



2018

ANNUAL

REPORT



Latino Affairs
Commission

Our Mission

TO ADVISE State Government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans

To BUILD the diverse Latino communities across the state

TO CONNECT the capacity of community organizations so they may better serve the fast growing population of Ohio

Core Values

BUILD cooperation and understanding between Hispanic Ohioans and government by providing resources and informing state leaders on issues impacting Hispanic Ohioans.

COLLABORATE with the community to promote engagement, education and inclusion to ensure Latinos are part of the fabric of this state.

PARTNER with state agencies to ensure equity and access to culturally relevant programs and services for Latinos.

IDENTIFY matters impacting the Latino community through policy analysis and data driven research to form the foundation for systemic change in state government.

ENGAGE with the national Latino agenda and align our initiatives with efforts that seek to empower and integrate Latinos in the United States.

PLAN the work of the commission based upon the outlined strategic priorities that meet the needs of the Latino community.

ENCOURAGE new ideas and support acceptance of differing ideas or beliefs.

Fellow Ohioans,

2018 has been a year filled with numerous accomplishments, many of which were possible thanks to the great partnerships the Latino Affairs Commission has formed. We are proud of the work our small team continues to achieve and are pleased to document the significant return on taxpayer investment with respect to the funds recommended by Governor Kasich and appropriated by the Ohio Legislature for our agency.



Throughout the year, we organized successful conferences and summits on issues ranging from education and civic engagement to health. Over 1,124 individuals attended our events. Our more than 50 public and private partnerships allowed us to bring forth programs, trainings and pertinent information to Hispanic Ohioans. Our staff continues to work towards implementing our Governor's program priorities and to fulfill our legislative mandates. We are grateful to our interns and volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to accomplish our policy goals and to develop programming that serves the entire community.



In Ohio, the Latino community has more than tripled since 1980, and now more than ever civic engagement will play a defining role. This is why expanding the connections between Hispanics/Latinos, their elected representatives and local/state government is critical to ensure inclusion, participation and collaboration. Our Commission looks forward to working closely with Governor Mike DeWine's administration and the 133rd General Assembly to move forward policies and programs that empower ethnic minorities to become productive members of society. During the progression of the new year, we also look forward to continuing to foster strong partnerships with federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and Latino community leaders to continue our work.

On behalf of all commissioners and our dedicated staff, thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Santiago".

Mary J. Santiago
Chairwoman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lilleana Cavanaugh".

Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA, CPM
Executive Director

Getting To Know Our Future Leaders

LILIANA VASQUEZ
Simakovsky Law – Attorney



Where are you from and what brought you to Columbus? I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Since high school, my goal was to attend law school and practice immigration law. I received my bachelor's from the University of Texas at El Paso. Subsequently, I was accepted to The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law. Initially, my intention was to return to Texas and practice there. However, as my law school graduation neared, I accepted a position with the firm I had been interning for throughout law school.

What's your current position? Can you give us an overview of what it is that you do in your work? What do you hope to accomplish? I am an Immigration Attorney at Simakovsky Law. I do a variety of things, such as answer client's legal questions, represent individuals before an immigration judge, appear with clients before The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS),

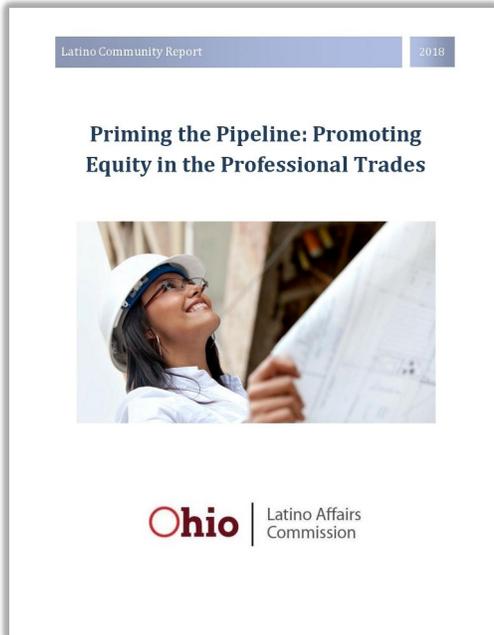
accompany clients to meetings with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officers. I also handle a wide array of cases, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Applicants, Asylum for natives of countries all over the world, Adjustment of Status and Cancellation of Removal, as well as educate the public about the constant changes within the immigration realm, just to name a few.

