

EL INFORME

Michigan Department of Career Development • Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs
 Dr. Barbara Bobin, MDCE Director • Marilyn Olivarez-Mason, COSSA Executive Director

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September 17, 2001

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, we witnessed one of the most barbaric and evil acts ever perpetrated against our fellow Americans and against people of goodwill throughout the free world. As I reflect on the events of these past few days, I am filled with a sense of grief and personal loss for the many lives prematurely smothered in New York City.

I know the area too well since I spent most of my youth there and worked my way through college less than a block from where the Twin Towers stood. The fact that my son Eduardo was peacefully having lunch at the World Trade Center the week prior to the attack was a chilling and frightful reminder that tragedy is closer to us than we can ever imagine, and that acts of this nature spare no one. The friend he was having lunch with is unaccounted for, as are several other acquaintances we had who worked in the vicinity.

I feel the urgency to communicate with each and every one of you in order to ask you to offer your prayers and support for my fellow New Yorkers. I also ask you to be on guard for the many challenges that lie ahead. In the coming weeks we will be at war. Your position of leadership will be more important than ever before in the history of our commission. We will have to deal with a nearly invisible and formidable enemy. We will also have to safeguard the constitutional rights of our people so that they do not get trampled in the hysteria and overreaction bound to develop in sensitive areas like immigration, civil rights, equal opportunities under the law, and possible xenophobia resulting in indiscriminate acts of violence against our own citizens.

I know that like many Americans you will be asking yourselves what you can do to contribute. I ask you to fight back. Yes, fight back. But, not with weapons or hatred. I ask you to fight back by continuing your unselfish commitment to serve in your respective communities. Fight back by showing the perpetrators of these cowardly acts that love and patriotism are alive and doing well throughout our state of Michigan.

Remember that the purpose of terrorist acts is to disrupt our lives and make us run scared. By returning to normalcy and continuing our work, we are slapping terrorists in the face by telling them that they will not succeed. Please join me in redoubling our efforts to continue our fight against illiteracy, injustice, and prejudice for all our citizens. The days to come will be full of challenges and uncertainties. But together, we shall overcome.

God bless you and God bless America!



Mariano Pallarés
Chairman, Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs

Please Note: This letter was sent to all members of the Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs a few days after the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Executive Director's Message



The Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs enjoyed a busy fall. From mid-September through mid-October we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with several events throughout the state of Michigan. Included in these celebrations were various activities ranging from festivals to dinners and exhibits. On October 3, the celebratory mood ran high at the Hispanic Heritage Month festival at the State Capitol. Senator Valde Garcia and Representative Belda Garza hosted the day and presented awards to individuals throughout the state for their exemplary community involvement.

I would like to give a special thank you to Governor John Engler for his proclamation of Hispanic Heritage Month. Another special thank you goes to the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee. Their fantastic work in planning the celebration at the Capitol made the day a great success.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Commissioner Sylvia Rogers for hosting our September 7

meeting and Commissioner Randall Fernandez for hosting our retreat and meeting on November 8 and 9. Both meetings were very successful. With the hard work of all the commissioners, we are able to serve the Hispanic community throughout the state.

Also this fall, the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs has completed the development of our Web site. The site can be found at www.mdcd.org/ssa/. Three of the commission's brochures ("Hispanic Media in Michigan," "COSSA History & Purpose," and "Hispanic Heritage Month in Michigan") have been updated and are available on the Web site or by calling the office.

The Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs welcomes your participation by notifying our office of any current events, programs, or career preparation programs in your local community. Please contact our office at 517-373-8339 or fax information to 517-373-0176. With this help, we will continue to keep you informed of new happenings as we strengthen our educational and career development programs.

Sinceramente,


Marylou Olivarez-Mason

Commission Approves Strategic Plan

The commission plans to inform and educate Michigan's Hispanic population about the many programs and services available to them through the Department of Career Development and the Michigan Works! agencies.

The Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs met September 7, 2001, in Suttons Bay at the Traverse Bay Entertainment Eagle's Ridge Conference Center. Highlights of the meeting included a presentation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) programs, and the approval of the commission's Strategic Plan for 2002-2003.

James Sutton, the HUD area coordinator for the Flint field office, and Louis Berra, the HUD area coordinator for the Grand Rapids office, gave a very informative presentation that outlined U.S. HUD Secretary Mel Martinez's goal of helping Hispanics obtain affordable housing, including home ownership. To take on this challenge, Martinez has established regional field offices managed by area coordinators. The commission looks forward to working closely with these area coordinators to help provide affordable housing for Michigan's Hispanics.

A primary goal of the strategic plan entails a new role for commissioners—acting as ambassadors for the Michigan Department of Career Development

(MDCD) to the Hispanic community. The commission plans to inform and educate Michigan's Hispanic population about the many programs and services available to them through the Department of Career Development and the Michigan Works! agencies.

Another goal outlined in the strategic plan provides for the commission to take a primary role with Hispanic youth in efforts to decrease the school dropout rate, increase the enrollment in postsecondary education and training programs, and encourage involvement in leadership activities. To achieve this goal, the commission will work together with Hispanic organizations to co-sponsor regional Hispanic educational conferences.

The commission also will continue to work on informing and educating the public about the contributions and accomplishments of Hispanics during Hispanic Heritage Month, and on planning celebrations for that month. To accomplish this goal, the commission plans to work with the Legislative Hispanic Caucus to recognize outstanding Hispanics throughout Michigan.

Ford Hispanic Network Group Celebrates with Special Event

The Ford Hispanic Network Group (FHNG) celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with the Hispanic Heritage Event, which was held August 30 at Ford Motor Company's World Headquarters auditorium in Dearborn. Joining in the celebration were friends and family members of FHNG members, as well as political leaders from the Detroit area, and some Ford vice presidents, suppliers, and employees, including a delegation from the Lorain Assembly Plant in Lorain, Ohio. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the Hispanic veterans who have received the Medal of Honor. In addition, Latino Family Services of Detroit collected school supplies and clothes, which will be donated to low-income Latino families.

Speakers at the event included Edsel B. Ford II, a member of the Ford Motor Company Board of Directors; Raul Yzaguirre, a nationally recognized civil rights leader and the president of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR); and Jim Padilla, Ford group vice president of manufacturing and quality, and FHNG executive champion. Ford emphasized the importance of diversity at the company. Yzaguirre spoke about the

struggles, contributions, and victories of Latinos in the United States. He also thanked Ford Motor Company and the Ford Hispanic Network Group for supporting Latino communities.

Yzaguirre was presented with the Leo Padilla Award in acknowledgement of his many contributions to the Hispanic community. Jim O'Connor, president of Ford Division, and photographer Lisa Luevanos received the FHNG Amigo Award, and the FHNG Chairman's Award, respectively. Also, the FHNG Lorain Plant chapter recognized Padilla and Clemente Garcia, FHNG chairman, for their support and encouragement.

Following the awards ceremony, Padilla reiterated his commitment to support the Ford Hispanic Network Group and the Latino community. The event concluded with refreshments and entertainment provided by Mexican Mariachis. For more information about the Ford Hispanic Network Group, visit their Web site at www.fordhng.com.

(Information for this article was provided by Salvador Toledo. The pictures are by Jerome Burns.)



Edsel B. Ford II, Ford Motor Co



Post 505



Raul Yzaguirre
NCLR President

La Comisión Aprueba Nuevo Plan Estratégico

La Comisión de Asuntos Hispánicos de Michigan se reunió el 7 de septiembre del 2001 en Suttons Bay, en el Casino y Centro de Reuniones Eagles Ridge de Traverse City. Entre los eventos que se llevaron a cabo se destacan una presentación de los programas del U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) y la aprobación del plan estratégico de la comisión para el año fiscal 2002-2003.

