



**Ohio** | Latino Affairs  
Commission

**LEON**  
latino empowerment outreach network

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Friday, October 16, 2015 | 6:30pm  
Hilton Columbus Downtown

**Great achievements start  
with the power of dreams.**

Congratulations to the 2015  
Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan  
Award Recipients.



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# 2015 AWARDEES



## Special Recognition

Juan Andrade



## “Alma de la Comunidad” Award

Anamaria Perales-Lang – Central Ohio



## Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans

Manuel Santana Sr. – Lorain  
Tillie Hidalgo Lima – Cincinnati  
Joselito Gracia – Beavercreek  
Ruben Contreras – Cincinnati  
Luis Cartagena – North Ridgeville



## Nuestra Familia “Our Family”

Leonard Hubert – Columbus  
Alyssa Wagner – Dayton  
Kel Fligner – Lorain  
Ed Cohn – Columbus



## Latino Military Service of Distinction

Major Pedro Muñoz – Bellbrook  
SMSgt. Anita Menchaca-Bratton – Bowling Green

# PROGRAM

## *35<sup>th</sup> annual* DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARDS GALA

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

#### **WELCOME**

Lilly Cavanaugh, Executive Director, OCHLA

Michael Florez, Chair, OCHLA

#### **INVOCATION**

Rev. Juan Rivera, Commissioner, OCHLA

#### **DINNER BREAK**

#### **NUESTRA FAMILIA AWARDS**

#### **LEON ALMA DE LA COMUNIDAD AWARD**

Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, President, LEON

Thalia Amador, Vice President, LEON

#### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Juan Sepúlveda, Vice President, PBS

#### **OCHLA SPECIAL RECOGNITION DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOANS AWARDS LATINO MILITARY SERVICE AWARDS**

#### **AFTERPARTY**



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Congratulates the **2015**  
*Distinguished*  
**Hispanic Ohioan**  
Award Recipients

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION  
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER  
FISHER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
STUDENT LIFE MULTICULTURAL CENTER



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Communities

**BELLE HARBOUR COMMENDS THE DISTINGUISHED  
HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARD RECIPIENTS  
AND CONGRATULATES:**

**ANAMARIA PERALES LANG**

**FOR THE "ALMA DE LA COMUNIDAD" AWARD!**

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AND FORESTRY  
BANKING, HOUSING,  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
FINANCE  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ETHICS  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 16, 2015

Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs  
Riffe Center - 18th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Friends:

Please allow me to extend my congratulations as the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA) celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala, in partnership with the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON).

The Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is an important cultural influence in our state. The Public Policy Center, Latino Community Network, and Organizations Development Center each have a positive impact on the quality of life in the community and in our state. In partnership with the OCHLA, the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network is dedicated to the development and support of programs to educate and empower Latinos. Through your joint dedication to advise, connect, and build, you have strengthened families, communities and the very fabric of our state.

Thank you and congratulations again on your 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Gala. I wish you all the best in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

SB:sgz

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ROB PORTMAN  
OHIO

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
BUDGET  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
FINANCE  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

October 16, 2015

Ms. Lilleana Cavanaugh, MBA, CPM  
Executive Director  
Ohio Latino Affairs Commission  
Riffe Center  
77 South High Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Cavanaugh,

I extend my warmest welcome to all gathered at the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Distinguished Hispanic Awards Gala, "Somos." I applaud the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission and the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network for its dedication to preserving and promoting Hispanic culture in Ohio.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration, and keep in touch.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



JOHN R. KASICH  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

October 16, 2015

Greetings,

On behalf of the State of Ohio, I extend a warm welcome to the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission (OCHLA) and the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON) as you host the 2015 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Columbus. This year's event marks a very special milestone - the 35<sup>th</sup> year for this annual celebration!

OCHLA's longtime service, dedication, and leadership to serving Ohio's Hispanic/Latino community are commendable. Additionally, I admire LEON's efforts to building an empowered Latino community in the areas of health, education, advocacy, and communication.

I am proud of Ohio's rich cultural diversity. The Hispanic/Latino community is one of the largest growing ethnic communities in our great state and has contributed significantly to Ohio's economic, social, and political climate.

I would like to extend a special welcome to tonight's honorees who will receive the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award, the "Nuestra Familia" Award, the Latino Military Service of Distinction Award, and the "Alma de la Comunidad" Award. Each of you has excelled in your respective roles of service to our state and country.