Tell us about an accomplishment that you are proud of that created an impact for Latinos. Latinos in Columbus are accustomed to places where people don't speak Spanish. For clients to come into our office and see that we have professionals that speak their native language gives them comfort. Secondly, some details of an individual's case may be lost in translation if communicating through an interpreter. These details often provide important information that can greatly impact the case. Third, being able to culturally connect with a client helps me obtain the information I need, while being respectful of any trauma the client may have. Lastly, it's good for Latino youth to see a Latina attorney helping out the community and playing a key role in professional environments. I recall meeting with a woman who had immigration questions. Towards the end of our conversation, the woman asked for my business card and so did her daughter. The little girl's face lit up when she saw we had the same last name. I remember the mom telling her "See, maybe one day you can become an attorney too!" This incident solidified the belief that it is very important for our Latino youth to see themselves being represented in all professional fields, especially as we strive to encourage Latino youth to pursue higher education.

How do you see your work impacting Latinos in the future? Currently, as the president of the LULAC (The League of United Latin American Citizens) Columbus Chapter, I am working to provide scholarships for incoming or current Hispanic/Latino college students. Through LULAC, our hope is to directly support Hispanic/Latino youth reach their educational goals. In my work as an immigration attorney, I hope to continue transforming lives through the legal services I provide, make legal services in Spanish accessible and assuring the Hispanic/Latino community stay informed about all immigration changes that may affect them.

Latino Community Reports

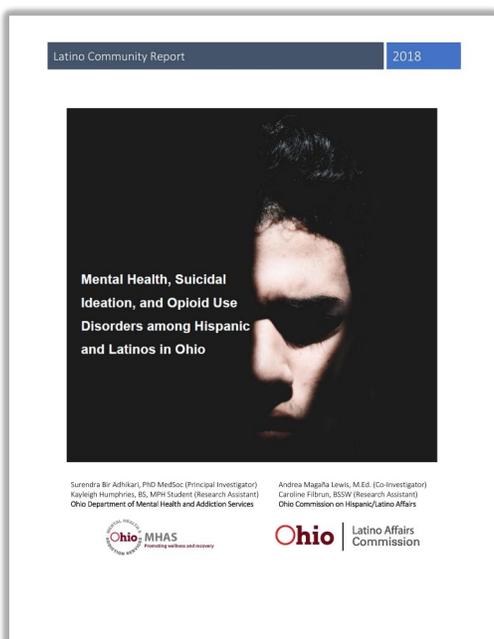
Our Commission publishes bi-yearly reports that educate and facilitate discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing Hispanic Ohioans. Our reports are distributed to members of the Ohio legislature, the Governor's office and other state agencies of interest and community organizations. In 2018, our research focused on workforce development and health equity.



Priming the Pipeline: Promoting Equity in Professional Trades

The skilled trades profession is facing a substantial workforce shortage as Baby Boomers retire with studies estimating that 31 million skilled trades positions will be left vacant by the year 2020. Minorities often drop out of these programs and Latinos are no exception. The recruitment of professionals trained to fill the gaps in skilled trades is critical to the economy.