El coordinador de área de HUD para la oficina de Flint, James Sutton, y Louis Berra, el coordinador de HUD en el área de Grand Rapids, hicieron unas presentaciones muy informativas que delineaban las metas de Mel Martinez, el secretario ejecutivo de U.S. HUD, de ayudar a los hispanos a conseguir viviendas a precios accesibles para que se conviertan en dueños de sus propias casas. Para lograr este propósito, Martinez ha creado oficinas regionales que son administradas por coordinadores de áreas. La comisión espera tener una relación estrecha con esos coordinadores de áreas para ayudar a que los hispanos de Michigan puedan tener acceso a comprar sus propias casas a precios razonables.

Una de las metas primarias del plan estratégico establece un nuevo rol para los comisionados, que pasaran entre otras cosas a ser embajadores del

Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD) en la comunidad hispana. La comisión pretende informar y educar a la población hispana de Michigan acerca de los muchos programas y servicios disponibles a través del Department of Career Development y las agencias de Michigan Works!

Otra meta discutida en el plan estratégico propone que la comisión tenga una participación más directa con la juventud hispana para disminuir la tasa de estudiantes que abandonan sus estudios, aumentar los números de estudiantes que asisten a universidades y programas avanzados de capacitación y urgir una mayor participación en actividades de liderazgo. Para lograr esta meta, la comisión trabajará más de cerca con organizaciones hispanas y será copatrocinadora de conferencias educativas regionales para Hispanos.

La comisión continuará su labor de informar y educar al público acerca de las contribuciones y logros de hispanos en nuestra comunidad durante Hispanic Heritage Month, y durante las celebraciones que se realizan por todo ese mes. La comisión trabajará de cerca con la Junta Política de Legisladores Hispánicos para dar reconocimiento a personas de origen hispano que se destacan por todo el estado de Michigan.

La comisión pretende informar y educar a la población hispana de Michigan acerca de los muchos programas y servicios disponibles a través del Department of Career Development y las agencias de Michigan Works!

Hispanic Health: Smoking Among Youth and Anti-Smoking Campaigns

Organizations which sponsor anti-smoking campaigns are working hard to respond to an increase in smoking among Hispanic youth.

For example, the Cristo Rey Community Center in Lansing has established “La Raza Contra el Tobacco,” which is a statewide network that provides information to the Hispanic community about health issues related to tobacco. Cristo Rey plans to investigate the advertising of tobacco products statewide and publicize its findings. The center also provides workshops in both English and Spanish on how to quit smoking, the dangers of second-hand smoke and tobacco products other than cigarettes, and the benefits of clean indoor air.

Here is a list of some organizations that provide tobacco education and cessation classes focused on youth:

Cristo Rey Community Center,
517-372-4700

Boys and Girls Club of Alpena County,
517-356-0214

Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency,
231-547-6523

Grand Traverse County Tobacco Task Force,
213-922-2729

Jackson Public Schools,
517-768-5952

Student Assistance Program,
517-783-6046

Health Department of Marquette County,
906-475-7848

Health Department of Lapeer County,
810-667-0391

United Lifestyles,
616-754-4341

Not on Tobacco,
800-678-5864

Nationwide, according to research conducted by the University of Michigan and reported by the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, Hispanic eighth graders are more likely to be current smokers (18.3 percent) than their white (17.8 percent) or black (6.6 percent) peers. Additionally, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids has reported that smoking among Hispanic high school students increased from 25.3 percent to 32.7 percent between 1991 and 1999.

There is no doubt about the health risk associated with smoking. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States.” Regarding one effect of smoking, the CDC reports that “Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death for Hispanics living in the United States.” It also indicates, “Overall, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among Hispanics.”

The National Alliance for Hispanic Health states, “Although tobacco consumption has declined over the last 17 years, tobacco companies have attempted to create new markets by targeting Hispanic youth.” Nuestras Voces, which is a project operated by the Alliance and funded through the CDC Office of Smoking and Health, is working to try to counter this trend.