I commend everyone gathered together for tonight's event. Your support of these organizations is appreciated and I extend my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable evening!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John R. Kasich".

John R. Kasich  
Governor

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October 16, 2015

Honored Guests,

Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos!

On behalf of Governor Kasich and our Board of Commissioners, we are delighted that you are joining us for this special 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards. Our theme this year “Somos...” (We Are...), invites us to reflect upon our heritage, the outstanding contributions we are bringing to our communities and the important role we are playing in the future of Ohio and the nation.

We are honored to come together again with the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network—LEON—to recognize caring individuals. We are indeed making a great difference, impacting lives and producing positive change in our communities. Today, we are presenting LEON’s Alma de la Comunidad (Soul of the Community) Award, our Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans, Nuestra Familia (Our Family) and the Latino Military Service of Distinction Awards.

On this evening, we are also saluting Dr. Juan Andrade, President of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute and a founder director of this commission. Dr. Andrade is a national hero who has committed his life to service, leadership development and the empowerment of Latino youth. We are here tonight in order to applaud and recognize his work and acknowledge the incredible effort and dedication demonstrated by each awardee being celebrated at this event.

Through their effort, conviction, and enthusiasm, we are witnessing change in our communities and are seeing the power of our unwavering belief in the promise of the American Dream.

Congratulations to all our deserving awardees!

On behalf of our boards and staff,



Michael Flores  
Chairman  
OCHLA



Lourdes Barroso de Padilla  
Chairwoman  
LEON.

Michael Flores, Chair  
Cincinnati

Mary Santiago, Vice Chair  
Lorain

Luis "Tony" Ortiz, Secretary  
Dayton

Jose Feliciano Jr.  
Aurora

V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Cincinnati

Emanuel Torres  
Columbus

Elizabeth Guzman-Bowman  
Columbus

Pastor Juan Rivera  
Youngstown

Gregory Guzmán, Ph.D.  
Maumee

Rick Perales  
State Representative  
District 73 - Greene County

Dan Ramos  
State Representative  
District 56 - Lorain County

Gayle Manning  
Senator  
District 13 - Hiram & Lorain  
Counties

Charlata Tavares  
Senator  
District 15 - Franklin County



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**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE 2015 DISTINGUISHED  
HISPANIC AWARDEES!**



**LULAC CONGRATULATES THE DISTINGUISHED  
HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARD RECIPIENTS AND  
THANKS THEM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY**



**Major Pedro J. Muñoz**  
***Congratulations on your achievements!***  
***You have made us all proud***  
***Love you, Your NY & NJ Family***

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



JUAN SEPULVEDA

VICE PRESIDENT OF PBS

Juan Sepúlveda was appointed Vice-President of PBS in January of 2014. As the PBS Senior Vice President of Station Services, Juan represents the perspective of independent member stations in the ongoing management and strategic direction of PBS. Juan works to ensure that PBS programs, products, and services support each station's connection to its community and audience. He also works closely with stations, the PBS Board of Directors, station affinity groups, and other national public media organizations to focus on issues of sustainability.

Before joining PBS, Juan was the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. As Executive Director, Juan built a national Latino education network of key Latino community leaders and stakeholders in more than 100 communities in 35 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. More than 10,000 people participated in the education network.

Juan designed and facilitated the first-ever White House Hispanic Policy Conference. 160 Hispanic leaders from 25 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico joined Administration officials to discuss the President's agenda, and strategize on how to best improve outcomes and access for the Hispanic community. Juan was also president of The Common Enterprise (TCE), which he founded in 1995. The focus of Juan's work at TCE was the interplay of policy, politics, process, and innovative problem-solving.

Juan holds a B.A. in Government from Harvard University, as well as a combined B.A. in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics from Oxford University. Juan is the third Latino ever to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. Additionally, Juan earned a J.D. from Stanford Law School and is a member of the Texas Bar. He is married to Teresa Niño and they have two children together, Michael and Victoria.

## ALMA DE LA COMUNIDAD AWARD

### ANAMARIA PERALES-LANG

COLUMBUS



Anamaria Perales-Lang is the Midwest District Property Manager at Belle Harbour Management of Ohio. Anamaria is a passionate, fifth generation Latina born in El Paso, Texas. Anamaria, the only sister among eight brothers, was raised by a mother strongly committed to community service. Anamaria studied at The University of Texas at El Paso and graduated with a B.S. in Criminal Justice/Political Science.