- There are 1,000 registered apprenticeships in Ohio
- 48% apprenticeship drop-out rate for Latinos
- The average salary of a tradesperson is \$70,251



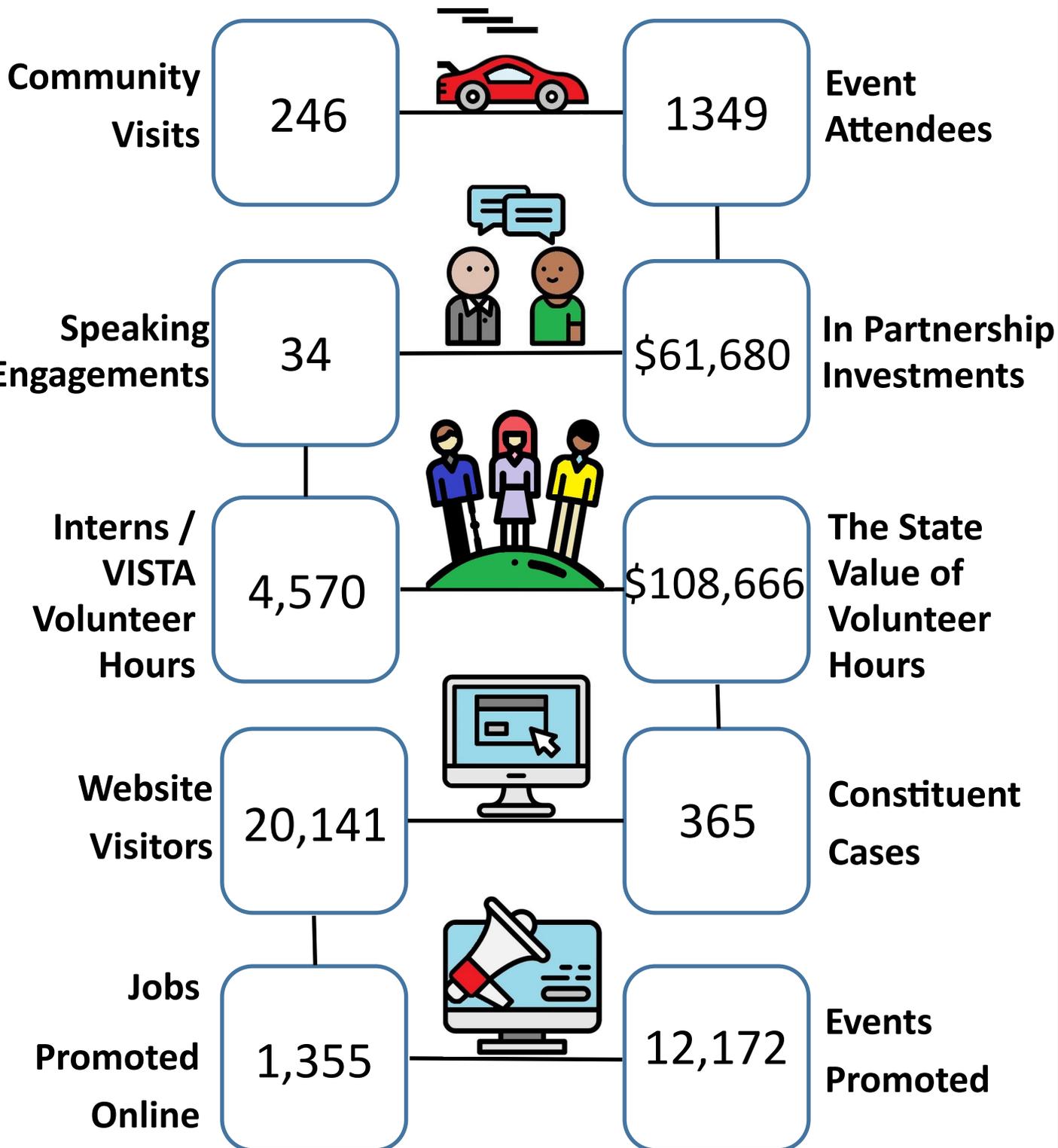
Mental Health, Suicidal Ideation, and Opioid Use Disorders among Hispanic and Latinos in Ohio

Mental illness and serious psychological distress is not uncommon among Hispanic/Latinos. Immigrants and refugees endure years of trauma prior to their arrival to the US and as they integrate to American culture. Children often navigate multiple cultures and adopt new cultural norms; often individuals live in mixed status families with constant fear of familial separation, resulting in serious impact to the individual and collective psyche of the community.

