

HISPANIC/LATINO
COMMISSION
OF MICHIGAN

Accomplishments Report 2021

Advise. Build. Connect.



Accomplishments Report 2021

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Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Hispanic/Latino Commission Of
Michigan
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity



HISPANIC/LATINO
COMMISSION
OF MICHIGAN

1 Message From The Executive Director

With great pleasure I present the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan's 2021 Report of Accomplishments and Activities. During 2021 HLCOM saw many changes in leadership. After 5 years as Executive Director, the Commission bid farewell to Felipe Lopez-Sustaita, Ed.D. Dr. Lopez-Sustaita led the commission through a transitional period as HLCOM moved from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs into the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. Dr. Lopez-Sustaita integrated several student interns into the work of the commission, providing unique learning opportunities to young Latinx leaders. Additionally, the Commission saw the departure of Commission Coordinator Ms. Ana Manzano who spearheaded several community-based projects and initiatives we continue to partner on today as a Commission. HLCOM welcomed Ms. Francisca Garcia as the new Administrative Assistant. Her work ethic, organizational skills, and deep connection to the Latinx community have already proven invaluable to the commission. While I have only had the privilege of serving as Executive Director of HLCOM for the past three months, I take great pride in sharing the strides the Commission has made prior to my arrival and during this new transitional period.

Recently, the Office of Global Michigan prioritized three areas that HLCOM is excited to focus on as we move toward 2022 and begin to work on strategizing our priorities to be better aligned with the present needs of constituents. The three focus areas include operations, legislation, and community advocacy.

Much of the work of the HLCOM in 2021 centered around Covid-19. 2021 presented continued challenges for the Latinx population due to the presence of Covid-19 and its variants in our communities. HLCOM stepped up to the challenge deciding to utilize mostly virtual platforms to meet constituent needs and disseminate information to the community in a timely fashion, hosting, interviews with medical experts and sponsoring Townhalls that were both linguistically and culturally accessible. HLCOM has played an integral role in making sure that the Latinx population has been prioritized, especially as vaccines became available and were distributed across cities and counties throughout the state. Involvement of commissioners on taskforces and working groups focused on equitable access to information, data collection, vaccine distribution and reporting about the Latinx population. This type of behind the scenes work of commissioners and staff is often unseen but has proven especially valuable as social, economic, educational, employment, and legislative concerns have been compounded by the ever-moving pendulum of the pandemic.

During 2021, HLCOM continued to meet virtually and began to meet in-person in September of 2021. While HLCOM's virtual meetings were well attended and our virtual/on-line efforts reached more than 15,000 individuals, commissioners are excited to have direct in-person interaction with constituents across the state to better understand what is happening in Latinx communities and listen to feedback from constituents.

Our total operating expenses for 2020-2021 were \$250,295. From that, we spent \$144,733 on salaries, \$49,835 on operational costs, \$46,729 on contractual costs, and \$9,000 on programming and grants. Our programming and grants costs were less than normal due to the virtual/on-line nature of much of our programming for 2021 due to the Pandemic.

Finally, I would like to mention that it is an honor to serve in my role. Feel free to email me at: montemayorvazquezi@michigan.gov

Gracias,
Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez
Executive Director



2 Commission Meetings

The Hispanic/Latino Commission is mandated to hold six commission meetings across the state. We continued to host virtual meetings in accordance with the emergency order until September 2021. While our on-line meetings were well attended, we pride ourselves in having community input and participation at commission meetings. We look forward to continued interaction with the public in 2022. To stay updated on our upcoming events and meeting you can visit our website at www.michigan.gov/ogm or check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/hlcommission



Upcoming Meetings:

March 25, 2022

6pm to 8pm
Detroit

April 22, 2022

3pm to 5pm
Lansing

May 20, 2022

6pm to 8pm
Flint

September 16, 2022

6pm to 8pm
Traverse City

October 7, 2022

3pm to 5pm
Kalamazoo

November 18, 2022

6pm to 8pm
Saginaw

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We would like to extend a thank you to our colleagues Jessica Cruz from Washtenaw County and Juan Marinez from Ingham County for their service and dedication to the Hispanic/Latino Commission. We also would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jeremiah Hernandez from Ingham County, who not only served on the commission but served our country in the military.]iä [!Ác [Áb [ä } ä } * Ác @ ^ Á & [{ { ä • • ä [} .





3 Statewide College Graduation

The 5th Annual Statewide Hispanic/Latino College Graduation ceremony was held virtually. Keynote speakers were: Wil Del Pilar, Vice President of Higher Education at the Education Trust; Janet Ibarra, Senior Student at Michigan State University; and Guadalupe Gonzalez, III, Senior Student at the University of Michigan. Special messages from Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Motivational Speaker Eric Thomas were also shared. The event was streamed via YouTube to capture a wide audience to celebrate our states' college graduates.