If you need help to quit smoking, or would like additional information, you may contact the following organizations or visit their Web sites:

Michigan Department of Community Health, 517-373-3740, www.mdch.state.mi.us.

The National Alliance for Hispanic Health, 202-387-5000, www.hispanichealth.org.

The American Lung Association, 212-315-8700, www.lungusa.org.

The American Lung Association of Michigan, 1-800-678-5864. www.alam.org.



“Cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States.”

—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

GED Update!

Beginning January 2003, a new Spanish and French version of the GED exam will be introduced nationally. This new exam will reflect up-to-date high school graduation requirements and the needs of employers. Individuals testing on the current Spanish or French version of the GED exam must successfully complete all tests before January 2003 or start all over. For more information contact the Michigan Department of Career Development Adult Education at (517) 373-1692.

La Salud Hispana: La Juventud Fumadora y Las Campañas Contra El Fumar

Las organizaciones que apoyan las campañas contra el fumar se esfuerzan por responder a la tendencia prevalente entre la juventud hispana de aumentar el uso de los cigarrillos.

El Centro Comunitario Cristo Rey de Lansing, por ejemplo, ha establecido un programa denominado "La Raza Contra el Tabaco," que consiste de una red informativa para asesorar a la comunidad hispana por todo el estado acerca de los problemas de salud relacionados al consumo del tabaco. Cristo Rey pretende investigar la promoción publicitaria de productos del tabaco a través del estado con fin de publicar sus hallazgos. El Centro también creará talleres en inglés y español que ayuden a eliminar el hábito de fumar, destacará los peligros de ser expuesto al humo secundario de fumadores y a otros productos relacionados al tabaco, además de apuntar a los beneficios de respirar un aire más puro.

A continuación ofrecemos una lista con los teléfonos de varias organizaciones que proveen información sobre el consumo del tabaco y ofrecen clases para eliminar su hábito. Las clases están dirigidas especialmente a la juventud:

Cristo Rey Community Center, 517-372-4700

Boys and Girls Club of Alpena County, 517-356-0214

Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency, 231-547-6523

Grand Traverse County Tobacco Task Force, 213-922-2729

Jackson Public Schools, 517-768-5952

Student Assistance Program, 517-783-6046

Health Department of Marquette County, 906-475-7848

Health Department of Lapeer County, 810-667-0391

United Lifestyles, 616-754-4341

Not on Tobacco, 800-678-5864

De acuerdo a investigaciones por todo el país conducidas por la Universidad de Michigan, según reportadas por la National Alliance for Hispanic

Health (Alianza Nacional para La Salud Hispana) los estudiantes hispanos a nivel de octavo grado (18.3 por ciento) tienden a usar el tabaco más que los anglosajones (17.8 por ciento) o los afroamericanos (6.6 por ciento) al mismo nivel educativo. Además, la campaña para descontinuar el uso del tabaco en la juventud o "Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids" ha reportado que el fumar entre entre estudiantes hispanos de secundaria ha aumentado del 25.3 por ciento al 32.7 por ciento entre 1991 y 1999.



No hay duda alguna de los riesgos a la salud asociados con el fumar. De acuerdo al Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) o Centro para la Prevención de Enfermedades, "Fumar cigarrillos es la causa más preventiva de muerte prematura en los Estados Unidos". El CDC también reporta que

"Las enfermedades coronarias son la causa principal de muerte para los hispanos que residen en los Estados Unidos".

Asimismo, reporta que "En general, el cáncer al pulmón es la causa principal de muerte entre hispanos en los Estados Unidos".