- In Ohio, one third of Hispanic/Latinos cite lack of transportation or inability to miss work as the reason for their low rates of service utilization; another third cites prejudice and/or discrimination.
- Close to 37% of admitted Hispanic/Latino clients had abused opioids as their primary drug of choice.
- One fifth of Hispanic/Latino clients who reported taking opioids also reported having a mental history.

El Gran Impacto

The Big Impact



Community Engagement Capacity Building

2018 Ohio Latino Health Summit

At The University of Akron

“Emerging and Converging Latino Health Issues in Ohio: Demographics, Epidemiology and Access”

The 7th annual Latino Health Summit took place at the University of Akron. This year’s summit challenged participants to better understand the needs of suburban and rural Latinos, who often work in agriculture or service industries, and who often lack the support systems found in major metro areas. Topics such as behavioral health and chronic health issues led the discussion among leaders, members of academia, government personnel, and social service providers. The keynote address delivered by Dr. Kenneth L. Dominguez from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, provided an overview of Latino health challenges nationally. The 170 participants discussed topics ranging from inclusion, health in the job, the impact of stress, cancer and chronic health issues.



2018 Ohio Latino Education Summit

At The Ohio State University

“Empowering Teachers and Building Pipelines for Inclusive Education”



Prior to the Ohio Latino Education Summit, 60 participants joined the World Café, which served as a structured conversation process for (1) devising strategies for Latino teacher recruitment and (2) discussing ways to implement culturally appropriate approaches in the classroom. The World Café provided a solid foundation for better understanding, dialogue and collaboration.

The 2018 Ohio Latino Education Summit focused on building pipelines to the teaching profession and understanding the challenges teachers face as they work to meet the growing needs of ethnically diverse students. Best practices on how to increase interest on the teaching profession were discussed, as well as ongoing successful programs that excel in Latino students academic performance through engagement with students, families, and communities. Our keynote speaker Dr. Glenn Martinez, challenged the audience of more than 160 participants to celebrate the value of multiculturalism and bilingualism in our youth as a tangible asset for future prosperity. Dr. Patricia Enciso was recognized with “La Cumbre” (The Summit) award for her investment on education.

2018 Agenda Latina - Unidos Adelante



Agenda Latina brings together Latino organizations to build capacity, share best practices, and learn about government programs that impact Latinos. In 2018, twenty eight participants worked on strategic effectiveness and impact. The workshop on “Strategic Doing” was led by Dr. Rena Cotsones & Marco Lenis and redefined the understanding of strategy, the impact of linking assets to create shared value, and how collaboration and a clear focus on areas of expertise will impact program delivery in the future.

Participants also received updates on the Census 2020, the Latino Vote, initiatives in Trauma Informed Care and support services from the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service Division.

University of Cincinnati Student Leadership Summit - RISE UP



For the third consecutive year, the Commission and the University of Cincinnati partnered to host this unique student leadership conference to build capacity, expose youth to role models and build their confidence and leadership skills. Judge Marylyn Zayas, 1st District Court of Appeals (Hamilton County), and the first Latina elected as a judge in Ohio inspired the students to aim high and work for their career goals. The summit included 11

concurrent sessions with presenters from the Greater Cincinnati Community, undergraduate, graduate students, and staff from the University of Cincinnati. Over 100+ attended the summit, including students from the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Northern Kentucky University, The Ohio State University, and Mount St. Joseph University.

