



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

DR. AGUSTIN V.
ARBULU
DIRECTOR

December 8, 2015

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor, State of Michigan
Romney Building
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

Pursuant to Public Act 146 of 2010 (originally P.A.164 of 1975), wherein it is stated that the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan shall submit a full written report of its activities and recommendations each year to the Governor and Legislature, we are pleased to submit to you the 2015 Annual Report of the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan for the calendar year of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

The Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM) worked to accomplish our statutory goals, and in doing so, helped improve the quality of life for Michigan Hispanics by taking the following actions:

- 1) For the second year in a row, the HLCOM entered into an Interdepartmental Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services for the provision of Mental Health Program and Services for the Hispanic/Latino Special Populations. For the fiscal year ending October 31, 2015, two agreements were issued to two mental health agencies that provided mental health services to the Hispanic/Latino community. The HLCOM continued partnerships with the Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS, Detroit – granted \$150,000) and Centro Multicultural La Familia (CMLF, Pontiac – granted \$50,000.) During the reporting period of April 30, 2015 to September 30, 2015, there were 6760 unduplicated persons served. Outreach services were provided to 10,608 individuals; wrap around services provided to 4,992 individuals; and mental health counseling sessions were provided to 5,098 individuals. Wrap-around services provided to clients included domestic and sexual violence, WIC, chronic disease care management, and wellness center activities health services. These services were provided at local churches, health facilities and community centers. In addition, the wrap-around services included transportation, translating & interpreting services, medications, advice on money management, and other information and referrals.
- 2) The Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan held its annual event to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding Hispanics in Michigan, as well as recognize and commemorate the past accomplishments of Cesar E. Chavez. The Commission partnered

with the Capital Area Cesar E. Chavez Commission and the Michigan Hispanic Legislative Caucus. The well-attended annual event was held during 2015 Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15) and celebrated on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at the Radisson Hotel, Lansing. We recognized Hispanic leaders in the following categories: Hispanic Advocate, Business/Economic Development, Lifetime Achievement, Hispanic Educator, Arts, Special Appreciation Award, Legislative of the Years, Hispanic Entrepreneur of the Year, as well as an award for the 1st Hispanic City Manager in Michigan. In addition, an essay contest was offered for Hispanic high school seniors. Those essays selected were awarded a \$500 scholarship. Eight students were presented with a scholarship from the following cities: Saginaw, Detroit, Hartford, Imlay City, Hart, and Holland. The keynote speaker was Mr. Francisco “Pancho” Gonzalez, Vice-President and General Manager of the Michigan Region, McDonalds Corporation.

- 3) A Hispanic Education Summit, in partnership with the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, was held on Oct. 7, 2015 with the Lansing School District. All three Lansing High Schools participated with approximately 3,000 students in attendance. The keynote speaker was Astronaut Jose Hernandez from California. The Summit was sponsored by General Motors.
- 4) The Commission’s Economic Development Committee created a statewide survey to send to all the Hispanic Chambers. The primary purpose of the survey is to gather how the state of Michigan can assist business owners, as well as to create a communication channel for the Hispanic business organizations to the state of Michigan, Governor’s Office and the Michigan Hispanic Caucus. This committee’s work is in progress and a final report will be shared with the Governor’s Office and Legislators upon completion.

On behalf of the Commission and staff, we want to express our appreciation for your commitment to improving the quality of life for Michigan Hispanics, as well as being a welcoming state for immigrants.

Finally, we want to recognize and thank the many state agencies, the organizations around the state and your Executive staff’s assistance in furthering the mission of the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan.

Sincerely,



Gil Guzman
Chairman



Gil Guevara
Vice-Chairman



Marylou Olivarez Mason
Executive Director