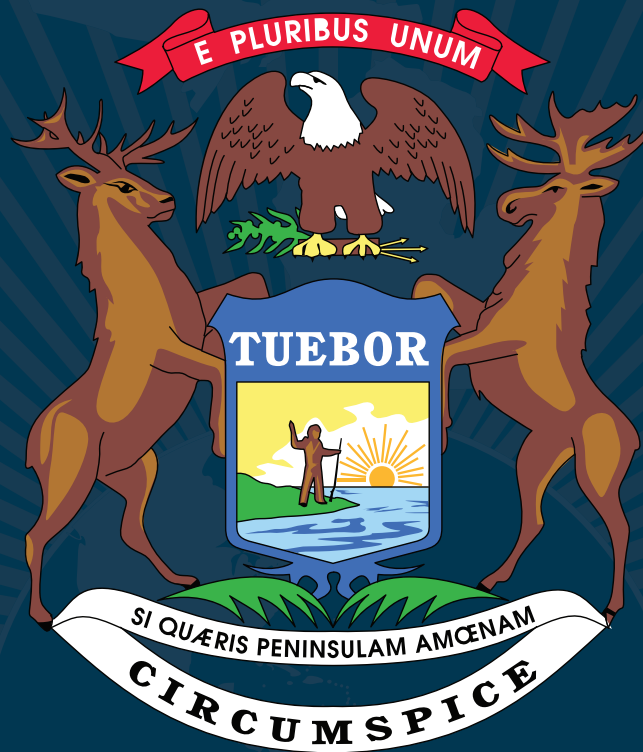




HISPANIC/LATINO  
COMMISSION  
OF MICHIGAN

**LARA**  
LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
CUSTOMER DRIVEN. BUSINESS MINDED.



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FOR 2018

ADVISE. BUILD. CONNECT. 

# Annual Report

## For 2018

### Contents

1. Message from the Executive Director & Chair
2. Work Around the Community
3. Commission Meetings
4. Commission Members
5. Statewide Hispanic/Latino College Graduation
6. HLCOM Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
7. New American's Appreciation Gala
8. Community Snapshots



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COMMISSION CHAIR



The Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM) worked to accomplish its statutory goals, and in doing so, helped improve the quality of life for Hispanic/Latinos across Michigan. Over the past 12 months, Executive Director Felipe Lopez Sustaita and staff drove over 12,000 miles across the state visiting communities and engaging in dialog about the needs that exist within each community.

We have established significant relationships with community leaders, community members, farmers, non-profit organizations, businesses, health organizations, law enforcement, K-12 institutions, colleges and universities, local, state, and federal government organizations and other institutions.

HLCOM has been working toward becoming the focal clearinghouse for information on the Hispanic/Latino community in the State of Michigan, as no other organization in the state has the capacity or resources to undertake such a task. Our small staff creatively explores ways to partner with various organizations and community resources, for a better understanding of our constituents' needs.



Our team is pleased to report another impressive return on taxpayer investment with respect to the funds Governor Rick Snyder recommended and appropriated by the Michigan Legislature. Our commission is an indispensable link between the government and our growing community, and we are committed to develop and implement policies addressing the needs of Hispanic/Latinos in Michigan.

Over 2,500 individuals attended our events this year, and we expect this number to continue to grow in subsequent years. Over 50 public and private partners allowed us to organize and lead programs, trainings, celebrations, and pertinent information to the Hispanic/Latino community in Michigan.

On behalf of all the Commissioners and our dedicated staff, thank you for your support, and look forward to continue our service to the people of Michigan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felipe Lopez Sustaita".

Felipe Lopez Sustaita  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya M. Hernandez".

Sonya Hernandez  
Chairperson

# WORK AROUND THE COMMUNITY



## HISPANIC CAUCUS MEETING

The HLCOM hosted a “Meet & Greet” session with the Michigan Hispanic Legislative Caucus. Topics discussed included future collaborations between the HLCOM and the Caucus, strengthen our communication, and the possibility of planning HLCOM and Caucus joint tri-annual meetings.

## CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY OF CELEBRATION

The HLCOM staff attended the 2018 César Chávez Day of Celebration event at Eastern Michigan University where HLCOM Executive Director Felipe Lopez Sustaita was the Keynote speaker, reaching out to an audience of over 300 attendees about our work with the community.



## IMSC MEETING & OUTREACH

The HLCOM attended the Michigan Interagency Migrant Services Committee (IMSC) meeting at the Telamon Migrant Head Start in Watervliet, Michigan. We had the privilege to participate in the first outreach event of the season where we visited various camps in Watervliet, Benton Harbor, Dowagiac, and Decatur. We had the opportunity to interact with various people living in the camps, and help distribute supplies for families in need.

## CAMRC MEETING

We had the opportunity to attend a Capital Area Migrant Resource Council meeting at Lansing Community College. The Mexican Consulate discussed strategies and collaborations to enhance support for our Michigan Hispanic/Latinos.



## KALAMAZOO VISITS

The Hispanic/Latino Commission staff traveled to Kalamazoo, Michigan to meet with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and El Concilio. Throughout our meetings, we got an in-depth look into what each organization is doing for the Hispanic/Latino community, and furthermore discussed how we can collaborate in the future.