THE CLASS OF 2021 CELEBRATION

HISPANIC/LATINO
COMMISSION
OF MICHIGAN

HISPANIC/LATINO
COMMISSION
OF MICHIGAN

STATEWIDE HISPANIC/LATINO
COLLEGE GRADUATION
CEREMONY

2021

Virtual Event | **FRIDAY, APRIL 9**
JOIN US ONLINE! | 6 PM - 8 PM

f hlcommission flickr HLCOM Official

EVENT MADE POSSIBLE BY

COMCAST
NBCUNIVERSAL

www.michigan.gov/hlcom



4 COVID-19 Response

The Covid-19 pandemic has created a myriad of challenges for the population across the state, these challenges are compounded further for people of color and the Latinx population in Michigan was especially affected. In order to mitigate risk and communicate essential information to the Latinx population across the state, the Hispanic/Latino Commission was directly involved in multiple Covid-19 related efforts. The former executive director, Felipe Lopez, was directly involved in the Covid-19 Migrant Community Response Initiative to provide access to state-funded testing, vaccinations, isolation housing and financial support for migrant farm workers and food system workers in the State of Michigan. The initiative was a collaboration between the Executive Office of the Governor, Office of Migrant Affairs and HLCOM and led to prioritizing migrant and seasonal farmworkers into a higher vaccine access group. The Commission also played an active role in the Protect Michigan Taskforce Latinx Working Group which has supplied the Executive Office of the Governor with all of the activities and work that the working group has done to prioritize the intersecting needs of Latinx individuals and families across the state during the pandemic. HLCOM worked to provide timely information to the community regarding vaccines, vaccine hesitancy, and recommendations. On two occasions we interviewed Dr. Castillo-MacKenzie (March 25th and April 19th) about Covid-19 and vaccinations as they became available. This work was imperative to quell hesitation in the Latinx community and answer the public's concerns. Additionally, we sponsored and assisted in the planning of a Virtual Spanish Language Town Hall on May 27th which highlighted the opinions and advice of Spanish speaking medical experts and representatives from the Latinx community regarding vaccines and Covid-19.



Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 son para todos

Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 son gratuitas para todos los que viven o trabajan en los EE. UU., independientemente de su estado de inmigración o si tienen o no seguro de salud.



Juntos podemos detener la pandemia.

No se necesita mostrar una identificación para recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19. Los proveedores pueden pedir una identificación, pero no pueden negarse a vacunar a las personas si no la proporcionan.



CS24333-D_MLS-924337_06/07/2021

Encuentre un lugar de vacunación contra el COVID-19 cerca de usted:

www.vacunas.gov



COVID-19 Resources

As the pandemic continues, we ask that everyone does their best to maintain informed and continues to follow safety guidelines. For more information on COVID-19, please use the links below:

- <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/hlcommission/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>



5 Community Outreach and Advocacy



During 2021, the HLCOM Staff and several Commissioners were highlighted on the local Podcast, A Passion to Serve hosted by Don Kuchnicki of Telemon Corporation. Episodes of A Passion to Serve have had more than 4.8K plays with listeners in the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica. Our participation in this podcast reaffirms our commitment to the target audience of Telemon, Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers, and serves as an excellent conduit for information to the wider Latinx audience across the state.

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HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION OF MICHIGAN

"THE HISPANIC/LATINO COLLEGE EXPERIENCE"

Join us for a live roundtable discussion where we will talk about the different backgrounds, college experiences, challenges, and opportunities that four Latinx students from across Michigan hope to share with their community!

MODERATORS:
DR. SAMUEL SALDAR
 Regional Educational Coordinator, MSU Office for Multicultural and Intercultural Initiatives

STUDENT PANELIST:

BETZABETH ARRENDONDO LOPEZ
 Wayne State University

ROSALBA DOMINGUEZ-REBOLLAR
 Michigan State University

CRISTIAN CASANOVA
 University of Michigan

AMANDA OZUNA
 Michigan State University

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22
 2-3 PM EDT

During the pandemic in-person townhalls, roundtables and activities were brought to a halt, yet HLCOM saw this as a unique opportunity to reach students at home with questions about college. During the spring of 2021, a virtual Roundtable Discussion about the Hispanic/Latinx College Experience was held and reached more than 3,000 constituents. This was an especially useful conversation as the college experience has changed significantly during Covid-19 and students have had to find ways to adapt. Student panelists were: Betzabeth Arrendondo Lopez from Wayne State University; Rosaura Dominguez-Rebollar from Michigan State University; Cristian Casanova from the University of Michigan and Amanda Ozuna from Michigan State University.



In October 2021, HLCOM Executive Director, Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez was asked to deliver a speech at the 5th Annual Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) Gala on the importance of working with nonprofit organizations. The event was held in Holland Michigan.

In September 2021 HLCOM's executive director delivered a presentation for the Community Housing Network about forecasting the impact of the Hispanic/Latinx population in Michigan on the future housing market.



Community Outreach and Advocacy

During 2021 the advocacy committee spearheaded by Commissioner Juan Marinez partnered with the Executive Office of the Governor to block the sale of a former state prison that was proposed as the site of a privately operated ICE – federal immigration – detention center. Additionally, the Advocacy Committee continued their work advocating for access to driver's licenses for undocumented individuals and wrote a letter to Senator Stephanie Chang in support of these efforts. HLCOM continues to support the Drive Safe Bills which would undoubtedly improve life for undocumented Latinx individuals and their families.