Project PIPEline: Pathway to Industry Preparation & Education

In an effort to improve the educational outcome, increase the exposure to professional trades, and enrich the leadership skills of diverse youth, the Latino Affairs Commission launched Project PIPEline. In partnership with the Department of Education, the Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools, Rosemore Middle School and trade representatives, the program seeks to support diverse youth in pursuit of a career in skilled trades through mentorship and experiential education. This Fall, over 100 children at Rosemore Middle School experienced a “Trade Fair” to spark their interest and curiosity. The program will include family engagement and regular opportunities to experience and explore technical and vocational careers.



Civic Engagement

Advancing the Latino Agenda

2018 Legislative Visit Day At The Ohio Statehouse

The Legislative Visit Day gathered more than 300 participants to meet their elected officials and learn more about government. In an effort to encourage youth and citizens to serve, Latino elected officials from across Ohio showcased the first ever “Latino Elected Officials Panel,” to provide insight to the unique challenges and opportunities of serving in public office. Mr. Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) challenged the youth to become involved and to vote.



Latino leaders met with legislators to talk about business creation, workforce development, educational needs, civil rights, and engaging Latinos at the local level. A full track was tailored to Latino youth, to meet with different elected officials and present their agendas for consideration. The Commission partnered with the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, Prospanica, The Kroger Company and the Libre Institute for this event.

Latino Leader Collaboratives

Engaging Government Officials Locally

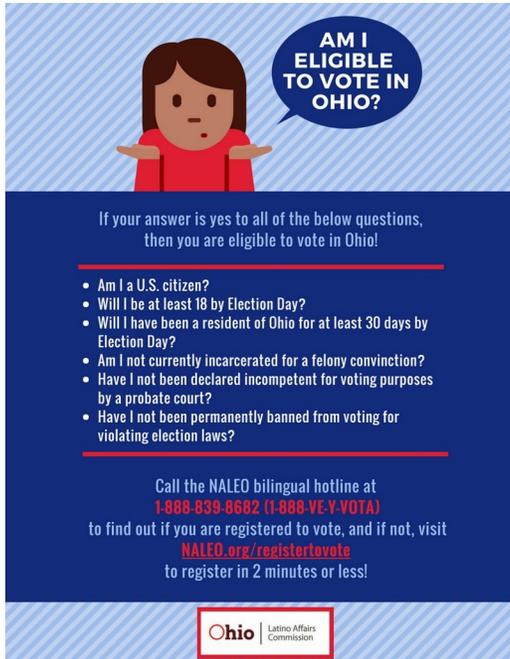
The collaboratives provide Latino leaders and key government representatives the opportunity to discuss policy matters impacting their region, key challenges, and how to better serve Hispanics.

Since 2016, The Cincinnati Collaborative has tackled important issues such as bullying in schools and higher education. In 2018, the group focused on civic and voter engagement, the exploration of technical and vocational career opportunities for Latino Youth, and hosted experts on matters ranging from graduation options for English Learners aging out of the school system, to the status for immigrants, migrants, and refugees.



The Toledo Collaborative started at the end of 2017 and centered on understanding the local landscape and establishing work priorities. In 2018, the group focused on workforce development, specifically addressing young talent. The ECHO Initiative “Exposing Careers to Hispanic Ohioans” was launched this year, and it is an original workforce development taskforce designed to recruit, support, and connect diverse youth to career ready opportunities with ‘in-demand’ occupations that require function explicit training.

Voter Mobilization Campaign: Every Vote Matters!



AM I ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN OHIO?

If your answer is yes to all of the below questions, then you are eligible to vote in Ohio!

- Am I a U.S. citizen?
- Will I be at least 18 by Election Day?
- Will I have been a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days by Election Day?
- Am I not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction?
- Have I not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court?
- Have I not been permanently banned from voting for violating election laws?