## UPPER PENNINSULA OUTREACH

The HLCOM Executive Director visited Bay College in Escanaba to connect with Hispanic and Latino communities in the U.P. and make sure the students are aware of the resources available to them for their schooling.



## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

## MEETING WITH ICE

The HLCOM met with officials from ICE at their Detroit, MI branch. The purpose for the meeting was to develop further connections between our federal government's immigration activities and our community's concerns.



## WHARTON CENTER PARTNERSHIP

The HLCOM collaborated with Laurie Briseno, Educational Program Coordinator at Michigan State University, to bring Hispanic/Latino high school students from Adrian and Battle Creek to see the play *Paige in Full*, while also providing an opportunity for students to tour MSU campus and learn more about attending college.



## REL MIDWEST DOCUMENTARY

"Making it: Latino Students' Pathways to College" serves to support and encourage our Hispanic/ Latino constituents in higher education. MSU Camp and Detroit's Cristo Rey School are featured in the documentary and share their success stories as well as offering advice on how others can excel in higher education.



## HONORING HISPANIC/LATINO MEDIA

The HLCOM helped sponsor this event recognizing statewide media outlets for keeping our Hispanic/Latino constituents informed and involved. These outlets continue to serve as communication channels, especially for those with a language barrier.

# 2018 COMMISSION MEETINGS



The Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan is mandated to hold six Commission Meetings across the State. In 2018 the meetings were hosted in the following cities: Detroit (2 meetings), West Olive, Dearborn, Saginaw, and Wyoming. These meetings provide the HLCOM with a platform to inform our constituents of the Commission's work, while also receiving direct input from community members in their respective cities. HLCOM uses this to understand the issues and concerns within the State's Hispanic/Latino communities from first-hand sources and adjust their areas of focus accordingly. In addition, the last meeting of the year is combined with the commission's strategic planning session, where the HLCOM prioritizes its goals for the upcoming year. Since last year's implementation of the strategic planning session, we have also experienced a higher turnout of constituents during our events.

# COMMISSION MEMBERS



**Sonya Hernandez**  
Muskegon County



**Monica B. Reyes**  
Saginaw County



**Juanita Bocanegra**  
Ottawa County



**Esperanza F. Cantu**  
Oakland County



**Angela Baldwin**  
Oakland County



**Keysha Camps**  
Saginaw County



**Jessica Cruz**  
Marquette County



**Jeremiah Hernandez**  
Ingham County



**Jose Antonio Lopez**  
Wayne County



**Juan Marinez**  
Saginaw County



**Carlos E. Pava**  
Kent County



**Anthony Rubio**  
Kent County



**Ivonne M. Soler**  
Wayne County



**Jesse Venegas**  
Oakland County





# STATEWIDE HISPANIC/LATINO COLLEGE GRADUATION CEREMONY 2018

Our annual Statewide Hispanic/Latino College Graduation Ceremony focuses on celebrating the academic achievements of Hispanic/Latino College and University students across the State of Michigan, and the people that supported them throughout their journey. In 2018 there were over 350 people in attendance and nearly 80 graduates who walked across the stage to be recognized, exponentially exceeding last year's numbers.

Among these graduates were students from 15 different institutions in the State of Michigan: Davenport University, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Lake Michigan College, Marygrove College, Michigan State University, Mott Community College, Northern Michigan University, Palmer College of Chiropractic, Siena Heights University, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University.

The HLCOM is already setting next year's graduation ceremony into motion, which will be held in the Dart Auditorium at Lansing Community College, as we begin looking for new sponsors and partners to help the event grow even further.







# 2018 HLCOM HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



## 2018 Top 50 Latinas of Michigan



HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION OF MICHIGAN



As part of our mandate, the HLCOM holds a Hispanic Heritage Month event, where we highlighted various community members to an audience of over 450 attendees. This year, the HLCOM recognized the achievements of 50 Latinas from across Michigan, as a way to celebrate their impact on our Hispanic/Latino population. We also awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships to college students across Michigan, as part of the HLCOM's continuing efforts to promote success in higher education. Finally, six community members were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the State of Michigan.



EVENT MADE POSSIBLE BY



College of Social Science  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



## 2018 NEW AMERICANS APPRECIATION GALA

The 2nd New Americans Appreciation Gala (NAAG) was a joint effort of the four Michigan ethnic Commissions: The Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM), Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC), Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA), and Michigan Office for New Americans (MONA). We joined together to celebrate and acknowledge the tremendous contributions that immigrant business owners have contributed to the employment of thousands of Michiganders and the State's economy.

## COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



*MANA de Metro Detroit Annual Brindis Luncheon.*



*Camp visits with IMSC in western Michigan.*



*EMU César E. Chávez Celebration Luncheon*



*Visit to El Concilio, non-profit in Kalamazoo.*



*Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration in Saginaw.*



*Commission meeting in Detroit.*



# HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION OF MICHIGAN

**LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program**

611 W. OTTAWA □ P.O. BOX 30004 □ LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/hlcom](http://www.michigan.gov/hlcom) □ 517-373-8339