Anamaria began her professional career in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she entered the field of property management with the help of her boss and mentor Dan Preston. With the guidance of Dan's mentoring, Anamaria obtained her CAM Certificate (National Certified Apartment Manager). During her time at "Flip" Properties, Anamaria learned the distinction between prejudice and understanding cultures. Later on, Anamaria realized that she could improve her properties by offering various activities to the tenants, and helping them pay their rent.

Soon thereafter, Anamaria moved to Cardington, Ohio and began work as a Resident Manager for Schottenstein Management. She also volunteered as the PTO President of Highland West, Vice President of the Baseball Association, President of the Rosary Altar Association of Sacred Hearts Club, a Girl Scout Leader, a Cheerleading Advisor, and a part-time substitute at Highland West.

Today Anamaria is a highly respected leader in the Hispanic community, and valued for her work as past president of Las Damas Latinas. Las Damas Latinas honor and preserve Hispanic culture through empowering present and future generations of Hispanics. Anamaria is a charismatic, engaging woman with an enormous spirit that helps minorities every single day at her work and in the community. Anamaria has earned the title of a "Madrina" (Godmother) from the HCC Latina Mentoring Academy program for her role as a mentor and sponsor.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



DR. JUAN ANDRADE, JR.



Juan Andrade Jr. is President of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, which conducts political organizing, research, nonpartisan voter registration, and leadership development. He is a Presidential Medal recipient, honored by President Bill Clinton “for his performance of exemplary deeds of service for the nation.” Under Juan’s leadership the Institute has trained over 200,000 present and future leaders, registered over two million new voters, and published 425 studies on Hispanic demographics since 1982. Juan has worked and participated in the democratization of Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Paraguay, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and Haiti. He has been recognized three times as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in America. He has earned five college degrees, including a doctorate from Northern Illinois University and a post-doctorate M.A. from Loyola University in Chicago.

## DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARD

MANUEL SANTANA SR.

LORAIN



Manuel Santana Sr., “Manny,” has been a member of Lorain’s Sacred Heart Chapel since 1968 when he moved to Lorain. He is originally from Puerto Rico and was raised in Chicago. Presently, he serves as the President of Juan XXIII, as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion, and Vice President of Prison Ministry. He gives support, counseling, and an open ear to the incarcerated, helps in the kitchen, and is part of two kitchen groups who cook on Sunday for weekly sales. Manuel is always more than willing to help those who need a ride, prayer, or help counsel those who are hurting or in need. He is also available to help at the church, whether for personal activities or ministry-related activities. Manuel retired from the Ford Company in Brook Park in Cuyahoga County in July 2003. Manuel and his wife Gladys raised six children and currently have seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARD



TILLIE HIDALGO LIMA

CINCINNATI



Tillie leads Best Upon Request (BEST), an on-site national concierge company that serves financial, insurance, manufacturing, and healthcare organizations. BEST handles the to-do lists and errands for employees of those organizations, relieving stress and alleviating distractions. In healthcare, BEST addresses patients' non-clinical needs and improves their experience so they can focus on healing.

BEST is a National Corporate Plus<sup>®</sup> member of the National Minority Supplier Development Council and a certified Minority and Women's Business Enterprise. Born in Cuba, Tillie and her parents escaped to find freedom in the United States. Coming with only 10 pesos, her parents taught her resourcefulness and determination. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati, Tillie was a pharmacist for 13 years before coming to BEST in 1996 as vice president of operations. She became president/CEO in 2003 and today the company is debt free and has adopted Holacracy. Her numerous honors include YWCA Career Woman of Achievement, NSHMBA's Brillante Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence, and Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Tillie serves on the United Way of Greater Cincinnati Board of Directors, St. Elizabeth Healthcare Board of Trustees, and Cincinnati Precision Instruments Board of Advisors. Tillie co-founded and co-chairs the UW Hispanic Leadership Society. Her personal values are the Seven F's: Faith, Family, Friends, Fitness (Health), Financial Strength, Freedom and Fun. Tillie and her husband, Dave, reside in Loveland, Ohio, and have three daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren.

## DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARD

JOSELITO GRACIA

BEAVERCREEK



Mr. Joselito Gracia, a war veteran, husband, and father of two, works in the Aerospace Industry for Northrop Grumman Corporation, an industry leader. Born and raised in the South Bronx, N.Y. and the son of Puerto Rican natives, Mr. Gracia holds a Master's in Information Systems from the University of Phoenix, a Bachelors of Science in Intelligence Operations from Wayland Baptist University, an Executive Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame, and a Masters Certificate in Project Management from Villanova University.

Mr. Gracia's spectacular attributes have been demonstrated through over 15 years of volunteerism, serving many communities in different capacities. Mr. Gracia is CEO and Co-Founder of The Academy For STEM Sports (TAFSS), Past-President of the Puerto Rican, American, Caribbean Organization (PACO), sits on the boards of PACO and El Puente Learning Center.

Mr. Gracia's recognition and awards include the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal from the U.S. Army, Community Hero Award from PACO, Community Award from the Office of Latino Affairs at Wright State University, and Community Education Award from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Mr. Gracia, a man of faith, believes in challenging the status quo placed on underserved youth, encouraging creative thought, and advocating for youths to think differently.

## DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARD



RUBEN CONTRERAS

CINCINNATI



Ruben Contreras has worked as a Mexican attorney for the past 25 years, specializing in Immigration and Corporate law. Since 2000, he has lived in Cincinnati and participated in its Hispanic community.

Ruben has served as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Cincinnati USA Board Director, Treasurer, Education Director, and Vice President. Contreras particularly focuses on Hispanic college students, awarding 95 scholarships to Hispanic students in the past 14 years.

Additionally he serves as the Treasurer for Hispanics Avanzando Hispanics, and was the President of La Selva Import/Export from 2004-2008. Contreras was also at the Real Estate Agency Sibcy, Cline and Comey & Shepherd from 2010-2015. He is married with two children.

## DISTINGUISHED HISPANIC OHIOAN AWARD

LUIS CARTAGENA

NORTH RIDGEVILLE



Luis Cartagena is passionate about helping others find success through education and entrepreneurship. In his most recent role as Strategic Planning Business Advisor with the MBDA Business Center/Greater Cleveland Partnership, he is focused on helping minority-owned business enterprises create and retain jobs, as well as secure capital and procurement opportunities. Over the last three years, Cartagena has assisted his portfolio companies in securing over \$32 million in contracts and capital, resulting in the creation of 218 new jobs.

As Vice President of the Hispanic Roundtable Community Programs, Luis is actively engaged in the community through initiatives focused on leadership development and civic engagement. As a Co-Chair for Convención Hispana, he works with four volunteer-led committees focusing in the areas of education, empowerment, health, and workforce & economic development. The event serves as a vehicle for the collaboration of Hispanic community organizations, partners and leaders while promoting the mission of the Hispanic Roundtable.

Luis strongly believes in the power of developing strong relationships and team building, which is evidenced by his willingness to volunteer. Cartagena was named to the Board of Trustees for Saint Luke's Foundation, and is a member of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Audit Committee.

Luis is the current Chairman of the Hispanic Business Center, sister organization to the Northeast Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as a member of Crain's Business Diversity Council.

Cartagena received his MBA in Financial Planning and Accounting from Ursuline College. He is a NASBITE Certified Global Business Professional, and also earned an Executive Management Certificate and Designing Solutions for Innovation and Strategy Certificate from Weather School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. Luis was recognized as one of Crain's 40 under 40, and was the recipient of the 2014 NFL Hispanic Heritage Award from the Cleveland Browns.

## NUUESTRA FAMILIA



LEONARD HUBERT

COLUMBUS



Leonard Hubert is the President and CEO of L. Hubert & Associates, LLC, a professional consulting firm specializing in public policy, community / public relations and government affairs. Leonard has over two decades of dedicated service and experience in public sector administration and public policy creation most recently serving as the Director of External Affairs & Economic Opportunity in the Governor's Office after serving the citizens of Alabama and Pennsylvania.

Leonard has successfully assisted in the Statewide Redistricting Ballot Initiative (2012) and the Statewide Internet Café Initiative (2013). Leonard also successfully led minority outreach and education for the Statewide Issue 3 (2009) campaign for the Ohio constitutional amendment authorizing casino gaming in Ohio. Leonard employed his strong relationships in the state's urban centers to effectively craft and distribute the message of the economic development opportunities of gaming for minorities and to gain sufficient minority communities' support for the initiative to achieve victory for this controversial ballot measure that had been handily defeated on two previous occasions.