Call the NALEO bilingual hotline at **1-888-839-8682 (1-888-VE-Y-VOTA)** to find out if you are registered to vote, and if not, visit NALEO.org/register2vote to register in 2 minutes or less!

Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

The eligible Latino electorate in Ohio is comprised by 199,000 potential voters; practically, half of the Hispanic population in Ohio eligible to vote. Their ability to influence policy has become stronger and essential to this new era in our state where minorities are becoming influential and predictors of elections. To increase Latino participation and understanding of this important civic duty, the Commission launched a campaign to educate, empower and get Latinos to the polls.

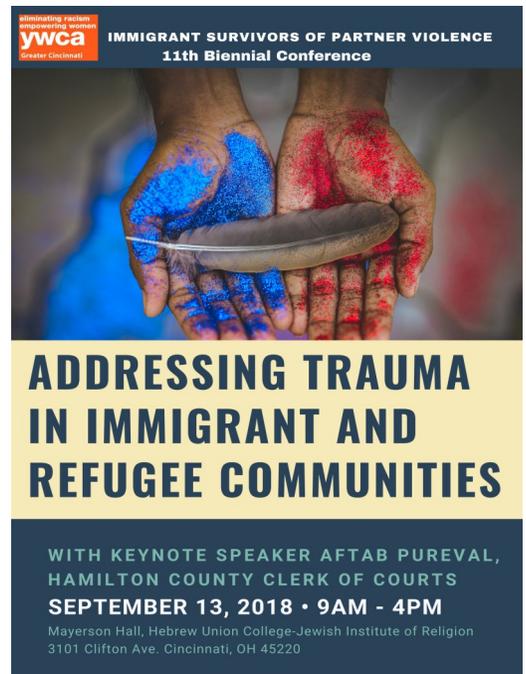
Over 3,000 printed bilingual informational posters were distributed through partner and community organizations. Media kits explaining eligibility, registration, identification, language access and the importance of the vote were disseminated via social media campaigns in Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and through partner organizations. Hispanic/Latinos are committed to influencing the composition and political atmosphere of the state, and our

commission will continue to provide voter and civic engagement education to strengthen the Latino electorate in Ohio.

Mental Health and Trauma Informed Care

Over the last two years, the Commission has made important progress advocating for the mental health needs of Latinos/Hispanics and the impact that trauma in its many different forms has on the population. From participating as presenters in the Trauma Informed Care Conference hosted by Ohio's Department of Mental Health to partnering with SAMHSA's National Hispanic & Latino Addiction Technology Center Network (ATTC) for targeted training.

Two trainings for experts serving the mental and behavioral needs of the Latino community were provided in 2018 on the topic of the Impact of Repeated Trauma of Immigration on the Individual and Collective Psyche, presented by Dr. Salvador Trevino, a national expert in the field.



**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Greater Cincinnati**

**IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS OF PARTNER VIOLENCE
11th Biennial Conference**

**ADDRESSING TRAUMA
IN IMMIGRANT AND
REFUGEE COMMUNITIES**

**WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER AFTAB PUREVAL,
HAMILTON COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 • 9AM - 4PM**

Mayerson Hall, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
3101 Clifton Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45220

Getting To Know Our Future Leaders



Liane Dávila-Martín, MPH

College of Veterinary Medicine

Where are you from and what brought you to Columbus? I am from Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. I moved to Columbus, Ohio when I was 16 years old due to my dad's employment; he works for the federal government.

What's your current position? Can you give us an overview of what it is that you do in your work? What do you hope to accomplish? I am a full-time veterinary student at The Ohio State University. This is my first semester in this program, but I've been a student here since 2011, completing both my undergraduate and my master's degrees.

I am interested in the public health field within veterinarian medicine. This includes research for zoonotic diseases, things like Ebola or Malaria. A zoonotic disease is any disease that can be transmitted from an animal to a human or human to an animal. I hope to work for a federal agency like CDC. I'm interested in

monitoring or going into different parts of the world to see how protocols for outbreaks and other types of disease are being handled and how we can improve. This includes work in public health, specifically through veterinary medicine, where you work to improve the health of both the human and animal populations and that's what I want to do.