We have a long-standing collaborative relationship with the Interagency Migrant Service Committee (IMSC) and serve as an active member at monthly interagency meetings. In November 2021 HLCOM advocated for the establishment of a Health Subcommittee. This subcommittee will be tasked with making recommendations, both within state agencies and externally, on how to improve farmworker health and access to health-related services across the state. HLCOM was also asked to serve on the Housing Subcommittee, which is tasked with investigating and making recommendations regarding farmworker housing.

6 Partnerships



In 2021 we began an important collaboration with the Michigan Nonprofit Association. The MNA in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders from across the state have begun efforts to survey all Michigan non-profits to document the diversity present on directive boards and among staff. This is the first effort of its kind and will yield important information about those serving marginalized communities in the non-profit sector. HLCOM is proud to be a part of the survey creation and review process. The survey will be distributed in January 2022.

The Hispanic/Latino Commission was awarded \$5,000 during the fall of 2021 from the Ingham County Health Department to serve as a partner organization on the Ingham County Health Department's Race Equity Data Initiative (REDI) Grant. The purpose of serving as a partner organization is to share information with the ICHD on how to better collect health related data for our specific constituent populations. We are currently in year two on the three-year grant and are planning community events to better understand the systemic issues affecting the health of marginalized population and then collect community feedback regarding ways the ICHD can improve data collection.



Partnerships



While the Latinx community saw many challenges during Covid-19, we are happy to report that a collaboration between the Michigan College Access Network and staff and commissioners from the Hispanic/Latino Commission has resulted in frontline workers, who do not qualify for federal financial aid, being able to access associate's degree or certificate programs tuition free through the MI Echo Scholarship. Our commissioner Sonya Hernandez, as well as former HLCOM staff (Ana Manzano and Felipe Lopez) played a pivotal role advocating for the creation of this tuition scholarship. MI Echo will surely benefit members of the Latinx community commonly excluded from such scholarship opportunities e.g. frontline DACA students and special visa holders. These scholarships will undoubtedly contribute to better opportunities for stable employment and improved standards of living. For more information on the Echo Scholarship please visit www.michiganecho.org.



Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development

In 2021 HLCOM awarded Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) a \$6,000 grant to assess the 2020 US Census. The purpose of this collaboration between HLCOM and LLEAD is to extract relevant Hispanic/Latinx data representative from across the state of Michigan. The funds will be used to support a staff person that can utilize census data sources to consolidate a report that is both accessible and useful to the general public. In addition, the grant will support the creation of an interactive map that allows the community to have visual representation of demographic data. The report and map will be accessible through both LLEAD and HLCOM's websites.

In 2021 HLCOM agreed to partner with LLEAD to create a statewide Hispanic/Latinx directory with up-to-date contact information for all Hispanic/Latinx businesses, sports organizations, non-profits, university student organizations, Spanish speaking medical providers, etc. across the state. This comprehensive undertaking is the first of its kind, connecting constituents to services potentially directing attention to gaps in services in particular geographical locations.



In October 2021 LLEAD partnered with HLCOM to welcome HLCOM's new executive director, Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez. The event was well attended with over 100 individuals showing up in Lansing's north end. Community organizers and leaders from Latinx organizations, and community members arrived to show support of the work of the commission as it enters a new phase.



Meet and Greet with Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez, Executive Director of the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan.



Date: October 28, 2021
Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Location: Sir Pizza 201 Cesar E Chavez Ave, Lansing, MI 48906

Please save the date and plan on joining us for an evening of music, hors d'oeuvres, networking and fun all while getting to know the new Executive Director of the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan.

RSVP to Al Flores at : alflo2@outlook.com

Special Thanks to our sponsors: Lansing Latino Health Alliance, MI ALMA, League of Women Voters, Cafecito Caliente and LCLAA



Our 2021 Commissioners



Monica B. Reyes
Saginaw County



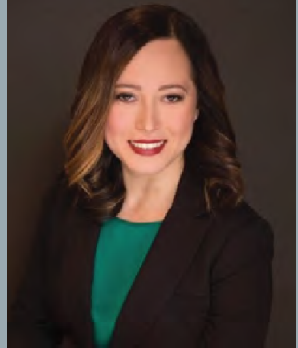
Sonya Hernandez
Muskegon County



Juanita Bocanegra
Ottawa County



Esperanza F. Cantu
Oakland County



Abril Valdes-Siewert
Oakland County



Jesus M Hernandez
Wayne County



Consuela Barber Lopez
Wayne County



Floren시오 Hernandez
Ingham County



Jesse M. Bernal
Kent County



Jessica Cruz
Washtenaw County



Jeremiah Hernandez
Ingham County



Juan Marinez
Ingham County



**Celeste Sanchez
Lloyd**
Kent County



Anthony Rubio
Wexford County



Jose Sanchez, III
Ionia County

Our Staff



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Francisca Garcia

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