Leonard has served in a variety of public leadership positions and presently serves as Chairperson for the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. He is active in civic affairs of his local community by serving as a board member for the Granville Township Board of Zoning Appeals, Licking County Tax Incentive Review Council, Ohio Cancer Research Associates, Mental Health & Recovery for Licking and Knox counties, Granville Township Open Space and Granville Education Foundation.

Leonard's honors and recognition include: acknowledgment as the Government Hispanic Business Advocate of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Civil Rights Honoree Award from the Columbus NAACP. Leonard is an alumnus of Alabama A&M University where he earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees. Leonard's background in agribusiness and his extensive rural experience empowers him to navigate the tension that may exist between urban and rural populations and may hinder urban citizen participation at events or pursuit of opportunities that exist in remote areas where the production activity often occurs.

## NUESTRA FAMILIA

ALYSSA WAGNER

DAYTON



Alyssa Wagner graduated from the University of Dayton after studying Spanish and International Affairs. As a student there, she participated in an immersion trip to the Dominican Republic, and fell in love with the culture, the people, and the language. Because of the generous and hospitable welcome she received there, she was able to dive deeper, learn more about the culture, and become integrated into the local community.

Once she returned to the United States, Alyssa had the tools to reach out and serve Latino families who were just beginning their own process of integration into U.S. culture, just she was helped during her time in the Dominican Republic. She considers becoming bilingual as one of the greatest gifts of her life, which has influenced her passions, her career, her friends, and even her soon-to-be husband (getting married tomorrow!).

For the last six years, she has served as the program director for El Puente, where the mission is to serve as a bridge and connection point for Latino students and families to academic success, well-being, and integration into the Dayton community. That mission continues to be accomplished daily at El Puente through one-on-one tutoring for kindergarten through sixth grade students and through parent programming designed to empower parents to take leadership of their children's education. El Puente is a win-win, because many university students who are studying to become teachers get to have their first hands-on experience working with Latino students and with English language learners, which makes them stronger and more compassionate teachers.

While Alyssa recognizes that El Puente is just a small, ordinary, grassroots program, she finds the most satisfaction in seeing that the results for some of our students have been life-changing, with several being the first in their families to graduate from high school and go on to college. "That changes the course of that family's future!" she says. "We don't have to wait for three or four generations to have a child go to college – it can happen within the first generation."

## PHOTO MURAL EXHIBITION



A visual representation of Latin@ students at Miami University  
Part of the Annual César E. Chávez Celebration Program

**Yvania Garcia-Pusateri**, Assistant Director of Diversity Affairs &  
Coordinator of Diverse Student Development

**Jacqueline Rioja Velarde**, Associate Director, Center for American  
and World Cultures, Global Initiatives Latin(o) American and  
Caribbean Intercultural Initiatives



Miami University Student Portrays:  
Todd Jackson (undergraduate student)  
Alejandra Moreno (undergraduate student)  
Cristina Morales-Rodriguez (undergraduate student)  
Antonia Duran (graduate student)  
Mayra Garces (graduate student)  
Yvania Garcia-Pusateri (graduate student)  
-Ruby Murillo (graduate student)

# OCHLA Yearly Events



- ◆ **Education Summit - March 11**
- ◆ **Minority Health Workshops - Month of April**
- ◆ **Legislative Visit Day – May 17**
- ◆ **Latino Health Summit - August 12**
- ◆ **Agenda Latina – September**
- ◆ **Distinguished Hispanic Awards Gala – October**
- ◆ **Bridge Builders – October**
- ◆ **Workforce & Business Summit – November**
- ◆ **Civil Rights Town Hall Meeting - TBC**





# Connecting **businesses** and **employees.**

## Second Annual Amigos Latinos Business Expo and Job Fair

**November 10, 2015, 3–5 p.m.**  
**Wright State University Nutter Center**

- More than 100 companies expected
- Wide range of job and internship opportunities
- No admission fee or reservation for job seekers
- Open to *all* students, alumni, and general public
- Sponsorship opportunities and exhibit tables available.  
Register: [wright.edu/amigos-jobfair-vendor](http://wright.edu/amigos-jobfair-vendor)
- Keynote speaker at 5 p.m.