Tell us about an accomplishment that you are proud of that created an impact for Latinos? The Ohio State University has a Puerto Rican Student Association (PRSA) and many of us came directly from the island. Our families were back home when Hurricane Maria happened. We lost communication with our families for days, some of us for weeks. I didn't hear from my family until late October and the only way that we could cope was to help somehow. Thanks to PSRA, The Ohio State University, and especially the Latino community, we were able to conduct multiple fundraisers where we worked together as a big team, raised money and collected donated items that were sent to the island directly.

Up until that moment, I had not realized how big of a community we are. We're just hidden within the university. We had some military individuals that were from Puerto Rico who came out with barrels of water. They mentioned they heard us on the radio and thought what we were doing was amazing. We've never heard of these people before, then after that we just became a big family at the university. The effect of our community involvement also brought awareness to a lot of people that we, as Puerto Ricans, are United States citizens. It was a big collaborative effort. It was a lot of work, but if it had not been because of them and the rest of the Puerto Rican Student Association, this would not have been possible.

How do you see your work impacting Latinos in the future? At least in my career in veterinary medicine, Latinos are not known. You always hear about these great veterinarians and scientists, right? I have yet to hear about a Latino or Hispanic representing the community in this field. I hope to not just be a leader for my peers and my colleagues, but also to encourage other Latinos. I hope that in the future as a veterinarian and as a Latina, I can empower other Latinos to pursue a career in sciences. I don't know where my path will lead me, but if I do end up doing clinical work, I want to provide services at a low cost and encourage other Latinos to come and pursue veterinary medicine.



HISPANIC IMPACT

HIGHLIGHTING LATINOS IN OHIO

Each day, Hispanic/Latinos contribute to build our economy and create a better state for all. They educate our youth, work in the public, non-profit and private sector; they lead companies and social service organizations. Many volunteer and work for social causes, while others serve in a wide range of jobs – from city mayors to police chiefs, physicians, teachers and more.

The Hispanic Impact Campaign places the spotlight on leaders making a difference, and serves as a tool to inspire our youth, encourage our community and recognize the positive change they bring.



“The Community needs to know that they have someone they can trust, and someone who is going to watch their back.”

- José Morales Crispin

Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
Hispanic Community Outreach and
Engagement Coordinator

“ I believe it’s a privilege to assist people who work so hard and who are doing the strenuous labor to put food on our tables.”

- Maria Goeser



State of Ohio’s Farm Labor
Monitor Advocate

“At the end of the day if you can lay in bed and feel that your sacrifices have impacted the lives or changed the narrow mindset that exists out there in the world, then it is all worth it.”

-Jasmin Santana



Councilwoman Ward 14
City of Cleveland

“The most enjoyable and rewarding part of my job with the radio station is definitely the listeners’ comments when they say that having this radio station is one of the best things that has happened to them.”

- Linda Parra



Founder & Broadcaster
Nuestra Gente Community
Projects, Inc. (Toledo)

“As a group, we don’t recognize limitations and we don’t believe that anything is impossible, therefore, the sky is the limit.”

- Dan Molina



Vice Chair
Ohio Commission on
Hispanic/Latino Affairs

2018 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala

At Lorain County Community College
“Unlocking Latino Student Success”

The Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards were presented in partnership with Lorain County Community College to recognize the contributions of Hispanics to the betterment of the state of Ohio. Selected individuals have excelled in community engagement and leadership, including military service of distinction. Additionally, the Commission recognizes partners in the community who go beyond to be inclusive, to support and build prosperity, and to recognize the value of Hispanics in their communities.

In 2018, the Commission presented four Military Service of Distinction Awards, nine Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards and eight Nuestra Familia (Our Family) Awards to celebrate outstanding leaders from all corners of the state.