La Alianza Nacional para La Salud Hispana afirma que "A pesar de que el consumo del tabaco ha disminuido durante los últimos 17 años, las compañías tabaqueras han tratado de crear nuevos mercados con propaganda dirigida a la juventud hispana". Nuestras Voces, un proyecto que funciona a través de la Alianza con fondos proporcionados por la Oficina para la Salud y el Fumar de la CDC, trabaja para contrarrestar esta tendencia. Si necesita ayuda para dejar de fumar, o le gustaría obtener más información al respecto, póngase en contacto con las siguientes organizaciones o visítelas a su dirección Web:

Michigan Department of Community Health, 517-373-3740, www.mdch.state.mi.us.

The National Alliance for Hispanic Health, 202-387-5000, www.hispanichealth.org.

The American Lung Association, 212-315-8700, www.lungusa.org.

The American Lung Association of Michigan, 1-800-678-5864. www.alam.org.

" Fumar cigarrillos es la causa más preventiva de muerte prematura en los Estados Unidos".

—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Here's a Primer on Career Preparation

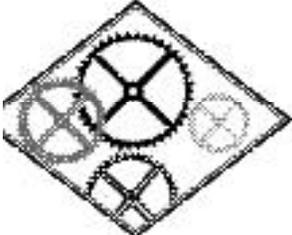


Career Preparation—helping young people get an early start on planning their futures—is one of the Michigan Department of Career Development's major initiatives for the 2001–2002 academic and fiscal year. See the questions and answers below for a handy primer on this statewide effort.

What Is Career Preparation?



Michigan's Career Preparation System is designed to give all students a jump-start on their futures by providing them with opportunities to explore a variety of careers throughout their K–12 education and beyond. This is accomplished through a number of strategies, including integrated instruction that emphasizes the application of academics to the world of work.



Ideally, career preparation begins in elementary school. It continues through the middle grades, high school, and technical school or college by providing students with strategies to help develop their academic, technical, and employability skills. Michigan's Career Preparation System was created through amendments to the FY 1997-98 School Aid Act and a 1997 Executive Order.

Why Do We Need a Career Preparation System?



Massive technological changes taking place in all areas of employment present new challenges to those seeking interesting careers. No longer can young people completing a four-year college degree be assured of employment unless they have the knowledge and skills to meet an employer's needs. Further, the need for unskilled labor continues to decrease. Having the right preparation for a career of choice is critical.

What Are the Goals of the Career Preparation System?



The three basic goals are to: (1) expand the educational choices available to students and parents, (2) ensure that career preparation is an integral part of Michigan's educational system, and (3) increase the involvement of the private sector and other community organizations in the Career Preparation System.

What is the Role of Educators in Career Preparation?

Educators can help students see the connection between various careers and the knowledge and skills they gain in the classroom by integrating real-world examples into their teaching. Providing field trips, speakers, tours, and similar experiences also helps students explore careers.

What Can Parents Do to Encourage their Children in Career Planning?

Parents should talk with their children about favorite school subjects, hobbies, and after-school activities and how these relate to careers. They can encourage their children's school to provide real-work experiences through mentoring, work experience, field trips, and speakers. Parents can also visit job fairs, open houses, and other career-oriented events with their children and provide a positive role model by sharing their own career experiences.

How Can Businesses Become Involved in Career Preparation?

Michigan's Career Preparation System supports collaboration between educators and business/industry. These partnerships open new doors to work-based learning experiences such as job shadowing, tours, non-paid work experiences, school-to-registered apprenticeships, and teacher/counselor internships in business/industry. Employers are also asked to assist educators in assessing student performance and evaluating programs through peer review committees.

Where Can I Obtain More Information about Career Preparation?

Call the Michigan Department of Career Development's toll-free number,

1-866-MY-GOALS (Voice and TTY).



The Career Pathways icons, appearing to the left from top to bottom are as follows: Arts and Communication; Business, Management, Marketing and Technology; Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology; Health Sciences; Human Services; and Natural Resources and Agriscience.

