendations to decision makers of the challenges facing Iowa's Latino community.

DES MOINES LATINO SERVICE PROVIDER COALITION: HISTORY AND VISIONS

The first Latino Service Providers Coalition meeting was held July 1, 1993 at the United Mexican American Community Center in Des Moines. Organized by Father Kevin Cameron from Catholic Hispanic Ministries and Administrator Sylvia Tijerina from the Division of Latino Affairs, the coalition was created to provide a network for service providers and others in the community who could join in a common goal. Approximately 20 representatives from Latino services and businesses attended this first meeting. Due to flooding in the summer of 1993, the coalition was unable to meet again until January 6, 1994. During this crisis situation, the importance of effectively utilizing current resources and the necessity of networking within the Latino popu-

lation became even more apparent. Since 1993, the Latino Service Providers Coalition has grown tremendously. Currently, there are 55 members representing numerous services and businesses in the Des Moines area. The coalition meets monthly, usually the last Thursday of each month, from 4:30 - 6:00 PM. Each meeting is held at a different location in order to give members the opportunity to learn about the various service providers. Through the coalition, participants can share information not only about their services, but discuss activities, issues, and concerns in the Latino community. We encourage and welcome new service providers and guests to attend our next meeting! Call Latino Affairs at 281-4070.

JOB NOTICES

Seeking Employment

Does your business need a qualified, bilingual person for your staff?

- Individual with 14 years International Sales/Marketing experience in Mexico, fluent Spanish and proficiency in Portuguese, and a Masters Degree in International Management and Marketing.
- Individual with 6 years experience in senior management, marketing and operations, fluent Spanish, and a BBA in Business and minor in Spanish. Expertise in new business development and strategic planning.

Call the Division of Latino Affairs for more information 281-4070.

Polk County Summer Youth Employment Program

350 youth will be employed through the following programs:

Iowa Conservation Corps/Summer Camp (ages 15-18)

Neighborhood Improvement Project (ages 16-21)

Summer Horizons Private Sector Project (ages 14-21)

Contact the New Horizons/Success office at your school, or call 242-7890 to receive an application. Return completed applications to the New Horizons office by April 18, 1997.

Mexico Gave the World Corn



Fossil grains of corn pollen dating to at least 80,000 years ago were discovered in test wells drilled in Mexico City, meaning that corn did exist long before man came to the new world. Whatever else has changed, in Mexico today the staff of life is still corn.



The Division of Latino Affairs maintains a listing of current job opportunities. Call 281-4070 for more information.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Des Moines Police Academy

The Division of Latino Affairs has launched a successful cultural diversity training program at the Des Moines Police Academy. Courses began on January 6, and will continue until April 23 in order to reach all law-enforcement officers and civilians at the academy. The courses have been well-received by law-enforcement officers. "The Hispanic culture, customs, traditions and beliefs are areas in which we as officers will need to be well-versed in the 21st century as our city, state and country integrates itself with an ever-growing and ever-knowing diversity of citizens," states Richard Roland, S.P.O. from the Training Section of the Regional Academy. The classes provide information and insight regarding the Latino culture as a whole as well as the great diversity within the culture. Numerous participants in the program have expressed an interest in improving their language skills and would like for the Division of Latino Affairs to offer "Survival Spanish" courses to employees of the Des Moines Police Academy. As Roland concludes, "Only through training and understanding will we as a community be able to prosper and grow and reach our full potential."

Dallas County Sheriff's Department

Dallas County Sheriff Art Johnson and Deputy Sheriff Shelley Reese invited the Division of Latino Affairs to present an eight-hour seminar focusing on the Latino culture and the Spanish language in Adel on Thursday, March 13. There were approximately 40 participants, including Dallas County Sheriff's office employees, narcotics officers, domestic abuse advocates, nurses and other health professionals. The morning portion of the workshop provided cultural information, such as customs and core values of Latinos, as well as tips on communicating with those who are not fluent in English. The afternoon session focused on an introduction to the Spanish language and a review of pronunciation for phrases found in their "Speedy Spanish for Police Officers" booklets. The goal of outreach with law enforcement and other professionals is to provide information and positive illustrations of the Latino culture which will lead to a better understanding of the culture when it is confronted in their work.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to share in multi-cultural activities? The Division of Latino Affairs has several interesting, unfinished projects due to lack of manpower in our office. We need your help! Activities include organizing events, our scrapbook, newsletter, and research. Typing and computer skills are a plus! Our office is open Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. Please call us at 281-4070.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 4-5** "Prospects & Challenges in Spanish/English Interpretation & Translation" Workshop
Scott Community College Urban Center, Davenport
- April 8** Governor's Proclamation Signing for Pan-American Week*
Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines 11:30 AM
- April 11-12** "Prospects & Challenges in Spanish/English Interpretation & Translation" Workshop
Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City
- April 11** Iowa Commission on Latino Affairs Meeting*
Sioux City 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- April 24** Des Moines Latino Service Providers Coalition Meeting* 4:30 - 6:00 PM
- May 17** LULAC State Convention, Fort Madison

*Public Invited

Department of Human Rights
Division of Latino Affairs
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Address Correction Requested

**Commission on Latino Affairs
Department of Human Rights**

Olga Ramirez, Chair	Council Bluffs	(712)328-4616
Rosa Maria de Findlay, Vice-Chair	Cedar Falls	(319)273-2361
Robert L. Mata, Secretary	Davenport	(319)323-9951 ext.215
Sister Carol Hawkins	Storm Lake	(712)732-1236
Father Randy Guerdet	Sioux City	(712)255-1841
Claudia Zellweger	Clarion	(515)532-2873
Sylvia Tijerina, Administrator, Division of Latino Affairs		(515)281-4080
Almo Hawkins, Director, Department of Human Rights		(515)281-7300