As a result of the gala, a scholarship was created by the Lorain County Community Foundation to support Latinos pursuing their education at the Lorain County Community College.



Notable Highlights of the Year

- Cincinnati Reds 2018 Hispanic Heritage Month - Fiesta Rojos
- The Cleveland Browns 2018 Hispanic Heritage Month players recognition
- New American Advisory Council - 2018 New American Forum
- 2018 Latino Education World Café
- Ohio Latino Workforce and Business Summit
- Heritage Language Summit at The Ohio State University
- ATTC Behavioral Health Roundtables
- Annual CCTS Scientific Meeting: Teaming up on Science for a Healthier Ohio
- Wexner Hispanic Heritage Month
- St. Paul School - Hispanic Heritage Month
- Creation of Akron & Canton Latino Networking Meetings



Public Engagement Committees and Councils

Our team of professionals often serves in different roles, providing expertise and knowledge about Latinos and other ethnic minorities. Our expertise in community relations, outreach, capacity building and government relations makes a difference as government entities work to be more inclusive and assertive in its services to growing communities across Ohio. The commission serves in the following groups:

- Fairness and Sensitivity Data Review Committee, Ohio Department of Education
- Human Trafficking Commission, Attorney General Mike DeWine
- Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Board, Ohio Department of Mental Health and addiction Services
- Ohio Attorney General's Diversity Council
- Ohio Preventive Health and Health Services Advisory Council, Ohio Department of Health
- New American Advisory Council, Franklin County
- Franklin County Sherriff's Community Advisory Council
- Ohio Department of Education, Education Diversification Taskforce
- Statewide Advisory and Planning Team Committee, Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural competence
- Minority Health Advisory Committee, Columbus Public Health
- Red Cross Latino Blood Drive Community Committee



Resources & Directories

Connecting and Serving the Community

Our Commission empowers the community and connects them to resources through the use of technology. Nearly two thirds of Hispanics countrywide use social media; among adults, Facebook and WhatsApp are mostly used, while the younger generation are regulars in Instagram, Twitter as well. Social media is a great medium to educate, inform and support the Hispanic community. Through its website: <http://ochla.ohio.gov>, resources are made available, including directories and informational pages.

Directory of Latino Serving Organizations in Ohio—OLAnet:

The "OLAnet" is the Ohio Latino Network Directory, which can be used to find local Latino serving organizations across Ohio.

Catalogue of Hispanic Outreach Initiatives - CLOI

A directory of bilingual services offered by Ohio's state agencies.

Job Opportunities Page:

Our on-going log of employment opportunities of interest to Latinos from various employers throughout the state of Ohio.

ESL Classes Catalogue:

A comprehensive listing of English as a Second Language programs across Ohio.

Other directories include:

- Translators and Interpreters Directory
- Ohio Attorneys Directory
- Ohio Hispanic Churches Directory
- Ohio Latino Media List
- Ohio Latino Scholarship Network Resources
- Central Ohio Latino Health & Social Services Directory
- Canton Latino Resource Directory
- Columbus Resettlement Kit for Puerto Ricans
- Government Resources Directory
- DACA Information Page
- Navigating the US Health Care System Resources
- Apprenticeship Resources
- Ohio Directories & Grant Resources
- Statistics & Demographics website page

Our Partners and Collaborators



Our Board of Commissioners and Team

Board of Commissioners

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Dan Molina

Vice Chair
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Beth Guzmán-Bowman

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Representative Dan Ramos

(Lorain)

Representative Rick Perales

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Juan Jaimes, MPP

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Lair Marin-Marcum

Community Liaison

Annette Reyes

Administrative Professional

Janwin Zeegar-Holman

Organizations Development Coordinator
AmeriCorps Vista

Jesse Dotson

Outreach & Social Media
AmeriCorps Vista

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