For more information:  
Call (937) 775-3812 or  
email [aida.montespeifer@wright.edu](mailto:aida.montespeifer@wright.edu)

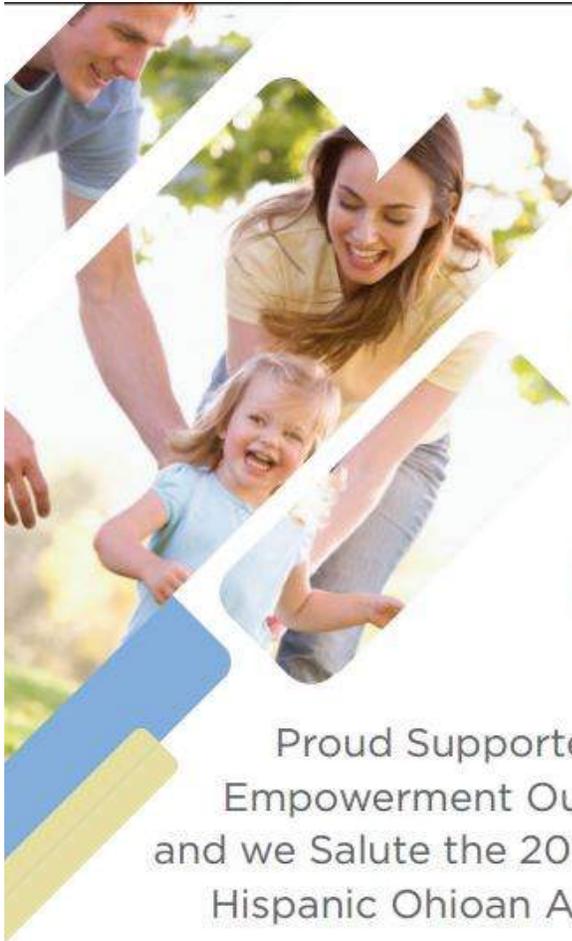


**Rodolfo Rivera**  
Chief International Counsel  
Fidelity National Title Group

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Hispanic Ohioan Award Recipients

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## NUESTRA FAMILIA



KEL FLIGNER

LORAIN



Kel Fligner, CFO of the Fligner Corp, was born in 1939 to Blanche & Morris Fligner. As his Father and Grandparents, Harry & Lena, were of Polish decent, he grew up in a Polish neighborhood in Lorain.

Kel graduated from Lorain High School and went on to attend Kent State University and Baldwin Wallace where he received his B.S. In Marketing & Business Management.

Kel began working at the age of 10 with his father and grandfather who owned and operated First Lorain Cut Rate Fruit Company, the majority of the sales being fruits and produce. Over the years the business expanded, adding the sale of meat.

In 2014, Fligner's Supermarket, 1854 Broadway, won the prestigious statewide honor, the Pinnacle Award, in the single-store operation category. The award is given annually by the Ohio Grocers Association in recognition of operating excellence.

Kel has two children: Ben, married to Stephanie, and Jon, married to Beth Ann. He also has two grandsons and two granddaughters.

## NUESTRA FAMILIA

ED COHN

COLUMBUS



Ed Cohn is the President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio. Prior to this position, Cohn was a board director from 1999 to 2004 for the Agency. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio is a dynamic youth mentoring agency with core competencies that include Community-based Mentoring, School-based Mentoring and Group Mentoring at its Camp Oty'Okwa. BBBS of Central Ohio, the fifth largest BBBS agency in the country, served over 7,500 kids in 2014 and is a leader in youth mentoring initiatives.

BBBS of Central Ohio operates a Hispanic Mentoring Program in Central Ohio, which it piloted as a national program for BBBS of America. BBBS of Central Ohio leads the Amachi Ohio Initiative, a collaboration of all BBBS Agencies in Ohio, matching children of incarcerated parents with caring adult mentors.

BBBS of Central Ohio operates Project Mentor, a mentoring program that annually provides 700 students in Columbus City Schools with a one-to-one mentoring relationship with a caring adult from the community. Project Mentor volunteers and the BBBS of Central Ohio staff provide students with social and emotional support as well as academic enrichment through weekly activities conducted at the mentoring sessions.

## LATINO MILITARY SERVICE OF DISTINCTION



MAJOR PEDRO MUNOZ

BELLEBROOK



Major Pedro J. Muñoz is the Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) and acting Director of Operations (DO) for the Information Exploitation Sqdn, Global Exploitation Intelligence Group, National Air & Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), and Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Also, Maj Muñoz has been a federal employee at NASIC since 1998 where he has held several leadership positions as lead intelligence analyst on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Russian military doctrine & air defense systems, foreign denial and deception, and U.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> party technology transfer.