Michigan Department of Civil Service Provides Information About Employment Opportunities

While currently operating under hiring restraints, the Michigan Department of Civil Service continues to provide information about employment opportunities. The state of Michigan is an equal opportunity employer. Some positions may require applicants to take a Civil Service exam, while other jobs require experience, but do not mandate that an applicant take a Civil Service exam. Civil Service rule 1-7 states, "All persons offered employment in the classified service are required to submit to and pass a pre-employment drug test as a condition of employment."

A person can register for jobs online at www.state.mi.us/mdcs/Employ/ijob.htm, and apply for vacancies posted on the Department of Civil Service Web site at www.state.mi.us/mdcs (click on the Civil Service Site Map located under the picture of the Capitol Building, then click on Michigan Vacancy

Postings). The Department of Civil Service provides information on such placements at 517-373-3030 or on the Web at www.state.mi.us/mdcs/Employ/CareerFields/Career_Categories.htm.

The TalentFreeway, at www.TalentFreeway.org, is a comprehensive online source for career information, job opportunities, and training and educational resources, including the Michigan Talent Bank, where job seekers can post resumes and employers can post job openings.

As of September 2000, 1,656 Hispanics worked in civil service positions in Michigan, representing 2.6 percent of state employees. Of these, 1.4 percent (902) were Hispanic women and 1.2 percent (754) were Hispanic men.

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Port Huron Museum Exhibits Mexican Art

¡FIESTA! El Arte Popular De Mexico, a major exhibit of Hispanic art, was at the Port Huron Museum from January 19—March 10. The exhibition showcased beautiful and fascinating objects from the multi-faceted culture of Mexico. The collection, owned by Linda & Michael Margolin, includes an exceptional grouping of Mexican indigenous art obtained over a period of many years. A combination of paper maché, pottery, tin ware, and wooden objects, the art illustrates a wealth of Mexican religious and secular traditions, as well as includes contemporary photographs, and interactive displays of puppets, crafts and music.

The museum, located at 1115 Sixth Street in Port Huron, also featured three contemporary traditional Mexican artists who for eight weeks demonstrated their work and interacted with the public.

This exhibit assisted the Port Huron community in exploring cultural diversity and promoting mutual understanding among its residents. It also provided a rare opportunity to bring an art collection of exceptional quality to the Blue Water Area.

EVENT CALENDAR

Michigan: Hispanic Youth Educational Conferences

March 14, 2002

Siena Heights University and Lenawee County Intermediate School District. For more information contact: Emily Martinez (517) 265-1618

March 22, 2002

Michigan State University and Lansing Community College. For more information contact: Rudy Hernandez (517) 355-0283 or Raul Martinez (517) 483-9803 www.jsri.msu.edu/alsameconf

April 25-26, 2002

Grand Valley State University Grand Rapids Community College and Western Michigan University. For more information contact: Wanda Ferrer (616) 234-3756



Michigan Department
of Career Development
Commission on
Spanish-Speaking Affairs
201 N. Washington Sq., 3rd floor
Lansing, MI 48913 • (517) 373-8339

Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Serves Minority & Small Businesses

The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC) is a viable economic entity representing, but not limited to, the interests of the Hispanic and small business owners in Michigan. MHCC's mission is to identify and serve the needs of minority and small businesses. This is accomplished by promoting the growth of the chamber through membership, and by facilitating partnerships for the economic development of chamber members.

The chamber is committed to working with corporations, educational institutions, and the greater business community to encourage trade with Hispanic businesses, and the economic empowerment of all businesses in Michigan. The chamber's programs include small

business seminars, the international business forum, the early-bird forum, and government affairs mixers.

The MHCC's fundraising activities include the Fiesta Hispana, which is held in the spring; the annual Hank Aguirre golf open, which was held in August last year; and the annual corporate recognition reception, which was held in November.

For more information about the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, call 248-208-9915 or visit their Web site at www.mhcc.org.

(Information for this article was provided by Caleene Jones Newman, vice president and COO, Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.)

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Michigan Department of Career Development • Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs
Dr. Barbara Bohn, MDCD Director • Marcela Quintanilla-Martin, COSBA Executive Director

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