Maj Muñoz was born in Brooklyn, NY, and grew up in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Maj Muñoz attended the University of Puerto Rico and earned an A.S. in Civil Construction Engineering and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He worked as project engineer/manufacturing supervisor, and subsequently moved to Columbus, Ohio for graduate school. Pursuing a career in aerospace engineering, he worked as a mechanical engineer, project manager, business development manager, and contract manager for Belcan Engineering Group (BEG) in Cincinnati, OH from 1990 to 1998.

Maj Muñoz's military career began 1989 when he enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserves as aircraft maintenance & aircraft battle damage repair (ABDR) specialist. Prior to commissioning as an Air Force Officer in 2003, he rose through the enlisted ranks receiving a promotion to Master Sergeant (E-7). In 2003, he attended Officer Training School and received his officer's commission. Shortly thereafter he was assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) detachment at NASIC. In 2004, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, as a member of the DIA Iraq Survey Group (ISG), Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) team, air delivery system search team (SCUD missile and aircraft), and the Regime Strategic Procurement team. He deployed in 2008 to Colombia, assigned to USMILGRP as U.S. Intelligence Planner / U.S. Army 7<sup>th</sup> Group Special Forces team member. He was integral in the successful search and rescue mission of three U.S. military contractors held hostage in Colombia.

## LATINO MILITARY SERVICE OF DISTINCTION

ANITA MENCHACA-BRATTON

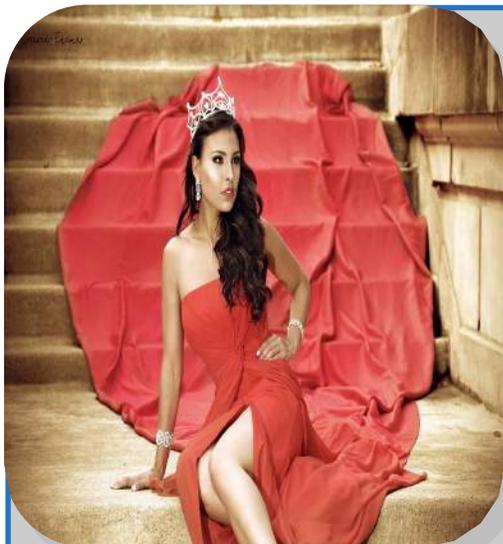
BOWLING GREEN



SMSgt Anita Menchaca-Bratton devoted 36 years of her life stationed at the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard located outside of Toledo, Ohio. SMSgt Menchaca-Bratton managed the Logistics Readiness Squadron Hazmat Pharmacy warehouse. As a Hazmat Pharmacy technician, she provided operational and technical guidance regarding hazardous material to authorized 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing members. SMSgt Menchaca-Bratton managed over seven-hundred national stock numbers within the Enterprise Environmental Safety and Occupational Health-Management Information System. She ensured that issued material was provided to the Air National Guard workshops within the prescribed allocated allowances and timeframes. With her work experience and military education, SMSgt Menchaca-Bratton, was an integral team member in the honor of the 180th Fighter Wing, having been selected as the first recipients of the Air National Guard Chuck Smith Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Award.

SMSgt Menchaca-Bratton was born in Toledo, OH. She entered Basic Military Training in 1978 after graduating from Cardinal Stritch Catholic High School. She was the first Latina in the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. SMSgt Menchaca-Bratton has always enjoyed a live by the spirit attitude. Her career in the Air National Guard fit her adventurous lifestyle and her passion for travel. SMSgt Menchaca-Bratton has dedicated her life to working as a professional while raising her two children. It is with great pride that she can now say both of her children, her son and daughter, are current active members of the Air Force. SMSgt Menchaca-Bratton believes in the value of the Ohio Air National Guard, and continues to speak with young individuals today on how the military can effectively add great leaders to the community and provide great life experiences.

## Diana Muñoz, Miss Ohio Latina 2016



Diana first came to the United States in 2012, when her drive for better opportunities led her to seek out, and be accepted into, an internship in Chemical Engineering at the University of Akron. She came to Akron with only a very rudimentary grasp of the

English Language, but with hard work and perseverance, she was able to improve her English and research capabilities significantly, and was offered a position as a PhD student in the University of Akron's Department of Chemical now in her third and is researching nickel alloys for a United States De-

Engineering. She is now in her third year as a PhD student, focusing on crevice corrosion in a project funded by the Department of Defense.

On August 22, 2015, she won the title of Miss Ohio Latina among other candidates, and was crowned Miss Ohio Latina 2016.

During her journey to the crown, as Miss Akron Ohio Latina, she had the opportunity to be part of different events in the Latino community.

During her time at Akron, Diana has been very involved in the local Latino community. She is currently the President of the University of Akron's HOLA (Hispanic Organization Leading Akron) group, which works to spread awareness and appreciation of Latino culture at the university by holding events, arranging conferences, and offering free Spanish-language tutoring. She has also participated in events at the nearby Saint Ber-

she participated for Miss Ohio Latina with 15 other candidates. During her journey to the crown, she had the opportunity to be part of different events in the Latino community.



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### **Who We Are**

A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, LEON is a network and a collaboration of individuals, organizations, businesses and agencies dedicated to building a healthy Latino community in Central Ohio through the development and support of programs that educate and empower Latinos. Our initiatives focus on health, education, advocacy and communication.

### **Our History**

LEON was established in 2000, when several individuals met to work on a United Way of Central Ohio-funded project on domestic violence on the West Side. Recognizing the many issues surrounding the root problems of domestic violence, the group continued to meet after the project ended to establish an ongoing network of individuals and agencies to share resources. Since then the organization has blossomed into a network of individual community members, health and social service providers, educators, not-for-profit organizations, and companies. LEON is proud to be a network of people and organizations who collaborate to build healthy Latino communities for a healthy Columbus.

### **What We Do**

#### **Advocate | Care | Create | Inform**

Recent accomplishments include

- The Education Committee sponsors the annual Student Honors Program which recognizes accomplishments of local Latino Students.
- The Health Committee developed an extensive Latino Health Resource Directory and guided area efforts in cultural competency. The Health Committee also sponsored a program to help newly arrived Latino immigrants, with limited English proficiency, access healthcare in the United States.
- The Advocacy/Legal Issues Committee sponsored town hall forums on issues important to the Central Ohio Latino Community.

### **Executive Board**

President Lourdes Barroso de Padilla	Melissa Cárdenas – Treasurer
Thalia Amador– Vice President	Diana Pagan– Secretary



## Advise • Connect • Build

The Commission was created by Legislative Act and signed into Law by Governor James Rhodes on July 8, 1977. The purpose of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is to advise state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, to connect the diverse Latino communities across the state, and to build the capacity of community Organizations so they may better serve the growing Latino population of Ohio.

### CORE VALUES

***Building cooperation and understanding between Hispanic Ohioans and Government*** by providing Hispanics with information, resources and by informing the Governor, Legislature and state agencies about Hispanic issues throughout the State.

***Collaborating with the community*** by promoting community awareness, education, engagement and inclusion in mainstream society to ensure Latinos are part of the foundation and fabric of the state.

***Partnering with state agencies to create institutional change*** to assure equity and access to culturally competent programs and services for Latinos.

***Identifying Hispanic Ohioans issues and concerns through public policy analysis*** and data driven outcome-based research in order to create awareness of issues to form the foundation for institutional and systemic change in the Ohio state government.

***Engaging with the National Latino Agenda*** and aligning our initiatives with the efforts that seek the integration and empowerment of Hispanic and Latinos in the United States.

***Planning the work of the commission based on strategic priorities*** that consistently impact and address the needs of the Latino community in Ohio.

***Encouraging new ideas and supporting openness and acceptance of differing ideas or beliefs.*** The commission respects the opinions of others and will provide a safe environment for all voices, opinions, ideas and beliefs.

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**MARY J. SANTIAGO**  
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**REP. DAN RAMOS**  
District 56th - Lorain County

**SEN. CHARLETTA TAVARES**  
District 15th - Franklin

**REP. RICK PERALES**  
District 73rd - Beavercreek

# 2016 Ohio Latino Education Summit

## “Leveraging Latino Learning: Cradle to Career”

**WHEN:**  
March 11, 2016  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
The University of Toledo  
Student Union



The Latino Education Summit will convene educators and community members from around the state to share best practices and to discuss issues of importance regarding the education of Hispanic students in Ohio.

For more information, call (614) 728-8364 or email

[andrea.lewis@ochla.state.oh.us](mailto:andrea.lewis@ochla.state.oh.us)



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